



Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardeners' Association

Issue 9

Upcoming Meetings

We are working on an interesting line up of presentations at our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street in Juneau. You do not have to be a Master Gardener to attend. Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome. Bring a friend to enjoy the following programs.

January 25

Gail Nampel will give a powerpoint presentation on how to become a Master Gardener. Enjoy an informal question and answer time where you can ask the group your gardening questions. Bring a snack to share if you wish.

February 22

Dick Zondag

J.W. Jung Seed Co.

We will watch a DVD celebrating Jung's centennial year. Mr. Zondag will share information about his favorite vegetables. If you have

questions about vegetable gardening, this is your chance to ask an expert.

March 22

Darin Meyer and Tom Meinel

McKay Nursery

Mr. Meyer and Mr. Meinel will give us lots of tips on residential landscape design.

April 26

potluck

presentation of certificates

election for the Board of Directors

discuss community projects

May 24

Harold Steen, President

Daylily Society of Southeastern WI

If daylilies are your passion, you will enjoy Mr. Steen's presentation on these beautiful flowers.

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Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners who have been certified or recertified.

Gae Bergmann
Deb Bortz
Kay Coates
Laurie Coplien
Elinor Czarnecki
Diane Haberman
Judy Hedstrom
Margaret Horton
Pat Kaiser
Paula Larsen
Dennis Loomis
Joan Loomis
Wendy Meier
Mark Morris
Gail Nampel
Carl Nygren
Judy Schachtner
Patti Schegetz
Carol Shirk
Barbara Traugher
Lisa Traugher
Kay Voelker
Bonnie Weiland Hare
Helen Weisensel
Terri Wojahn
Marianne Zastrow
Chris Zuleger

Master Gardeners completed 36 hours of education and 24 volunteer service hours to become certified. To be recertified Master Gardeners completed 10 hours of continuing education and 24 volunteer service hours.

Hours that can be counted toward education include attending the Master Gardener course offered through the UW-Extension, watching *The Wisconsin Gardener* and *Great Lakes Gardener* television shows, attending our monthly Master Gardener meetings with speakers, or taking workshops at botanical gardens.

Volunteer worked on over 20 projects in the Dodge County area this past season.

Garden Expo

The Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo will be held February 9-11, 2007 at the Alliant Energy Center—Exhibition Hall in Madison.

There are more than 100 education seminars and demonstrations on gardening, lawn, and landscaping topics, and 454 different exhibitors. There is a custom garden display and hands-on workshops. Meet Shelley Ryan,

Master Gardener and producer/host of *The Wisconsin Gardener* television show.

For more information go to www.wpt.org/garden_expo.

Home Living Column

Each month Master Gardeners write an informative and entertaining column for the Home Living Section of the *Daily Citizen* newspaper. This section comes out on the third weekend of the month.

You can look forward to reading Carol Shirk's article in January. Gail Nampel will educate us on pruning shrubs in February. Learn about Barbara Traugher's ten favorite herbs in March. Patti Schegetz will tell us all about container gardening in April.

If you are a Master Gardener and would like to write an article contact Lisa Traugher.

Master Gardener Education Program

The 36 hour Master Gardener education program will be offered February 5-April 29, 2008. The program will run on consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Check Out Our Website

Our website can be viewed at www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/. Click on "Local Associations" then "Dodge County" to view pictures of projects and to read our newsletter.

Emerald Ash Borer Continues to Spread

The Chicago Tribune reported on December 6 that the tree devouring emerald ash borer has spread to three new areas. These areas are beyond the currently quarantined sites.

This pesky insect is a half-inch long, metallic green, wood boring beetle. It has destroyed 25 million ash trees in North America. It's infestation in Illinois threatens 130 million trees in that state.

The quarantine now includes all of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Ash trees and their components are regulated. More information can be found at www.emeraldashborer.info.

Growing African Violets

African violets are a beautiful houseplant whose blossoms brighten a room in winter. Here are a few tips for keeping your African violets healthy.

Violets like 10-14 hours of bright light per day but not direct sunlight. Inadequate light is one of the reasons violets do not bloom. Yellow blooming varieties need less light than other varieties. Placing a mirror under the plant that is larger than the pot will reflect light onto the plant and may enhance its growth.

The ideal temperature for growing violets is between 70 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit.

Plants should be kept moist, not wet. They should not completely dry out. Tap water is fine. Let the water sit overnight. This allows the chlorine to evaporate. Violets like the water to be at room temperature.

Lack of fertilizer is another reason African violets do not bloom. Water soluble fertilizers specific for African violets can be used each time you water the plant. Follow the directions on the container.

Violets like a light, airy soil mix. They bloom better if they are slightly root bound. They can be potted twice a year by removing the plant from the pot, cutting off one third of the growth from the bottom, and repotting with fresh soil mix in the same pot.

Up to three leaves per month can be removed from

the bottom row of leaves. Remove old blossoms and the bloom stalk when the plant is finished blossoming.

These tips should help keep your African violets blooming. They add a touch of spring to your home on a cold winter's day.



April Election

We will have an election at our April meeting. One Board member position is open. This is a great opportunity to help plan the speakers, topics, and events for the coming year. The Board meets once a year in November.

To be on the Board you must be a certified Master Gardener or an intern. Interns have completed the 36 hour education program but have not had the opportunity to complete their 24 volunteer service hours.

If you would like to be on the Board, contact Lisa Traugher. We will include your name on the ballot.

**Dodge County Master
Gardeners' Association**

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[www.hort.wisc.edu/
mastergardener](http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener)



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* * *

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Local Representative to
the WIMGA
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*“Convince me that you have
a seed there,
and I am prepared to expect
wonders.”
Henry David Thoreau*