



# Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

Issue 20

## A Note from our President

Happy New Year everyone! I hope 2010 rewards you with good health, good luck and good gardens.

In a few short months, I will be stepping down as president of the Dodge County Master Gardeners Association. By-laws require that board members do so, after serving two consecutive two-year terms. I was elected to the board four years ago and served as secretary for my first term. When Lisa Traughber stepped down as president, I knew I had some pretty big shoes to fill and was rather hesitant about accepting the new post. Looking back, I'm so glad I did! I found the experience to be incredibly rewarding in many, many ways.

I have learned so much and became a lot more confident in my skills. I met so many wonderful people! My best reward came from getting to know many of you on a much more personal level. Having scores of special memories, I hope it's just the beginning of some very long friendships. Additionally, working with and getting to know the other board members, is something I will cherish forever. The passion and dedication they bring to the table is indescribable! We are lucky to have them at the helm; the future of

the Dodge County Master Gardeners Association is, indeed, bright!

With that said, I'd like to invite certified and intern MGVs to consider running for a position on the board for the 2010 spring election. It requires some extra commitment on your part, but isn't that what we're all about? Don't underestimate your abilities. Instead let them blossom. Not interested? Then nominate someone you think might be.

I'll be taking nominations from now until the election. Thank you!

Gail

## 2010 Projects

Master Gardeners will be working on various projects in Dodge County this year. Projects are underway in Beaver Dam, Horicon, Juneau, Mayville, Neosho, Watertown, and Waupun. Each project has a Master Gardener who coordinates the work. A complete list of projects with contact person information is available on our website or from Carol Shirk (387-5105). If you would like to help with a project, please call the contact person.

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## Upcoming meetings

Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome to attend the following free programs. Master Gardener meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month.

Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau.

### January 28

Weed Identification

Brendon Panke

Brendon is a Department of Agronomy, Extension Weed Specialist. His presentation will aid us in identifying and dealing with the most common weeds of Wisconsin.

### February 25

Nursery and Plant Containers

Gail Nampel

Gail is the Dodge County Master Gardeners president and a consummate gardener. She will present the best of plastic vs. biodegradable containers. Samples will be available and a door prize will be awarded.

### March 25

Basic Vegetable Gardening

Carol Shirk

Ready to get started on vegetable gardening? This presentation will cover what, where, and when to plant.

*A garden is never so good  
as it will be next year. "--  
Thomas Cooper*

### April 22

Business Meeting

Association business, including presentation of certification cards, updates on all projects, the annual potluck plus finalizing plans for the annual plant sale.

### May 27

Plant Disease Diagnosis

Brian Hudelson

Brian is affectionately known as "Dr. Death" because of his love of plant diseases. Come and find out more about your plants from this director of the Plant and Disease Diagnostic Clinic.

### June 24

TBA

### July 22

Daybreak Gardens

Frank Will

Tour the gardens of this group home that include over forty-two raised beds. Most of the beds utilize the "Square foot Gardening" method of Mel Bartholomew.

## Newsletter Options

Postage costs of mailing out our newsletters continue to be a large part of our expenses. If you would like to receive this letter via email (rather than snail mail) please let Jodi know at:

[jschultz@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:jschultz@co.dodge.wi.us)

Please put "MG newsletter" in the subject line and include your mailing address as well.

## Upcoming Events

- The Garden Visions 2010 Conference will be held January 22-23 at Stevens Point. This event is sponsored by the North Central Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) Association. For complete information, see: [www.gardenvisions.org](http://www.gardenvisions.org)
- The Wisconsin Public Television 2010 Madison Gardening Expo is at the Alliant Center February 12-14. For complete details on the expo, see: [www.wigardenexpo.com](http://www.wigardenexpo.com).
- The Winnebago County MGV Association will sponsor a bus trip to the Madison Expo on February 13. For full details on just the bus trip, see: [www.winnebagomastergardeners.org](http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org) (go to the "Training" tab)
- On February 27 the Winnebago County MGV Association is sponsoring "Winter Escape—Summer Dreams" with Roy Anne Woulton and Melinda Meyer as guest speakers. Complete information is available at: [www.winnebagomastergardeners.org](http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org) (go to the "Training" tab)

- The Waupun Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Home and Sport Show April 23-24 in Waupun. There will be vendors focused on gardening and home improvement as well as featured speaker Melinda Meyer. Details are available at: [www.waupunchamber.com](http://www.waupunchamber.com)



## Brown Bag Programs

January 29th will launch the 2010 Brown Bag Lunch Programs. The last Friday of every month (with some exceptions due to holidays...see the listed dates) at the Administration Building in Juneau an educational program is offered. These programs are specifically geared toward statewide Master Gardeners and other persons interested in horticultural topics. These teleconference programs generally last from 12-1 p.m. so, bring your lunch along and join in!

The following topics will be presented:

- January 29...2009-Fruit Production: The Year In-Review
- February 26... Emerald Ash Borer: Planning Ahead
- March 26... Understanding and Managing Late Blight of Tomato and Potato
- April 23...Bagging Apples and Pest Management in the Fruit Orchard
- May 21... Invasive Species
- June 25...Container Vegetable Gardening
- July 30...Using the Vegetables Grown in Your Garden or Purchased at the Farmers' Market
- August 27... Curing and Storage of Vegetables
- September 24... Winterizing the Yard and Garden
- October 22...Beneficial Insects
- November 12... Growing Currants and Gooseberries
- December 17... Growing Alliums

For more information about a specific program, see:  
[www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener](http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener)  
("Upcoming events" tab)

## Master Gardener Volunteer Training

Are you interested in learning about a wide variety of horticultural topics including preparing soils for optimum plant growth, plant propagation, backyard wildlife, landscaping, insect identification & control, annuals & perennials, fruits & vegetables, native prairies, turf grass management, plant pathology and weed control?

The Dodge County UW-Extension Office is offering the Master Gardener Volunteer training program to provide education and training for individuals who are interested in expanding their knowledge of horticulture. The 12-week educational program will meet from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings beginning February 2 and conclude late April 2010 at the Administration Building in Juneau. Deadline for the class is January 19<sup>th</sup>.

This year's program will again feature a variety of University of Wisconsin specialists and other guest speakers with expertise and knowledge on a wide range of different topics each week.

The cost of the program is \$140.00, which covers the cost of the program and includes a comprehensive set of UW-Extension publications that will serve as a valuable resource to help you find answers to the questions that may come your way. Before becoming a certified Master Gardener Volunteer, participants must complete 24 hours of community service. This can easily be accomplished in a variety of ways including working on projects within your local community, providing educational assistance and training for other homeowners, or simply answering horticultural questions that are referred to you. The Dodge County Master Gardener Association is involved with many projects throughout the year that could use additional assistance, so the possibilities are nearly endless.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteer program or would like to register, please contact the UW-Extension Dodge County office at (920) 386-3790. A Master Gardener informational meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, January 12 in the Administration Building in Juneau. Program details, course agenda, and volunteer service opportunities will be discussed at the informational meeting. There is no cost or obligation to attend this informational meeting. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis and the class size will be limited to 40 participants. This program is only offered every other year, so the next opportunity may be the year 2012 in Dodge County. Neighboring counties also offer the Master Gardener program if this one does not fit your schedule.

—Matt Hanson

## Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

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[www.hort.wisc.edu/  
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*"You can bury a lot of  
troubles digging in the  
dirt."*