



Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

Issue 21

A Note from our President(s)

As many of you already know, The Dodge County Master Gardeners Association is adding a fundraiser to our docket this year.

We are hosting what we hope will be our first annual garden photography contest. Information will be available at area garden centers, as well as on our website, for anyone interested in participating. Winning photos will be on display, Saturday, June 19, 2010, when we will also welcome award winning nature and travel photographer, Eileen Herrling. Eileen will be conducting a digital photography workshop and garden photograph critique session beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Administration Building in Juneau. Although there is no limit to the number of participants that will be allowed to enter photos in the contest, the workshop will be limited to 70 attendees. Tickets for the workshop will be sold for \$10. Ribbons and certificates will be awarded to photo contest winners. In addition to a Rosette Ribbon, the Best of Show winner will receive a \$50 cash prize.

We will be calling upon Association members to provide baked goods and beverages to our guests. Help make this event a success by spreading the word!

Gail

Once again we have reached a time when we must pass the mantle of leadership on to the next person. Gail Nampel has faithfully and efficiently served as president of Dodge County Master Gardeners for the past two years. As I prepare to step into her shadow, I am a bit apprehensive. However, I see that we had 28 Master Gardeners fulfill the certification requirements for this year. I know that I have a capable and knowledgeable Board of Directors as well as an enthusiastic and willing group of volunteers to work with. What more could I ask for? In addition to the 28 certified members, there were some folks who hit milestones. Helen Weisensel and Berwyn Westra achieved 150 hours, while Kay Voelker, Chris Zuleger, Gail and I are at 250 hours. Marianne Zastrow hit a whopping 750 hours!

Carol

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 from Carol Shirk (387-5105).

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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.

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 19

Photography Workshop

Eileen Herrling

Held on a Saturday, this will replace our usual Thursday meeting. The workshop begins at 1:00 and is \$10 per person. See article on page 1 for further information.

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.

August 26

TBA

Plant Sale

Master Gardeners are a notoriously generous group of people. Once again, please dip into your soil and dig up some plants to share. Bulbs and house plants are equally welcome! The annual plant sale is Saturday, May 15th from 8-11am. Set up will be on Friday, May 14th from 4-6 pm. Identify each plant (popsicle sticks work well for this) but do not price them since the set-up workers will handle that task. This is a major fund raiser for the organization, so please help out. If you have any questions, or can help with the event, please call Chris Zuleger at 485-2105.

Gardening Tip

Master Gardener Chuck Meyer attended a presentation on starting seeds indoors at this year's PBS Garden Show in Madison. He passes along this tip:

A way to help "harden" your indoor starter plants is to use an oscillating fan to strengthen the stems of plants while they are still indoors. The technique involves placing a fan, on low power, several feet away a few hours each day from the small seedlings prior to continuing the "hardening" process outdoors. The gentle breeze causes the stems to become sturdier as they resist the "wind".

Give it a try and share your results at an upcoming meeting. Thanks, Chuck!

Upcoming Events

- Friends of the Beaver Dam Library are sponsoring a talk on "Growing and Using Fresh Herbs" on Wednesday May 19th at 7 p.m. in the Welch Room at the BD library. Speaker is Bonnie Kulke, a local herb grower. Kulke has grown and used herbs for more than 20 years and ran her own herb business for more than 12 years.
- The 4th annual Juneau Garden Walk will be held on Friday, June 25 from 6 PM till dark and Saturday, June 26 from 10 AM to 3 PM. Five homes as well as gardens at both Clearview North and South will be on display. Advance tickets are \$5.00 and are available starting June 1st from local businesses. Tickets will be \$6.00 on the day of the walk. There will be vendors selling garden items and food available on the grounds. For more information, call 386-4465.
- The 2010 Master Gardener Conference will be held July 23 and 24, 2010 on the UW-Sheboygan Campus. Conference information and registration materials are available at the website. For complete information, see:

<http://2010wimastergardenerconference.com/conference.html>

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."-- Abraham Lin-

International Peace Garden

For the past several years Master Gardener Lee Buescher has helped coordinate the cleanup, planting and maintenance of the International Peace Garden at Watertown High School. The Peace Garden was the idea of Steve Jacobson, former social studies teacher at the school. The garden literally "grew" each year beginning shortly after the new high school opened in 1994. Over time annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees were planted on the several acre site in front of the school. Granite and stone markers and benches were added with sayings related to international peace.

The annual Watertown International Peace Garden cleanup day will be held Saturday May, 22, 2010 from 9AM until 1PM. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help "spruce up" the garden. Steve Jacobson passed away in 2008 but his memory and the idea of international peace lives on in this beautiful garden. Stop by to help cleanup if you have time, if not, stop by this summer and plan to take a "peaceful" stroll around the International Peace Garden located in front of Watertown High School.

Old Time Gathering

The Master Gardeners will host a booth at the 12th annual Old Time Gathering held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The event is meant to teach children what life was like for people in the early 1900's. Planning is already underway to prepare for the display. Seed Savers has provided us with heirloom seeds and these need to be planted soon. Volunteers are needed to plant these seeds in containers and maintain them through the summer in order to be able to demonstrate how these seeds, brought from Europe, were kept pure and are different from our hybrid seeds.

In addition, volunteers will be need to man the booth the day of the event. Many of the volunteers will be dressed in costume. For women it would be a sunbonnet, long apron and long dress or skirt. Men would wear a straw hat, long sleeved shirt, long pants and perhaps suspenders. If you are able to help with this project, please call Sue McKendry at 920-625-3554.

Waupun Farmer's Market

The Waupun Farmer's Market meets Thursdays from May13 through October 14 at 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. They are located at 510 East Spring Street - across from the Waupun Community Center. The Master Gardeners have been invited to give a demonstration or activity at any of the meetings. The Chamber has requested a week or two notice so they can properly advertize the activity. Chris Jacobs is coordinating this worthwhile project so give her a call at 887-2250 to get on the docket with your offering.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING RECIEPT OF NEWSLETTERS!

Postage costs of mailing out newsletters continue to be a large part of our expenses. As a consequence, we need to determine who is still interested in getting this newsletter. If you are able to receive the newsletter via email, please send your email address to Jodi at jschultz@co.dodge.wi.us Please put "MG newsletter" in the subject line and include your mailing address as well.

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter via snail mail, either remove the tear strip below and send it to Jodi Schultz UW-Extension, Administration Building, 127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI 53039 or call at 920-386-3791 and ask Jodi to retain your name on the mailing list.

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not respond in some way, you WILL be deleted from the mailing list and will NOT receive future issues of this newsletter.

Name: _____

Phone Number _____

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City _____

Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

UW-Extension ,Administration Building,
127 E. Oak Street, Juneau, WI 53039

Phone: 920-386-3790

<http://wiscmg.webhop.net>



Board of Directors

Matt Hanson
Crops and Soils Agent
UW-Extension Office
(920) 386-3790

Carol Shirk
President
(920) 387-5105

Chris Jacobs
Vice President
(920) 887-2250

Jan Krause
Secretary
(920) 261-7939

Marianne Zastrow
Treasurer
(920) 386-4465

Berwyn Westra
Local Record Keeper
920-326-3885

Bonnie Weiland Hare
Local Representative to
the WIMGA
(920) 533-4535

*Why try to explain miracles
to your kids when you can
just have them plant a
garden. ~Robert Brault*