



# Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardener Association

Issue 23

## A Note from our President

Fall has officially arrived with the cooler temperatures and beautiful colors. With it comes the hustle and bustle of getting everything ready for the upcoming winter. I think fall may be my favorite time of the year. We gardeners work hard putting our gardens to rest, trimming here and mulching there. It reminds me of tucking my children in bed at night after a long and productive day. Those were precious times of sharing the joys and the events of the day. Now that my kids are in their 20's they don't let me do that so much.

But then, there is winter. I like nothing better than getting bundled up every day, strapping on my snow shoes, and taking my mile long walk. I am a firm believer in the old adage that there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes. Granted, there isn't much gardening to do outside, but oh, the wonders you can see while you are out exploring! And there is plenty of planning you can do! Yes, maybe winter is my favorite time of year.

Then comes spring and we get to play in the dirt again. We get up every morning and check to see if the tulips and daffodil have peeked their heads through the warming soil. I find sheer pleasure in sinking my fingers in the soil and planting seeds in anticipation of what might come from them. Spring. On second thought, maybe that is my favorite time of year.

But, then comes summer. Who can argue with the joy of working in the garden and picking that first tomato and eating it straight from the vine with the juice running down your arm? Such satisfaction comes from nurturing a beautifully manicured lawn, landscaped home, or well maintained vegetable garden. There is beauty that comes not only to the gardener but to all who pass by. Well, perhaps summer is my favorite time of year.

O.K. Maybe I don't really have a "favorite" time of year. Maybe I just like to be outside and gardening is my excuse. I have a plaque in kitchen that says "Heaven is a little closer in the garden". I would heartily agree. Whatever your reason, I hope you have enjoyed this gardening season and are eagerly planning the next one already.

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 and updated list of projects with contact person information is available from our website or from Carol Shirk (387-5105).

### Inside this issue:

*Upcoming Meetings* 2

*Upcoming Events* 2

*Garden Hints* 2

*Fall Garden Tasks* 3

*You Know You Are Addicted to Gardening When..* 3



## 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.

### October 28

Growing and Harvesting Herbs for the Kitchen

Bonnie Kuhlke

The presentation will include tips on herb culture and growing conditions, care and maintenance, harvest, storage and cooking with herbs. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and share their herb gardening experiences. Herbal treats will be shared as well as hints for using herbs in cooking.

### November 2010

Board Meeting Only

### December 2010

No Meeting

### January 27, 2011

Project Review

Various Master Gardeners

A review of the projects Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers participated in during 2010, complete with photos and discussion. Come review the old and find out how you can get involved this year.

### February 24, 2011

Organic Insect Control

Phil Pellitteri

Phil, a Distinguished Faculty Associate from the UW Madison Insect Diagnostic Lab will give us a brief review of what the major insect concerns of 2010 were and what to watch for in 2011. He will also give us ideas about organic insect control in the yard and garden

### March 24, 2011

Junior Master Gardener

Barbara Larson

Barb, a Kenosha County UW-Extension horticultural educator will explain what the Junior Master Gardener program is, how to get it established, and how to keep it running smoothly.

### April 28, 2011

Annual Business Meeting

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



**A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.**  
- Doug Larson

## Upcoming Events

Maple Valley Orchard in Green Bay grows over 400 different varieties of heirloom/antique apples. They are not only unique in skin and flesh color ranging in yellows, reds, pink, purple, earth tones and more, but the taste can be anything from watermelon, coconut, strawberry, pineapple, licorice, and on and on with countless tastes and colors. This tasting will feature approximately 25 different apples for you to sample and evaluate. Event offered by the NEW MGA at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Free, but registration required. For more information or to register contact [Debi Nitka](mailto:Debi.Nitka@uwex.edu) at (920) 465-8512.

### Creating a Bird Friendly Garden

Master Designer Shannon Barniskis will conduct a workshop on Wednesday, January 5 at 7:00 pm at the Horicon Marsh International Education Center. More information is available at:

<http://www.horiconmarsh.org/special-events.asp>

## Garden Hints

- Keep a tub of oily sand in your garden shed or garage. After using garden tools wipe them free of dirt and plunge into the sand. Trowels, shears, shovels, and other tools will stay sharper and will keep from rusting.
- The easiest to grow houseplants include: ivy, spider plant, snake plant, and aloe. They require little care or direct sunlight. Ideal for the apartment dweller or office.

## Fall Garden Tasks

Fall is the ideal time for taking a soil sample and sending it in for analysis. By taking care of this task now, you will be prepared when spring comes and you are anxious to plant. Complete directions and soil sample bags are available from Matt Hanson at the Extension office. (386-3790). Directions are also available from UW Publication A2166.

Now is also a good time to improve the health of your lawn. Broadleaf herbicides work best on many perennials after a frost. Depending on the product you use, you may have to wait a week or two to reseed, but now is also a good time to reseed bare areas or overseed your entire yard. Just be sure you did not use an herbicide that contained a seed germination inhibitor!

In order to enjoy spring flowers, some bulbs must be planted in the fall. Flower bulbs such as tulips, daffodils, crocus, and hyacinth need to go through a period of cold before they will bloom and need the winter to develop their roots. Get them planted by the beginning of November.

Unless you are leaving some plants for winter interest or for seeds for the birds, clean up plant debris from your beds and borders. Completely clear the garden of any weeds before they drop their seeds and create more problems for next year. Once a killing frost has done its damage, pull all annuals and clean up the area. Cleaning up vegetable gardens will eliminate disease and insect problems next year.

## You Know You Are Addicted to Gardening When..

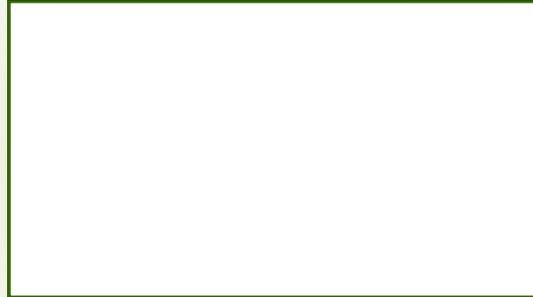
- You grab other people's banana peels, coffee grinds, apple cores, etc. for your compost pile.
- You understand what IPM means and are happy about it .
- You buy a bigger truck so that you can haul more mulch.
- You enjoy crushing Japanese beetles because you like the sound that it makes.
- You have to wash your hair to get your fingernails clean.
- You find yourself feeling leaves, flowers and trunks of trees wherever you go, even at funerals.
- You dumpster-dive for discarded bulbs after commercial landscapers remove them to plant annuals.
- You sneak home a 7 foot Japanese Maple and wonder if your spouse will notice.
- When considering your budget, plants are more important than groceries.
- You always carry a shovel, bottled water and a plastic bag in your trunk as emergency tools.
- You appreciate your Master Gardener badge more than your jewelry.
- You talk "dirt" at baseball practice.
- You drive around the neighborhood hoping to score extra bags of leaves for your compost pile.
- You like the smell of horse manure better than Estee Lauder.
- You have pride in how bad your hands look.
- You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.
- Soil test results actually mean something.
- You know that Sevin is not a number.
- You look at your child's sandbox and see a raised bed.

**Dodge County Master  
Gardener 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

***"October's poplars are  
flaming torches  
lighting the way to  
winter."  
- Nova Bair***