



# Digging in Dodge

Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

Issue 12

## Upcoming Meetings

We have some interesting topics and speakers lined up for our monthly meetings in 2008. 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.

Anyone with an interest in gardening is welcome to attend the following free programs.

### January 24

Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Matt Hanson

UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent

Late winter is the perfect time to prune our trees and shrubs. Matt will teach us proper pruning techniques and will fill us in on what plants to prune and when to prune them.

### February 28

To be announced

### March 27

Rock Gardening

Dr. Susan Mahr

Master Gardener Program Coordinator

Learn the types of plants that work well in a rock garden and how to grow them.

### April 24

snack potluck

We will enjoy a snack potluck at this meeting while we talk about projects we will be working on in the Dodge County area this year. Certificates for newly certified and recertified Master Gardener Volunteers will be given. There will be an election for the Board of Directors.

### May 22

Growing and Using Gourds

Carol Shirk

Master Gardener

Read our next newsletter for details.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Education Program</i>	2
<i>Phenology Calendars</i>	2
<i>Website Information</i>	3
<i>Garden Expo</i>	3
<i>Board of Directors</i>	4



## Spring Education

### Program

The Dodge County Extension office will host the Master Gardener educational program starting February 5, 2008. If you have always wanted to be a Master Gardener, this is a great opportunity to complete the initial 36 hours of education required. The 12 week educational program will meet Tuesday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through April 29, 2008.

The program will feature University of Wisconsin specialists and other guest speakers with expertise in horticulture. Topics will include preparing soil for optimum plant growth, plant propagation, backyard wildlife, landscaping, insect identification and control, growing annuals and perennials, fruits and vegetables, turf management, weed control, and native prairies.

Cost of the program is \$130, which includes comprehensive handouts and reference materials.

The class will meet in the Administration building, 127 E. Oak Street in Juneau.

To become a certified Master Gardener Volunteer, you must complete 36 hours of training, pass a final exam, and volunteer for 24 hours working on horticultural projects in your community. Dodge County Master Gardeners are currently involved in a

number of projects where your assistance would be appreciated. Projects include working at historical societies, nursing homes, schools, and parks. To remain certified, Master Gardeners complete 10 hours of continuing education and 24 service hours per year.

Any adult, 18 years or older, can participate in the Master Gardener program. No previous gardening experience is necessary.

If you would like to register for the program, contact Matt Hanson, UW-Extension Crops and Soils Agent by calling 920-386-3790. Class size is limited to the first 50 participants.

### Phenology Calendars

What is phenology, you say? Phenology is the study of periodic plant and animal life-cycle events. Wildlife emerging from hibernation, birds nesting or migrating, and flowers blooming are examples of annual phenological events.

A calendar depicting these events is available to purchase. The calendar identifies phenological events gathered from a variety of sources throughout the Midwest and includes beautiful photos of Wisconsin wildlife, along with the dates of significant phenological events.

The calendar is produced by the UW-Extension Environmental Resources Center, and is sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and their Partners for Fish and Wildlife, The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

To view and order the Wildlife Phenology calendar, visit the Learning Store at:

<http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Wildlife-Phenology-Calendar--2008-P1240C128.aspx>.

### Electronic Newsletters

If you would like to receive your Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) newsletter electronically contact Susan Mahr, the Master Gardener Program Coordinator by emailing her at [se-mahr@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:se-mahr@facstaff.wisc.edu).

### Join the Board

Our local Master Gardeners Association will have two openings on the Board of Directors this spring. The election will take place at our April meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow gardeners and to help plan future topics for meetings and special events. If you are interested in being on the Board, please contact one of the Board members.

## Website Information

There are two websites that have a variety of helpful information for Master Gardeners. Visit [www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener](http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener) for information on becoming a Master Gardener.

Those who are keeping track of volunteer hours can get a copy of the timesheet by clicking "state program," "program office," then "providing information and resources."

Click on "local associations" and "Dodge County" to read our latest newsletter and make copies of it for your gardening friends. If you have digital photos of Master Gardener projects in the Dodge County area, they can be used to update our webpage. Contact Lisa Traugher for more information.

"Horticultural info" and "resources" will provide a wide variety of Extension publications and factsheets that may be helpful in answering your gardening questions.

A second website, [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dodge](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/dodge), will take you to the UW-Extension website for Dodge County. Click on "horticulture" for links to Extension publications, plant databases, and links to other helpful sites.



## Garden Expo

The Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo will be held February 8-10, 2008 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Eight sessions will run each hour on topics that include: foolproof perennials, types of ponds, composting, vegetable gardening, growing roses, container gardening, heirloom plants, and many more.

Join Shelly Ryan, host of "The Wisconsin Gardener" television program and Larry Meiller, host of "Garden Talk," a Wisconsin Public Radio program, for a question and answer session.

There will be hands-on classes and gardening demonstrations.

Tickets are \$6.00 in advance and \$7.00 at the door. For more information go to the Wisconsin Public Television website: [www.wpt.org/gardenexpo](http://www.wpt.org/gardenexpo).

## Upcoming Events

**May 17, 2008**

Perennial Sale

The Dodge County Master Gardeners will have our yearly perennial sale from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Administration building, 127 E. Oak

Street in Juneau. This is an opportunity for gardeners to expand their garden at a great price!

Master Gardeners can drop off plants for the sale on Friday, May 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Divide plants from your garden, place them in pots, and label them with the plant name and helpful information. Proceeds are used to support our local association.

**July 16-19, 2008**

Upper Midwest MG Conference  
Gardening Through the  
Continuum of Life

The conference will be held at the Four Points Sheridan in Milwaukee. Check the Master Gardener website for details as they become available.

For numerous special events and learning opportunities at Olbrich Botanical Gardens in Madison, Wisconsin, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and other area gardens, go to the Master Gardener website.



## Dodge County Master Gardeners Association

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127 E. Oak Street  
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[www.hort.wisc.edu/  
mastergardener](http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener)



## Board of Directors

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