



CHIPPEWA VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2008

JANUARY MEETING

A meeting will be held on Monday, January 14, at 6:30 PM at the Extension Office following the test review of the 2007 Fall MG General Training Class.

We would like to welcome our new members who have participated in the Fall MG General Training Class. We encourage members to bring snacks to share.

In addition to a brief review of our projects that we have, we will also be looking at some interesting Web Sites. Please note if you have any to share. This is a great way to explore new sites that you may not be aware of to gain new info.

ATTENTION 2007 FALL MG TRAINING CLASS

There will be a review of the tests on Monday, January 14, at 6 PM at the Extension Office. Please bring your tests with you.

As part of the 2007 Fall MG General Training Class, you are members of the Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Association (CVMGA) for 2008 and a member of the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA).

CVMGA meets the second Monday of each month unless otherwise noted.

"THINK SPRING" GARDEN SEMINAR COMMITTEE MEETING

The "Think Spring" Garden Seminar Committee will be meeting at 5:30 PM on Monday, January 14, in Room 16 at the Courthouse. Any member interested in joining this committee is welcome to attend.



THE MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

As interests in gardening and home landscaping became more widely acclaimed, the number of services requested of Extension grew. To help reach out and better serve the members of the community, the Master Gardener Program was created.

Each year new Master Gardener volunteers take part in the General Master Gardener Training Program to take part in the opportunity to support their community through Extension. New trainees pay monetary fees for the cost of materials and 24 hours of volunteer time to cover the cost of tuition. These hours amount to just two hours a month! When you think of the fees it would cost to take this class elsewhere, it is a bargain.

The rewards of being a Master Gardener Volunteer provide great personal benefits. Not only do you get the opportunity to gain access to new knowledge from the class, but you also have the opportunity to gain even more knowledge through seminars and additional classes. There is also the knowledge that you are helping your community by supporting your Extension by answering questions that others may have. These people may be your members of your family, your neighbors, or even people you have just met. Even if you do not know the answers, you have access to information to help find those answers. Just take down their contact information and let them know that you will get back to them.

Education is Extension's top priority. With budget cuts threatening Extension Offices throughout the state, the support of the Master Gardener Program is very important. Each year volunteer hours are turned in to the state program office and a report is generated that shows just how many hours are put in by Master Gardener Volunteers. In

some areas, this has helped save staff positions by showing the importance of our work. It also shows how important you are to the program with the hours you submit.

Although education is the top priority for the program, we also have projects that help beautify the community as well. Two of our main projects are the beds at the Visitor's Center and the raised bed near Allen Park. Other landscaping projects that members have worked on include projects at the Senior Center, River Source Family Center, Chippewa Humane Society, and more.

If you have any questions on what may be used for volunteer hours, please feel free to contact Jerry at the Extension Office or Laura at talloaks@charter.net.

THANK YOU

CVMGA would like to thank everyone for all of their work to help the program this last year.

2007 has been a very busy year for us. The number of educational opportunities that we have presented to the public has increased. We co-hosted the state conference in Eau Claire, held the "Got Dirt?" Program to teach childcare givers and teachers the basics of gardening so that they may pass on what they have learned to the children. We have also workshops on apple tree grafting and the Wisconsin Champion Big Tree Program with the Wisconsin DNR. In addition to these programs, we have had another successful "Think Spring" Garden Seminar. Some areas have noted a drop in attendance, but our attendance has stayed at a steady number.

CVMGA has also provided education through booths at Earth Day in Downtown Chippewa Falls, local garden centers, Arbor Day, the Chippewa Falls Public Library, Family Fun & Fitness Day, and the Northern Wisconsin State Fair.

It has also been the year that we have had one of our more successful plant sales.

To thank our members for their support, the CVMGA Board would like to provide the opportunity for our members to win the

opportunity to attend the 2009 WIMGA Annual Conference in the Dells Area.

To win, paid members of CVMGA (this includes the 2007 Fall General Training Class) need to complete the following by October 1:

- Attend six or more monthly meetings
- Provide ten or more volunteer support hours in a CVMGA project (these projects are noted in the volunteer opportunities column)
- Volunteer Hours Sheets turned in by October 1
- 2009 Annual Dues paid by October 1

Members completing the above requirements will be eligible for the opportunity to have their name drawn at the November Business Meeting. The winner will receive reimbursement of the Early Bird Registration Fee after attending the 2009 Annual Conference. These conferences are a wonderful way to gain new knowledge and network with other Master Gardener Volunteers from throughout the state.

NAME BADGES

Members who do not have name badges have the opportunity to receive one by attending six or more monthly meetings in one year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following volunteer opportunities are available (those sanctioned as CVMGA projects and eligible to be used towards the drawing are noted by an *):

"Think Spring" Garden Seminar.* Each year CVMGA and the Chippewa County Extension Office produce this successful annual seminar. Committee planning meetings begin in the fall of each year. There are several areas in which help is needed in connection with the annual seminar.

Help is needed to gather items for the Silent Auction. These items may be garden related donations from local businesses or handcrafted items donated by members or

others. Past items have included books, pots for plants, woodcarving, birdhouses, stepping stones, gift certificates, earrings, gift baskets, and more! To donate items for the Silent Auction, please contact Linda Stockinger at ldstocking@aol.com or Mary Jo Fleming at bingnjo@charter.net.

Treats are needed for registrants in the morning. We have several hungry attendees and need lots of goodies! These include quick breads, muffins, and cookies. These items need to be easily handled without mess. If people do bring bars, they need to be cut and able to be eaten without fuss such as rice crispy bars. To bring treats, please contact Jackie Guthrie at jbjspoa2@charter.net.

We will be setting up for the seminar on Friday evening, February 15. Help is needed setting up tables, chairs, stuffing folders, and more! Help is also needed cleaning up after the seminar on Saturday, February 16. Please contact Laura at talloaks@charter.net if you are able to help.

Bluebird Project by Seymour Cray Blvd.* Each year members of CVMGA monitor bluebird houses along this site and report their findings to the state Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin. Members meet in April to clean out houses from the previous season and work out a schedule for monitoring bluebird houses. The monitoring season runs from April through August. Members break into groups and each group records the results. Groups rotate throughout the season. This averages approximately once a month, although occasionally a group may end up monitoring twice in one month. The results are used to learn what works best for attracting bluebirds and we can pass on what we learn to the public.

Plant Sale.* The annual CVMGA plant sale is one of our major fundraising opportunities. When dividing your plants in the spring, please think of donating some to our plant sale in May. Vegetable seedlings and annuals also sell well at our sale. When starting your own seedlings, please consider starting extras for our sale. Please keep track of the names of any seedlings and any

other pertinent information to help answer any questions our customers may have.

Visitors' Center and Raised Bed by Allen Park.* Each year help is needed by our members to maintain the beds at these sites. The great thing about helping out at these sites is that it may be done at a time that fits your schedule, whether it may be a weekday, weekend, morning, daytime, or evening.

Presentations.* Jerry and Laura receive requests from time to time for presentations to outside groups. Please contact Jerry at the Extension Office if you are able to do this. You may also give presentations to outside groups by contacting them on your own or contact your local library to give a presentation. We are also looking for presentations for our monthly meetings.

Newspaper articles.* Newspaper articles may be submitted electronically or by hard copy to Jerry for the local paper. If possible, please send them electronically at jerome.clark@ces.uwex.edu.

Booths.* CVMGA holds booths annually at Earth Day in Downtown Chippewa Falls, Arbor Day in Chippewa Falls, our annual "Think Spring" Garden Seminar, and the Northern Wisconsin State Fair. Please contact Jerry or Laura if you are able to help out.

"Got Dirt?" Program.* This program is a "train the trainer" program in which the basics are taught to childcare providers and teachers to teach children about gardening. This program was started to encourage children to eat healthy foods by growing what they eat and to encourage them to try new foods. We will be holding a training session in March. The date will be announced later.

Participation at any of the above projects is sanctioned by CVMGA. Each month a column listing volunteer opportunities will appear in your newsletter. Although not all of them will be CVMGA projects, they will be an opportunity towards fulfilling the required 24 hours of volunteer time. Members are also welcome to work on their own projects. Before beginning your project, you may wish to consult with Jerry to see whether your

project will fall under those that are acceptable to the program.

BLUEBIRD HOUSES

Sponsors are needed for new bluebird houses and predator guards. The new houses are made of cedar and provide a long life with several years of use. The cost for all of these materials is \$15. Checks may be made out to CVMGA and sponsorship is tax deductible. To sponsor a house, contact Mary Jo Fleming at 723-0822 or bingnjo@charter.net. The new houses are built to specifications from BRAW and a sample will be shown at the January monthly meeting.

INVASIVE SPECIES CLASSIFICATION RULE

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species (Council) have been working over the last three years to develop administrative rules to identify, classify and control invasive species. We want you to comment on the draft rule.

To view the draft rule and the species under consideration, and to comment on them, visit our website at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/classification/>

Within the website is a description of the draft rule, the draft rule itself, as well as a rule summary, criteria used for assessing the species and a table listing the species under consideration. In addition, for each species there is a summary of the current literature as relates to the assessment criteria and a compilation of the assessment that was done by a group of experts and stakeholders. **For several of the plants, we are trying to determine if there are parts of the state where they should be listed as "prohibited" (not yet present or only in a few pioneering populations) vs. "restricted" (too widespread to attempt to eradicate). For those species with map icon, please click on the species to see the known distribution map and submit any comments regarding known occurrences of the species in the unshaded areas.**

If you have an interest in these species or their regulation, please review the website

and provide us comments on-line, via e-mail or in person. **The deadline for receiving comments is January 25, 2008.**

In addition to the website, we will be conducting 6 informal public listening sessions across the state. Each listening session will have the doors open at 5 p.m. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a general overview of the intent of the draft rule and the process and criteria used to assess each species, as well as the proposed restrictions that apply to each classification. After answering general questions, we plan to move to individual species group stations where participants can discuss species of concern with DNR staff biologists. We will be asking attendees to fill out comment forms.

5:00	Doors	Open
5:30	General	Overview
6:00	Individual Species Groups Discussions	

DATES and LOCATIONS of the Listening Sessions:

January 10, 2008- SPOONER- [Spoooner Agricultural Research Station](#) W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner, WI

January 11, 2008- RHINELANDER (also 2-4)- [Learning Resources Center Theater](#) Nicolet College, 5364 College Dr, Rhineland, WI

January 14, 2008- MADISON- McKay Center, [UW Arboretum](#), 1207 Seminole Highway, Madison, WI

January 15, 2008- MILWAUKEE- Governors Room, [Tommy Thompson Youth Center \(Gate 5\)](#) Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 South 84th Street, Milwaukee, WI

January 16, 2008- GREEN BAY- [Brown Co. Central Library](#) Theater, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, WI

January 17, 2008- LACROSSE- [La Crosse Central High School](#) Commons (Room 126), 1801 Losey S. Blvd., LaCrosse, WI

After we receive comments from stakeholders and interested members of the public from the listening sessions, we will revise the draft rule based on the comments received, prior to seeking Natural Resources Board approval for formal public hearings in early 2008.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, or if you do not have easy access to the internet, please let us know and we can send you the information you are interested in via US mail.

We are trying to get this out to as many stakeholders and interested parties as possible, so please forward it on to others in your industry, organization or anyone else who might be interested.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ron Martin
DNR Invasive Species Work Group Leader

www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/classification
Please mail comments to:
Invasives Rules Comments, ER-6
WDNR, Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921.
If you do not have access to the internet, and need to contact the Department, you may call (608) 266-9276.

URBAN FORESTRY CONFERENCE

Wisconsin's annual urban forestry conference is Feb. 3-5 in Middleton. Visit the Wisconsin Arborist Association Web site for the program brochure and to register, <http://www.waa-isa.org/>. The conference hotel is the Madison Marriott West -- be sure to reserve your room by January 18th (see page 1 of the conference brochure).

REMINDER: Annual Dues of \$12 are due now. Make checks payable to Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Association. Send to: Laurie Hurt, 17340 145th Street, Bloomer, WI 54724. To avoid the risk of missing out on the next newsletter, dues must be received by Monday, January 14. We are required to have our dues in to the state on January 15. Members whose dues have been received prior to January 8 have been registered with the state.



If you have not paid your dues, please do so now to avoid interruption of your newsletter.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Jan 12, 2008
The 20th Century Native Plant Movement in North America
Minneapolis, MN

In the new millennium, invasive exotic species, habitat destruction, global warming and xenophobia are a few of the issues still germane after three centuries of promoting and employing North America's diverse and beautiful flora. Join C. Colston Burrell for this seminar from 10:00 a.m. to noon co-sponsored by Bachman's Floral Home and Garden, the Rock Garden Society of Minnesota, the Saint Paul Garden Club, Twin Cities chapter of the Wild Ones and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. At Bachman's Heritage Room, 6010 Lyndale Ave, Minneapolis. \$25 (\$20 members). For more information contact [Vicky Vogels](mailto:Vicky.Vogels@mnhort.org), MN Hort Society Community Outreach Coordinator at (651) 643-3601, ext 211 or see the [MN Hort Society Website](http://www.northerngardener.org/) at <http://www.northerngardener.org/>.

Jan 25, 2008 (12:00 noon)
Emerald Ash Borer: Planning Ahead

Brown Bag Program (contact your local UW County Extension Office for access) Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Michigan in June 2002. It is a species of metallic wood boring beetle (Buprestidae) that attacks ash (*Fraxinus*), usually killing trees in one to three years. To date, this insect has NOT been found in Wisconsin! Join Dr. Robert Tomesh and others in a discussion about the pest problem, where information can be found, sources of educational materials and what you can do to assist your community.

Feb 8-10, 2008
WPT's Garden Expo
Madison, WI

Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event provides numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics. Hours are Fri 4:00-9:00, Sat 8:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00. In the [Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center](http://www.alliantenergy.com). For more information visit [WPT's Garden Expo website](http://www.wpt.org/gardenexpo/) at <http://www.wpt.org/gardenexpo/>.

AAS WINNERS FOR 2008

All-America Selections has announced their winners for 2008, with two bedding plants and one vegetable. Look for the red, white and blue logo of **All-America Selections** on seed packets in retail stores, plant tags in bedding plants in garden centers or nurseries, or in mail-order catalogs this spring. Success is almost guaranteed with these varieties of reliable new flower and vegetable varieties.



The non-profit All-America Selections (AAS) organization was founded in 1932 to foster the development, production and distribution of new and better horticultural and agricultural varieties, species, strains and kinds in and for North America. AAS winners are superior new annual flower and vegetable plants recognized for significant achievements – a promise of gardening success. Only the very best varieties receive this prestigious award. All AAS winners have been tested for home garden performance in more than 30 independent test sites, each under the responsibility of an AAS judge, all over the United States and Canada. Gardeners can rely on AAS Winners to perform in their garden because of these unbiased, independent tests. Most of the time only one to three flower varieties and the same number of vegetables get this award each year, and sometimes none qualifies. This year has a very small class of winners.

The three AAS winners for 2008 are:



AAS Bedding Plant Award Winner: Osteospermum 'Asti White'

Pure white daisy flowers with blue centers are the main attraction for 'Asti White.' The large blooms, 2 to 2-1/2 inches across are borne on stems that gracefully wave in the wind. The thick fleshy leaves indicate its drought tolerance, which makes this a preferred annual in any area subject to dry conditions. 'Asti White' is the first white Osteospermum, or Cape Daisy, propagated from seed. There are several advantages. The flowers will remain open under cloudy conditions, unlike other daisy flowers originating from South Africa, which close. 'Asti White' plants will flower uniformly about 17 weeks from seed. Gardeners have the choice of growing from seed or purchasing plants depending upon their resources. 'Asti White' plants will bloom and recover from a slight frost. These plants can be placed in the spring or fall garden, weeks earlier than other tender annuals. The uniform plants thrive in a sunny garden, reaching about 17 to 20 inches tall and wide. 'Asti White' plants adapt perfectly to growing in containers, preferably 6-inch pots or larger. *Osteospermum ecklonis*, bred and produced by Goldsmith Seeds, Inc.

Unique qualities:

First white osteospermum propagated from seed. Freedom of bloom and uniform size plants
Flower size: 2 to 2.5 inches
Color(s): White with blue center
Plant height: 17-20 inches
Plant width: 17-20 inches
Garden spacing: 12 inches apart
Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 17 weeks from seed
Closest comparison(s) on market: 'Sky and Ice,' 'Passion Mix'



**AAS Cool-Season Bedding Plant
Award Winner: Viola 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold'**

Sunny gold faces charm people gazing at 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold.' The flowers are uniquely designed with plum shades surrounding the golden centers (face), which contain radiating black lines affectionately called whiskers. The blooms are small, about 1-1/2 inches, but are not to be underrated. The number of blooms produced more than makes up for the size. 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold' won the AAS Award for its ability to grow a lavish number of blooms. In the North, plants can be expected to bloom beginning with spring to the heat of summer. In the South, a fall planting may provide flowering golden faces throughout the winter. The petite plants growing 6 to 8 inches tall and wide are highly recommended for combination planters. Gardeners can rely on 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold' to provide abundant blooms whether growing in containers, window boxes, an annual or perennial garden. 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold' may be a perennial in southern regions. Seed or bedding plants will be available in garden centers this fall or spring. *Viola cornuta* 'Skippy XL Plum-Gold' was bred by Kieft Seeds Holland.

Unique qualities:
Color combinations, vigorous and floriferous, flower size

Flower size: 1.5 inches

Form: Single

Color(s): Plum shades with golden center

Plant height: 6 inches

Plant width: 8 inches

Garden spacing: 8 inches

Length of time from sowing seed to flower: 10 weeks

Closest comparison(s) on market: 'Skippy Lavender/Yellow Face,' 'Panola Lavender'



AAS Vegetable Award Winner: Eggplant 'Hansel'

Best described as a miniature eggplant, 'Hansel' is a smaller-sized plant with finger-sized clusters of fruit. Just because of its smaller size, don't make the mistake of thinking it produces less fruit. The strong plant, reaching less than three feet, produces clusters of three to six fruit. They mature early, about 55 days from transplanting into warm soil. This is about 10 days earlier than the comparison eggplant. If the 3-inch fruit clusters are left on the plant, they grow in size, but remain tender and non-bitter, unlike other eggplant. This trait offers gardeners flexibility in harvest such as when taking a much-needed vacation. The fruit will be waiting for you as long as it's not a three-week cruise. If you prefer to garden in containers, 'Hansel' is highly recommended for your shopping list. 'Hansel' adapts perfectly to container growing conditions. The diminutive plant fits on smaller patios or decks but provides high yields of shiny purple eggplants ready to marinate and grill. 'Hansel' will be available as seed and young bedding plants. This AAS Winner, *Solanum melongena*, was bred by Seminis Vegetable Seed.

Unique qualities:
Miniature plant.

Clusters of tender sweet fruit with few seeds, early

Fruit size: From 2" to 10" in length

Fruit shape:

Teardrop shape

Color: Glossy dark purple fruit

Plant height: 36 inches

Plant width: 30 inches

Plant habit:

Compact upright

Garden spacing: 2 feet apart

Length of time from transplanting to harvest: 55 days

Closest comparison(s) on market: 'Little Fingers,' 'Orient Express'

BROWN LEAF EDGES

Author: Morrisey

Are the leaves on your houseplant turning brown? This problem can be caused by a number of factors.

Either over or under watering are the most common causes. Changing the plant's location, changing the container or watering schedule may also have caused the problem.

Overwatering causes leaves to turn yellow and then brown. Always check the soil before you water. Stick your finger in the soil. If it is wet, wait before watering. Some plants like the soil constantly moist while others need to go dry between waterings. Check plant requirements to determine how dry the soil should be when you water.

You can reduce the risk of overwatering by growing plants in containers that have drainage holes. This allows excess water to flow out of the pot. Pour off excess water. Or, fill the saucer with pebbles so the excess water collects in the pebbles. This saves you the work of pouring off excess water. Use unglazed clay pots. These dry out faster and reduce risk of overwatering.

Underwatering can also cause leaf edges to brown. Wilted and limp leaves mean you let the soil get too dry. Check soil moisture more often. Increase watering frequency to eliminate leaf browning. Listen to INFOSOURCE message number 4-0-4 for tips on watering houseplants.

Potbound houseplants are also more subject to brown leaf edges. The soil in a rootbound houseplant is filled with roots. This reduces the amount of water that can be held in the soil. This lack of water can also cause brown leaf edges. Increase watering frequency or repot the plant into a larger diameter container. The larger container and new soil mix will reduce the frequency of watering. Check the soil to determine how often you need to water your newly transplanted houseplant.

Chlorine, fluoride and water softening salts can also cause brown leaf tips and edges. Avoid using softened water for houseplants.

Prevent tip burn on draceanas, spider plants, prayer plants and other sensitive plants through proper watering. Use rain water, melted snow or water from your dehumidifier on these sensitive plants.

Over fertilizing can also cause leaf browning. Fertilize no more than once or twice a month from March through November. Use a very dilute solution of fertilizer if you fertilize more frequently. Plants grown in soilless mix benefit from frequent fertilization since the soilless mixes do not hold on to the nutrients. Check the fertilizer label and needs of the plant to develop a fertilization schedule.

You can reduce further damage caused by overfertilizing. Leach the soil to wash out excess fertilizer. To do this, place the plant in a laundry tub or bathtub then water the soil until the excess runs out the bottom of the container. Wait 20 minutes and water again. Repeat this procedure 1 or 2 times. Leaching will wash out excess fertilizer.

Feeding activities of insects and spider mites can cause leaves to turn brown. Check the stems and undersides of leaves for signs of insects. If you suspect insect problems listen to INFOSOURCE message number 3-5-4.

Diseases can also cause leaves to turn brown. Spots, blotches and blighted areas on leaves are often caused by disease organisms. You can control many disease problems by removing infected leaves as they appear and proper watering techniques.

BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, Jan. 26, 7:30–10:30 a.m.
Wise Nature Center at Beaver Creek
Reserve
Fall Creek, WI Every event (free or paid) requires pre-registration. To register, call 715-877-2212.

Join the Beaver Creek Banding crew on Saturday morning to learn more about banding and the research the group is conducting. See many of our winter resident birds up close and learn how to sex and age each species.

Friends: FREE Nonmembers: FREE