

# Master Gardener Volunteer's Newsletter

**Master Gardener Meetings are held  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.**

**6:00- 6:30 p.m. Social;  
6:30-7:30 p.m. Meeting; 7:30-8:30 p.m. Program**

*In the event that a meeting or event is cancelled due to weather,  
please listen to WJMQ 92.3 and WDUZ 92.7 for cancellation  
information. We will also attempt to notify members via email.*



*Unless otherwise stated, meetings and programs will be held in the  
lower level of the Waupaca County Courthouse.*



## **April Meeting Information**

*Submitted by Ila Sanders*

**April 10th - Social 6:00-6:30 p.m.; Program 6:30  
p.m.; Meeting 8:00 p.m., Waupaca**

Our April meeting will feature Mayflower Greenhouses of Green Bay. The presentation, "Container Gardens", will begin at 6:30, with our regular meeting to follow at 8 p.m. Admission is free to all Waupaca County Master Gardener Volunteers. Tickets to the general public are \$5.00 each. These may be purchased or reserved from the following MG: Sue King, Colleen McCoy, or Ila Sanders. Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door. The meeting room does have a limited capacity, so it is wise to reserve tickets ahead. This is a great opportunity to acquaint prospective members with our organization!



## **New Email Addresses**

*Submitted by Greg Blonde*

MGV members please contact my secretary or me at 715-258-6230x12 with any changes regarding contact information. For example, send a change in name, email or mailing address, or phone number.



## **April in the Garden**

### Gardens

- \*Wait until new growth is established before removing winter protection.
- \*Cut ornamental grasses back to a few inches before new growth begins.
- \*Add a few inches of organic matter to your garden. Use compost, peat moss or aged manure. This organic matter will dramatically improve the drainage and workability of the ground. A good garden starts from the ground up!
- \*Check on your clumping perennials, such as daylilies and Siberian iris. While the dead foliage has provided a protective wreath for the plants over winter, it's important now to clear the brown leaves away in anticipation of green shoots. Be careful not to cut into new shoots while you're removing last year's foliage.
- \*Bare root plants should be soaked up to 8 hours before planting. Trim off cleanly any broken roots or branches.

### Bulbs

- \*Fertilize spring flowering bulbs.

### Weeding

- \*This is a good time to get a jump on early weeds that may be trying to take hold in your perennial bed. Because the beds are still quite bare, you can spot the weeds and remove them before they have a chance to settle in.



## A Note From Our President, Kate Saunders

Spring is slowly easing its way back into Waupaca County this year. In the spirit of hardy, winter tested Wisconsin gardeners we have survived one of the worst winters in history and move forward with confidence that the earth will warm and our plants will bloom! Although there are no crocuses or daffodils announcing “spring” in my gardens, my hope springs eternal as I decorate my home with fresh flowers for the Easter season. With unwavering optimism, I have ordered plants and seeds for my newest garden area and per Dorrie’s request, have sown hundreds of seeds for our MG spring plant sale.

As Master Gardeners, we are moving full steam into the 2008 growing season, full of hope for crops that will put food on the tables of the hungry, filled with energy to teach children and adults to “grow their own food” in this time of economic downturn, and ready with our spades, rakes, trowels, hoes and hoses to provide beauty for our communities.

I am thankful for the hard work and commitment on the part of all of our members...we have a scholarship to award, by-laws to update, children’s gardens to plan, invasive plants to control, a plant sale to promote and so much more!

Thank you all for your outstanding contributions to the Waupaca County Master Gardener Association.

Kate



## Tips & Tidbits

*Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmall*

My husband Don and I plant over ten varieties of heirloom beans. These are shell beans for drying for use in cooking wonderful bean dishes and soups. We have tried numerous ways of growing these pole beans. Our latest method now seems to work out the best. Take five poles (ten feet or longer) and form a teepee. Poles can be saplings, old bamboo fishing poles, or even lumber. Tie the poles together on the top with rope or wire and anchor each pole at the bottom. Stones or camping stakes work well for anchors. At the base of each pole plant three to five bean seeds. Be sure to plant on the outside of the poles. Then before the seeds sprout, wrap string around your teepee. We used grape vines for wrapping last time and this worked well. The pole bean plants need this to climb all over the teepee. Your plants will need a little training to learn to climb all over your bean teepee. This method also works well for morning glories and gourds. Your plant cover teepee will be a beautiful addition to your garden.

## Happy Birthday to You! April Birthdays

*Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske*

04/04 Lyle Mork

04/07 Julie Bosquez

04/12 Faye Wilson

## Best Wishes to All of You!



## March Meeting Notes

*Submitted by Peggy Kramer*

President, Kate Saunders, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Kate welcomed the members and two guests to the meeting and program.

Members Present: Greg Blonde, Julie Bosquez, Leigh Braatz, Dort DeWild, Christann Dittman, Kay Durrant, Gloria Gruer, Dorrie Hipschman, Cynthia Holly, Bill Johnson, Carol Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Suzanne King, Peggy Kramer, Terry Kramer, Deb Krogwold, Barb Lamb, Patti Leiskau, Sharon Lemmers, Hope MacIntyre, Agnes Marchel, Sally Marchel-Handrich, Colleen McCoy, Lyle Mork, Pam Nitke, Barb Nollenberg, Gerald Oestreich, Glenda Rhodes, Pat Ritchie, Ila Sanders, Tom Sanders, Kate Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Dorothy Shaver, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Carol Spiegelberg, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber-Schmoll, Kathy Weiner, Faye Wilson, Suzanne Wozniak, and Connie Zolkoske. Guests included Russ and Sandy Kamine.

Connie Zolkoske made a motion that the January minutes be approved as written. Nancy Johnson made a second and the motion carried.

Terry Kramer gave the Treasurer's report

Terry read two thank-you notes. One was from a scholarship recipient, Danielle Diermeier, expressing her gratitude for the \$500.00. Terry reported on her first semester grade report. The other thank-you note was from Colleen McCoy thanking the MGVs for their generous donations to the "True Spirit of Christmas".

Pat Ritchie gave state Representative's Report. Pat announced that the Midwest Regional Conference will be held in Milwaukee July 16-19, 2008. Registration is available online. Registration before 4/15 is \$150; after that date it will be \$175.

New trainings will be offered from May through October dealing with horticultural therapy and gardening with physical limitations.

New nametags may be ordered at this meeting at the cost of \$6.00; at a later date the cost will be \$6.50. These nametags reflect the new title of 'Master Gardener Volunteer'.

For more information on any items in the State Representative report, please contact Pat Ritchie.

Connie Zolkoske gave the membership report. Connie gave several reasons to wear our name badges to meetings and when doing projects in the community. Of utmost importance is that we all get to know each other. We also want to portray our pride and publicize the good we do as MGVs. Please wear your name badges to all MGV events!

New name badges were presented to Gerald Oestreich, Hope McIntyre and Julie Bosquez because they have completed all MGV requirements. Sally Marchel-Handrich has temporary name badges for new members until all their MGV membership requirements are submitted.

New Business:

Ila Sanders reported that the program at the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be presented at 6:30 p.m. The regular business meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. The program will be a Power Point pertaining to "Container Gardening" presented by Mayflower Greenhouses (near Green Bay). Master Gardener's are free of charge; guests will be \$5.00 each. Tickets are available at this meeting and via e-mail from Tom and Ila Sanders until March 27.

The Scholarship Committee report was given by Ila Sanders. The recipient of the \$500.00 scholarship is Kelly Bahnke, entering UW Stevens Point in Agri-business.

The By-Law committee presented by-law changes. The draft was e-mailed to members with this technology; other members received a hard copy at the meeting. The committee answered any questions presented. (con't)

## March Meeting Notes con't

These changes were submitted this month and will be voted on by the membership at the April meeting.

Colleen McCoy reported that the "True Spirit of Christmas" had extra funds totaling \$491.71. Nancy Johnson made a motion to have Colleen give the money to people in need as she determines. The motion was seconded by Dorrie Hipschman. Motion carried.

Carol Spiegelberg gave a report on the Food Pantry Project. The Project is asking for donations to the "Grow Your Own Garden". A sheet of specific items needed was distributed. Donations may be brought to the April or May meetings. The Project may also give hoes with the basket of gardening items. Colleen McCoy will check with Jay-Mar for a price for 35 hoes.

Kate Saunders announced that a resident at the Veteran's Home in King would like to do some volunteer work for the MGVs. He will need a mentor and transportation. Please speak with Kate Saunders if you can help.

The silent auction to raise money for a member's favorite charity or the MGV Scholarship will be chaired by Dorothy Shaver. It will be held in November, 2008. Members may indicate where their monies will be assigned.

Dorrie Hipschman gave a report on the Spring Plant Sale (June 1, 2008). Dorrie stated that over the last 2 years there has been a decline of 17% in revenue from the plant sales. This year she is expecting 100% participation from the membership. Participation can be at many levels. Donations, telephoning, assisting in planting, volunteering time and many other ways are available. The committee is planning several dates for the membership to partake in this fundraiser. On the day of the plant sale there are two programs planned for the general public to attend. One session will be given by Shelly Graziano Christie on Landscaping with Container Gardens. The other will be presented by Lorry Brace on Making Living Wreaths.

Dorrie presented an additional request for \$580.00 to be spent on new and unusual perennials plants to be sold at the spring plant sale. A handout was distributed to the membership. Faye Wilson motioned that the plant sale committee be given up to \$600.00 to order the plants. Barb Lamb seconded. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Ila Sanders and seconded by Dort De Wild to adjourn the meeting. Kate Saunders adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Kramer



## Party Time!!

*Submitted by Dorrie Hipschman*

On Saturday, April 12th - we're having a potting party - we'll transplant seedlings and pot up our ordered perennials for the plant sale. Mark your calendars if you'd like to help! Details at the April MG meeting.

We need LOTS of potting soil. If you want to help the plant sale, but don't have a lot of time, a \$9 bag of Miracle Gro potting soil will get you off the hook! (We like the potting soil with fertilizer in it so we don't have to fertilize the plants between now and the sale. Please bring all potting soil donations to the April meeting. THANKS!!

**All members are encouraged to submit newsletter information! May articles are due by Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>.**

*Thanks for all of the articles this month. It makes this job much easier! -Amy*

## Scholarship Winner Announced

*Submitted by Ila Sanders*

Congratulations to Kellie Behnke of Clintonville, the recipient of the 2008 Master Gardener's Scholarship. Kellie is planning to attend the University of Wisconsin at River Falls this fall, majoring in Agriculture Business Management. Kellie is currently a high school senior at Clintonville High School. Her application was outstanding.



## New Email Addresses

Carol Spiegelberg  
[spiegcar@wolfnet.net](mailto:spiegcar@wolfnet.net)

Agnes Marchel  
[agnesmarchel@att.net](mailto:agnesmarchel@att.net)



## Cow Manure

*Submitted by Greg Blonde*

I wanted to remind you about some consumer-friendly research on the use of non-composted manure in gardens (the article was published in 2005). This is especially important with your children/community gardens. **Safe Use of Cow Manure as a Garden Fertilizer.** Many vegetable gardeners swear to the benefits of cow manure as a fertilizer. Adding cow manure to soil improves the soil texture and water-holding capacity while providing nutrients needed by growing plants. Unfortunately, fresh cow manure can also contain a variety of disease-causing bacteria and protozoa that could contaminate vegetables. This risk of contamination is serious enough that USDA's National Organic Program rules specifically address when non-composted manure can be applied to soil used for vegetable growing. If the vegetables have edible portions that might be contacted by

soil (either directly or via rain/irrigation splash), then the manure must be applied at least 120 days prior to harvest. In Wisconsin, 120 days covers most of the vegetable growing season, so adherence to this limit is often impractical for same-year applications.

### **Can a shorter fertilization-to-harvest interval be safely used by Wisconsin vegetable growers?**

Probably not, recent research done by Steve Ingham, UWEX Food Safety Extension Specialist, has found that applying fresh cow manure 90, 100, or 110 days prior to harvest may significantly increase the likelihood that bacteria from manure will contaminate vegetables. And, even if the 120-day limit is followed, fecal bacteria from birds, other wildlife, and possibly the cow manure, too, may still contaminate soil and vegetables. **The interval between fertilization and planting is even more important** than the fertilization-to-harvest interval. The safest options for Wisconsin vegetable growers are to:

1) use sterilized manure (available from gardening stores), 2) use properly composted manure for same-year applications, or 3) apply non-composted cow manure in the fall of the preceding harvest year; the winter weather will destroy pathogens that may be present in the fresh manure.

**The risk of vegetable contamination cannot be eliminated if non-composted cow manure is applied in the spring.** If spring application is done, both the fertilization-to-planting and fertilization-to-harvest intervals should be maximized, perhaps by only fertilizing soil used in growing late-season vegetables. Thorough washing and peeling of vegetables can also reduce the risk of contamination, but will not ensure safety. Cooking vegetables will also reduce or eliminate the contamination risk.

*S.C. Ingham et al. 2005. Evaluation of fertilization-to-planting and fertilization-to-harvest intervals for safe use of non-composted bovine manure in Wisconsin vegetable production. J. Food Protection. 68:in press*

## HELP NEEDED

*Submitted by Carol Spiegelberg*

We need your help with the “Grow Your Own Garden” Food Pantry Project. We need the following items for our spring distribution, which takes place the last week of May.

Vegetables Seeds: carrots, beets, lettuce, sweet corn (large package), zucchini, winter squash, cucumbers, radish, beans, muskmelon, watermelon, and pumpkin.

Sets, Bulbs, Corms: onions, gladioli, dahlias, and potatoes.

Flower Seeds (only direct sow): bachelor buttons, zinnia, cosmos, cleome, gomphrena, and sunflowers.

Back issues of garden magazines: Organic Gardening, Garden Gate, Gardening How-To, and Horticulture.

Please bring your donations to the April and/ or May meetings. Everything will be well used and appreciated.

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department  
of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties  
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Waupaca County Master Gardeners  
University of Wisconsin Extension  
811 Harding Street  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
Phone: (715) 258-6230



Waupaca County



