



^{UW} **Extension** Waupaca County

Master Gardener Newsletter

December 2006

**Master Gardener Meetings are held
the 2nd 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. If you have any question about whether or not a meeting will be held, please contact Susan Finkel at 715-752-4494 or finkel@uwosh.edu



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



December 14 - Pot Luck Christmas Gathering!

5:30 p.m. - Pot luck will begin setting up; 6:00 p.m. - Eat!

A - J Main Dish

K - R Dessert

S - Z Appetizer, Salad or Fruit Salad

The program is the Christmas party - Good food, games, songs and sharing! (See article in this newsletter.)



December 28 - Registration deadline for MG Training.
For brochures go to www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/waupaca/



Happy Holidays



December in the Garden

Enjoy nature's beauty with live seasonal decorations like Christmas trees, wreaths, holly and mistletoe.

The gardeners on your Christmas list would like tools, gloves, kneeling pads, birdseed, and books.

Let's hope for a good blanket of snow. It will help insulate the crowns and root systems of flowering perennials from the cold. It will also help prevent freezing and thawing of the soil, which can actually push plants right up out of the ground, especially if transplanted just this year.

Do not prune trees or shrubs until the end of the dormant season or just as growth resumes in the spring.

Tool Care

- To keep garden tools clean and rust-free, fill a bucket of sand and pour enough mineral oil to saturate. Scrape dirt off tools and stick them in the bucket.
- To remove rust from tools, soak them in white vinegar overnight. Scrub rust off the next day. Sand down and oil wood tool handles to keep them splinter-free.

Stored Vegetables

- Check stored potatoes, onions, and other vegetables for signs of spoilage and throw out any rotten ones.

Mulch

- When the ground is frozen an inch or so deep, it is then safe to apply winter mulches to perennial flowers, roses and strawberries. This will insulate them from the cold above ground and help reduce the fluctuations of temperatures in the soil throughout the season, which can heave them from the ground.

Christmas Trees

- Water your Christmas tree daily so it doesn't dry out and become a fire hazard.
- Poinsettias should retain their leaves for many months by continuous watering every 3 to 4 days.

Ornamental Grasses

- Leave any ornamental grasses that are elegant or sculptural for winter interest in the garden. Cut back those that are less attractive. Protect your tender ornamental grasses with 2-3" of mulch. In late winter, before any signs of new growth, cut back all grasses that were left standing.



President's Letter

Submitted by Susan Finkel

Well, it's hard to believe this is my last article as president.



This year has come and gone by so fast. It has truly been a blessing for me to serve as president of this wonderful group for the past year. Our group of MGer's really provides a great deal of service to the children, families and communities of Waupaca County.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to lead our group.

This holiday season can be so busy for many of us, too busy in fact. Whatever holiday your family celebrates this time of year, take a few moments to remember and appreciate all the blessings you have been given. Merry Christmas!

Susan



Happy Birthday to the December Birthday People!

Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske

- 12/3..... Peggy Kramer
- 12/5..... Kathy Akey



Congratulations to the new 2007 Slate of Officers!

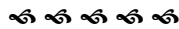
- President** – Pam Nitke
- Vice President** – Kate Saunders
- Secretary** – Rebecca Weber Schmoll
- Treasurer** – Terry Kramer
- New Board Member** - Sally Marchel Handrich (Joining Susan Finkel and Kathy Akey)

A Big Thank You...

to all the past officers and board members for their great efforts this year!

2006 WCMG Officers

- President..... Susan Finkel
- Vice President..... Pam Nitke
- Secretary..... Rebecca Weber Schmoll
- Treasurer..... Colleen McCoy
- Board Member... Faye Wilson
- Board Member... Sue King
- Board Member... Kathy Akey



Approved MG Gardening Programs:

All projects listed on the back of the volunteer record sheet are approved, plus the following TV and radio programs.

TV

- Wisconsin Gardener
- Victory Garden
- Garden Smart
- Gardening by the Yard
- Landscape by Design
- Great Lakes Gardener
- P. Allen Smith

Radio

- Garden Talk with Larry Meillor
- The Plant Doctor with Melinda Meyer



Elections, Committee/Projects

Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske

Jeff Weasner and I would like to thank all who came forward and volunteered to run for an office in last month's election, and congratulations to those who will be our leaders for the next months to come!

I would like to encourage members to sign up for committees...we

need "new blood" and new ideas and energy to chair and help with all the committees. Sign up sheets will be available at the December meeting/party. There is a wide range of choices for committees and projects within our association. Just as a reminder, in exchange for the training we received through the UWEX, we have an obligation to spend time as volunteers working in our community. We can accomplish that individually or as a group, by committing ourselves to one of the many opportunities offered.



Change Your Roster

Connie Jess Zolkoske's new email address is:

sewhappyjess@charter.net



Volunteer Hours for 2006

Submitted by Pat Ritchie

Thanks to all the members who turned in their hours for this year. It was wonderful to read what you have done in the last year.

Remember, the projects and committees that you volunteer for MUST be approved by the board for insurance and liability reasons.

So, if a project you have been involved with in past years is continuing next year it has to be approved again for that year. For example, each of the children's gardens projects has to be approved each year. We, as a board will be looking more closely at this in the coming year and all the hours you put into a project will not count unless it has been approved by the board.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (920) 867-3074 or by e-mail at peritchie@core.com.



November Meeting Notes

Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmoll,
Secretary

Attendance:

Greg Blonde, Leigh Braatz, Lorry Brace, Debra Calmes, Kathy Erickson, Gloria Gruer, Cynthia Holly, Bill Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Peggy Kramer, Debbie Krogwold, Barb Lamb, Patti Leiskau, Colleen McCoy, Jan Mead, Lyle Mork, Pam Nitke, Hope MacIntyre, Pat Ritchie, Tom Saunders, Katherine Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Dorothy Shaver, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Carol West-Dahl, Suzanne Wozniak, Connie Zolkoske.



Vice-president Pam Nitke welcomed members to the November meeting. The “parking lot” procedure for difficult topics was reviewed.

Secretary Report: Pat Ritchie approved the October meeting minutes printed in the November newsletter with a second by Joan Schmitt. Executive meeting minutes were read to the members.

Treasurer Report: Colleen McCoy gave the treasurer report. She reported a checking account balance and highlighted some of the recent account activity.

State Representative Report: Pat Ritchie gave the state representative report. Master Gardeners are part of a University of Wisconsin Extension program. A new name for Master Gardeners is being adopted. The new term is Master Gardener Volunteer. This name is to emphasize the volunteer focus of the program. It also takes away the impression that we are “masters” of all gardening knowledge, an impossible task. We are not a garden club, but we are a volunteer organization. Future name badges will be using this new name. Any member who wants a new badge with the word “volunteer” or a replacement badge must pay \$6 for the badge. Our youth representative to the horticulture

contest in Omaha, Nebraska did well. Douglas County is sponsoring a tour to Nicaragua. Speak to Pat if you wish more details. Pat also has information on old wheels for sale. Garden Journals for 2007 can be ordered for \$12.50. Volunteer hour forms are available from Pat.

Book Report: Jan Mead gave a book report on the book, Omnivore Dilemma, written by Michael Pollan. This is a very interesting, well-written book that discusses what to eat, food chains, and other current ‘food’ topics. This is a must read book.

Committee Reports:

By-law committee conducted a paper ballot vote on the by-law revision about grant/budget money. This revision passed.

Nominating committee presented the slate of officers for the next year. Elections were held and voting showed that vice-president will be Kate Saunders, secretary will be Rebecca Weber Schmoll, treasurer will be Terry Kramer, and board member will be Sally Marchel Handrich.

Old Business:

The November executive committee meeting will be Monday, November 27 at Sugar Bush. Meet at 6 o'clock at the Sugar Bush Inn if you wish to dine. The business meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

New Business:

Program committee sign up sheets will be at the December meeting.

2007 Budget requests will be coming up soon. A project approval form needs to be filled out every year, even if you are not asking for budget money. This is needed for approval of your volunteer hours. Capital budget request are for expenses over \$500. Item purchased will need to be shared between all projects and committees of the Master Gardeners.

Newsletter editor is still needed for the newsletter beginning in January. Editor Barbara Koehnke will answer any questions about editing the newsletter and will help the new editor get started with producing the newsletter.

Upcoming big events include the December Christmas party. No gift exchange this year, but a charity donation instead to needy families in Waupaca County. Colleen McCoy read a short summary of the needs of three area families. Unwrapped gifts for the families would be welcomed at the holiday party. A potluck meal will be shared, and the buffet will be ready to set up at 5:30 P.M.

January will be the beginning of the new class held in Clintonville. We need to actively recruit members to take this class. Twenty people need to register to hold the class. The February meeting will feature a speaker from Foxfire Gardens. Discussion was moved to the parking lot about opening the speaker to the general public and charging an admission fee.

Deb Krogwold will chair the spring plant sale.

The meeting was adjourned, moved by Cynthia Holly and seconded by Pat Leiskau.



Dues for 2007 are Due Now!

Membership dues for 2007 of \$15 are due on or before the December meeting.

Your check for \$15.00 should be made out to Waupaca County Master Gardeners (WCMG) and sent, or given to:

Colleen McCoy
E3534 Cty EE
Waupaca, WI 54981

Also indicate your e-mail address and any changes made to your name, address, and phone number when submitting your payment.



Christmas Giving

Submitted by Colleen McCoy

We are sponsoring these three families for the holidays in lieu of buying and exchanging presents at Christmas party.

Case No. 1 "Joe" is 25 and single and works as an independent painter in the New London area. He developed a blood clot in his leg this summer and cannot stand or work for more than 1 hour a day before his leg swells up and becomes too painful to stand.

Because he has no insurance and is not eligible for state insurance (Badgercare covers only pregnant females) the doctors will not do any tests to determine the cause of the blood clot and advised him to rest for 1-3 months and hopefully it will take care of itself. He is getting depressed about not being able to work and maintain his apartment. "Joe" is an extra large, tall.

Case No. 2 "Jake" is 40 and has diabetes. He has a wife and four children under the age of 12 and lives in the Weyauwega area.

Because of his pre-existing condition he is not covered by medical insurance. His kidneys are failing and dialysis or a kidney transplant is too expensive for him to consider.

Case No. 3 "Pam and Ed" have been married for 2 years. He works on a dairy farm near Manawa and gets no insurance coverage or other benefits over wages. She works but has complications with her first pregnancy so had to quit as medical leave is not a possibility at her place of work. The pregnancy is covered under Badgercare. He is trying to find a job with benefits so he can get health insurance for the family but doesn't want to leave farming as he truly enjoys the farm he works on. "Pam is a large, Ed is an extra large. Baby is due in late December.



Committees/Projects Budget Amount Residual

Submitted by Colleen McCoy, Treasurer

Reminder.... All receipts **MUST** be turned in to Colleen by December 1, 2006. The books will be audited after that date to be turned over to the new treasurer by the December 14 meeting.

No exceptions this year. If receipts are not turned in by December 1 they will not be honored. These totals also give chair people an idea of what they might be requesting for next year's budget. If you have any questions or concerns on this please give me a call at 715-258-9410 after 6 p.m.



Fourth Annual Silent Auction for Charity Event

Submitted by Dorothy Shaver, Chair

What more can I say! The Waupaca Co. Master Gardeners are indeed generous souls! Our 4th Silent Auction for Charity was the best ever! We raised \$602 for charity! Of that amount, our special local MG Christmas project headed by Colleen McCoy, received almost \$200. We had 50 items donated by our members for bidding and we had 18 successful bidders. Hats off to Carol West-Dahl for being the top spender. Carol donated \$111 and won an array of really cool stuff. To date, we have raised \$2,248 for charity!

A special thank you to Connie Zolkoske, Leigh Braatz, Joan Schmitt and Barb Lamb for helping with the table arranging, item placement, registration and final tallying. As usual, I had a BLAST! Supplies have been replenished and I am ready for the next one.

Thank you all.



Guest at December Meeting

Submitted by Gloria Gruer

Sue Eiler will join us as a guest at our December Pot Luck. She has offered some of her interesting produce, citron melon, to share

with anyone who would like to try them. Nancy Weasner found some recipes in her grandmother's file - it seems they are "candied".



December's Christmas Social

Submitted by Dorothy Shaver

Our annual Christmas Party will be held in our usual meeting room at the Court house on Thursday, December 14. The pot luck dinner will be served at **6:00 p.m.** (Please note time change from the November newsletter.)



Please bring a dish to pass following these guidelines. If your last name begins with:

- A-J -- Main Dish,
- K-R -- Dessert,
- S-Z -- Appetizer, Salad (either green or fruit)

The room will be open at 5:30 for set up. This year, instead of our traditional \$15 member gift exchange, we will support the holiday project suggested by Colleen McCoy. So please bring a check for \$15, made out to WCMG, to help brighten the holidays for those less fortunate, local families.

Following dinner, we will have a few holiday songs, a special Christmas party game, (contestants will be past WCMG Presidents) followed by our members sharing memories, photos, favorite holiday recipe or a cherished gift or toy from a Christmas past.



2007 Master Gardener General Training Program

Training is from January 16 - April 17, 2007
Registration Deadline
December 28, 2006

Gardeners Calendar

Now Through Dec 17, 2006 9th Annual WPS Garden of Lights, Green Bay Botanical Garden

A holiday favorite featuring over 150,000 lights crafted in flowers, butterflies, and other botanical themes. Walk the trail or take a horse-drawn wagon ride (subject to availability). Indoor garden railroad also featured. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Walking Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 children ages 5-12; Wagon rides: \$7 adults, \$5 children ages 5-12. For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden, 2600 Larsen Road, P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920) 490-9457 or by fax at (920) 490-9461.

Dec 2-30, 2006 Olbrich's Holiday Express - Flower and Model Train Show, Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison

Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Trains travel through miniature evergreen forests and colorful poinsettias as they make their way through a detailed landscape made of natural materials by Olbrich's horticulture staff. Mondays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3 – 12 (OBS members free) and includes admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory. Admission is free each Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 608-246-4550 for more information. For membership information, call 608-246-4724. For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550.

**Dec 15, 2006 (12:00 noon)
Riparian Zone...What Is It? And
How to Protect It, Brown Bag
Program** (contact your local UW County Extension Office for access). The Riparian Zone is the vegetated buffer including both the dry and water adjoining any wetland area. Join Dr. Mike Meyers, DNR



researcher and John Haack, UW-Extension Basin Educator for their observations and applied research findings relative to the riparian zone.

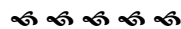
December 24, 2:30 WPT "The Winter Garden".

On this edition of the Wisconsin Gardener we'll meet a man who mixed his love of miniature trains with his love of gardening for a surprising result. We'll also travel to Vermont Valley Farm, one of the many CSA farms in Wisconsin. And, get expert tips on pruning grape vines.

December 31, 2:00 WPT "Sticks and Twigs".

Host Shelley Ryan looks at winter projects for gardeners including pruning trees and shrubs. Jeff Epping of Olbrich Gardens shows how to create more trees by a process called grafting. Indoor projects include making delicate faerie furniture out of all those pruned sticks and twigs, and creating a tabletop fountain.

**March 10, 2007
Garden Expectations: Science,
Art, Selection, Appleton,**
The Outagamie Country MGA is offering this annual garden seminar at Appleton East High School from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Kathy Baum at (920) 731-9385.



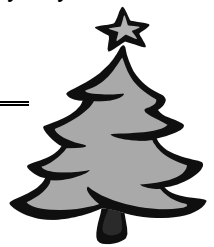
Skeletons in the Garden

For gardeners, winter has always been a time to look back at the past year's success and failures and dream about and plan for the year ahead. It's a good time now to start planning late season gardens, especially, or at least start thinking about them. It's satisfying to shift the emphasis toward the end of the season with plants that look especially good in late summer and autumn. Perennials such as asters, sedum, salvias, mums, coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, and most ornamental grasses keep the eye moving. Interesting foliage adds to the drama of a fall garden such as coleus, sweet-potato vine and

artemisia. Ornamental grasses turn lovely shades of copper, bronze, and billowy white.

Sometimes a garden can grow dull in September, so when working for a bright showing, check seed and plant catalogs for the extra colors you want.

Pruning for a second or third time can sometimes prolong the beauty. But the frost on the grasses and the rattling of dried seed pods is part of the enjoyment of knowing we can put our labors to rest because weeds don't grow in December... not yet, anyway.



My Christmas Friendship Tree

Source, Abbey Press

I have a Christmas
Friendship Tree I decorate each
year,
With thoughts and prayers for all
the friends my heart holds ever
dear.

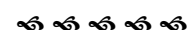
I string upon its branches green
one thousand twinkling lights,
Reflecting the joy of friendship,
making each day ever so bright.

I hang the shining ornaments those
memories I treasure,
Special times enjoyed with friends
who bring me so much pleasure.

The pretty colors blur a bit as a tear
gets in the way,
For those who've passed beyond
and are not here with me today.

Then, as I drape the garland this
becomes a tree of love,
And I place a star on top to glow
from up above.

And I thank the Lord for friends like
you whom He has given me,
For I've found true Christmas,
'round my Christmas Friendship
Tree.



UW Plant Disease Diagnostics: www.plantpath.wisc.edu/pddc/

InfoSource: <http://infosource.uwex.edu>

UW Publications Web Site: <http://www1.uwex.edu/ces/pubs/>

MG Web Site: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener>

UW Garden Facts: www.wihort.uwex.edu/



For Sale

Broad iron wheels from an old antique grain planter that would make an ideal addition for decorating gardens. Possible other parts available. Two large wheels, 2 smaller wheels. Contact Susan Thomas at 715-250-1393 for more information, or call 715 823-5813 and ask for Brandon.



Chocolate Raspberry Oat Bars

Submitted by Patti Leiskau

These are the bars I brought to the November meeting that people had asked for the recipe. Enjoy!

- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix
- 2 1/2 cups quick cooking oats
- 1 cup melted butter
- 1 cup seedless raspberry jam
- 1 1/3 cups chocolate chips
- 3/4 cup chopped almonds or pecans

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 9 x 13 pan.

In a large bowl, combine cake mix, oats, and butter, mixing well. Press half of this firmly into the pan. Spread jam over unbaked crust, leaving 1/2 inch from sides to prevent sticking. Sprinkle chocolate chips over jam. Stir nuts into remaining oat mixture and sprinkle evenly over chocolate chips.

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely in pan on wire rack.



UW
Extension Waupaca County



Waupaca County Master Gardeners

University of Wisconsin Extension
811 Harding Street
Waupaca, WI 54981
Phone: (715) 258-6230

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties cooperating. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming including Title IX and ADA.