



UW Extension Waupaca County

Master Gardener Newsletter

February 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



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



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

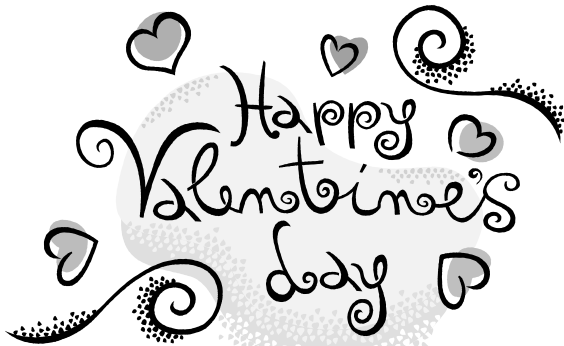


**February 9 – 6:30 p.m.- Program; 7:30 p.m.- Meeting
Program: The Secrets of Seeds.**

Larry and Kay Herried (Outagamie County Master Gardeners) will join us to share secrets on seed selection from catalogues and tricks of the trade for starting seeds inside. We know it's too early to be starting them... but what things should we keep in mind as we order? What should we do when the box comes in the mail? How do we know what to do to get them started? And, what can we do to keep them growing long enough to move them outside? (*Presidential confession: I've never been able to successfully start seeds indoors and transfer them outside.*)



March 9 - Fantasy Gardening! Details in March newsletter.



February in the Garden

Ground Hogs' Day means winter is half over. Only 6 more weeks until spring is officially here! We'll have to wait to see if the weather recognizes that fact. Use this month's gardening calendar to schedule projects including starting vegetable seeds indoors, or in cold frames outdoors. Pruning can start, too, on any warm, sunny February day. Pot up sprouting canna lilies, tuberous begonias, and dahlias. Clean up your houseplants and enjoy Valentine's flowers and gift plants.

Home

- Because growth slows or stops in winter months, most plants will require less water and little if any fertilizer. Check soil for dryness before watering. Over watering causes root rot. Increase humidity in the home to make up for dry, heated air.
- Clean large leaf plants with a moist cloth to remove accumulated dust. Kill mealybugs on houseplants with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol.

Yard

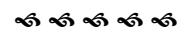
- Check rodent shields, salt/wind screens, and other winter plant protections to make sure they are still in place.
- Prune landscape plants, except early-spring bloomers. Birches, maples, dogwoods, and other heavy sap bleeders can be pruned in early summer to avoid the sap flow.
- Check mulch and coverings over perennials in case the wind blew it off or if some plants are trying to 'get out' early.
- Bring in cut branches from early spring flowers like forsythia, flowering almond, pussy willow, quince, and dogwood to force flower buds to open indoors.

Garden

- Test left over garden seed for germination. Place 10 seeds on a moistened paper towel – roll up. Keep warm and moist. If fewer than 6 seeds germinate, then fresh seed should be purchased.
- Prepare and repair garden tools for the upcoming season.

Bulbs

- Check stored dahlia tubers, gladiolus, and tuberous begonias. Mist if they seem dry. Throw away any soft or diseased ones.



President's Letter

Submitted by Susan Finkel



Welcome to February!

As I write this, I've just returned from a weekend of splitting and hauling wood at our cabin near Black River Falls. Saturday was a beautiful day to be outside, with warm sunny weather and a gorgeous blue sky. Sunday was a different day entirely, much more typical of what we've been seeing this winter. It's been hard living in the land of "grey days", but one thing that has helped me has been the daily load of seed catalogues that I find in my mailbox! Soon, I hope (the optimist in me believes) we'll be seeing true signs of spring. I don't know if the ground hog that lives in my garage will see his shadow this month, but I'm hopeful!

I hope you had as much fun playing Master Gardener Jeopardy as I did watching you! We have some true competitors in our bunch. And, lets just give one more round of applause to our fine "host-as" Connie Z and Lee S! I think their performance was worth an award of some sort or another!

Only a few more weeks to register for the state conference. I'm really looking forward to it all: the sessions, the hotel, a bit of shopping. It will combine most of my favorite things (friends who talk about gardening while we eat and shop!) Please consider joining us for a weekend of good times and gardening!

See you soon! Susan



State Rep's Report

Submitted by Pat Ritchie

Storey County (Iowa) MGs just launched Zones 4-5 gardening web forum at <http://www.mastergardener.iastate.edu/forum/> with hopes you will participate with questions and answers. It is their endeavor to cooperate with as many other MG organizations across the Midwest

and internationally, as the Internet has made everything global and Zones 4-5 girdle the globe.

Extension educators are looking for individuals who would be interested in subscribing to the WI Volunteer Master Naturalist list serve. This list will help Wisconsin educators work on steps to build a Volunteer Master Naturalist program and infrastructure for Wisconsin. If interested, you can subscribe at <https://lists.uwex.edu/mailman/listinfo/vol-master-naturalist>.

A Louisiana Master Gardener Hurricane Relief Fund has been set up for individual LA MGs and MG programs that were directly impacted by the hurricanes last year. This fund will help with specific identified needs of those most affected and will help rebuild the MG Extension Volunteer Program. Monetary donations are mostly needed. Checks can be made out to the LA 4-H Foundation with "Hurricane-MG" in the memo field and mailed to Louisiana 4-H Foundation, P.O. Box 25100, Baton Rouge, LA 70894.



Silent Auction Results

Submitted by Dorothy Shaver, Silent Auction Chairperson

There were 33 bidders during the evening with 17 successful bidders. Total raised for charity was \$653. Previous totals were 2003 with \$564 and 2004 with \$429. High bidders were Lorry Brace-\$95, Jeff and Nancy Weasner-\$85, Candy Hilker-\$70. We had an exceptional offering of items for the sale and I thank you sincerely for your donations.

The charity recipients this year are:

- Clintonville Area Food Pantry
- Compassion International
- HELP Animal Shelter
- Humane Society of Waupaca County
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Salvation Army
- Spina Bifida of Wisconsin
- Stray Animal Fund c/o Wolf River Vet Clinic

- Waupaca Family Ministries
- Waupaca Food Pantry
- Waupaca Library Foundation
- Weyauwega - Fremont High School

I would like to recognize the 6 Master Gardeners and 1 guest who donated in excess of their winning bid. They were Joan Schmitt, Connie Jess Zolkoske, Faye Wilson, Kate Saunders, Becky Hintz, Dort De Wild and guest, Lovana Rice.

I would like to thank my committee for another great job. Each year it gets better and easier! "Thank You" Joan Schmitt, Becky Hintz, Barb Lamb and Sue King.

To date we have donated \$1,646 to the charities of our choice! Great job everyone!

Oh! Who is enjoying the spicy calendar from the Canadian Master Gardeners you ask?

Dort De "Wild" was the high bidder!

Thanks again to everyone for your generosity. I'm ready for the next silent auction!



Seed Care

Submitted by Gloria Gruer



As you might remember, I brought orange cosmos seeds to the January meeting along with some plastic bags to put the seeds into. I failed to mention that when you get home you should OPEN the bags so that the seeds can "breathe". The seeds keep well in a paper bag or envelope, but not anything airtight.

For the February meeting I will be bringing zinnia blossoms and will demonstrate to those interested how they can get the seeds out of each blossom themselves. I will have plastic cartons available to take the blossoms home.

Again, after removing the seeds from the blossoms, the seeds should be kept in breathable containers.



January Meeting Notes

Submitted by *Rebecca Weber Schmoll*,
Secretary

Attendance:
Kathleen Akey,
Leigh Braatz,
Lorry Brace, Alice
Brown, Debra



Calmes, Dorethy DeWild, Susan Finkel, Gloria Gruer, Steve Hart, Candy Hilker, Becky Hinz, Dorrie Hipschman, Bill Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Sue King, Barbara Koehnke, Barb Lamb, Patti Leiskau, Colleen McCoy, Jan Mead, Michelle Molenda-Schroth, Barb Nollenberg, Glenda Rhodes, Pat Ritchie, Katherine Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Dorothy Shaver, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Carol West-Dahl, Faye Wilson, Suzanne Wozniak, Connie Jess Zolkoske, and guest, Lovana Rice.

The meeting was called to order by President Susan Finkel. Secretary Rebecca Weber Schmoll read minutes from the January 5 executive meeting. New officers for the club were introduced. Guests were also introduced and welcomed. New members that have completed training were also introduced.

President Susan Finkel introduced the idea of “parking lot” at meetings. This refers to lengthy or difficult issues that might come up at a meeting. These difficult issues will then be “parked” and discussed at an executive meeting. Issues that come up can always be discussed at another time with President Susan Finkel or any of the board members.

December meeting minutes were approved by Loretta Brace, and seconded by Pat Ritchie.

Treasurer report was read by Colleen McCoy and filed for audit. Copies of the 2006 MG budget were shared with members. The budget was discussed, voted, and approved.

Members were reminded to complete a project approval form. All projects need to have a completed and approved form.

This needs to be done for insurance purposes. Projects need to be supervised by a certified Master Gardener for hours to be earned.

State representative Pat Ritchie read her report. Items discussed included raffle tickets for the state convention, with pictures of the raffle items passed around. Hurricane relief was discussed. Half of the Master Gardeners in the state of Louisiana have been affected by the hurricanes. A fund has been established to rebuild Louisiana Master Gardener programs. Monetary donations are asked for this greening program. Dues must be paid so members’ names can be sent to the state and to receive your newsletter. Dues are \$15, of which \$10 stays in our local club and \$5 goes to state. This \$5 covers the state newsletter, which comes out six times a year. Information on the “Garden Dreams” conference in Mosinee on January 28 was given. Members attending the state conference were reminded to register your spouse and/or friends at the same time on your own form, so they can pay the MG price of admission, not the general public admission price. The Wisconsin Public TV Garden Expo in Madison is scheduled for February 10-12.

Committee Reports

Steve Hart, plant sale committee, announced a meeting to be held January 26 at 6:30 p.m. Courthouse Room 168 to rehash the plant sales. All past and upcoming chairs are invited to this meeting.

Connie Zolkoske, mentoring committee, said that this committee is still in the planning stage. This is for mentoring of the new members.

Patti Leiskau, cookbook project, told us that the cookbooks are for sale for \$10 at the Sunny Day Care, Waupaca County Courthouse, and at Jay-Mar.

Old business included the cookbook project. The program committee needs a chair. Several

committee chairs would like to pass on their chairmanship. Members are asked to think about this. Committee sign-up sheets are available.

An update on the WIMGA annual conference, “Garden Expectations,” was given. This is being held in Appleton March 24 and 25 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel and Conference Center. The tri-county Master Gardeners of Winnebago, Outagamie, and Waupaca counties host this. There is a special room rate of \$79 being offered to MG members attending the conference. Members are asked to organize groups of members to rent rooms. The \$1,000 conference room rental is waived if 75 rooms are rented. Faye Wilson talked about the speakers for the conference. She also discussed the utility committee. It would be good for our club members to help on this committee. This committee will help set up the day of the conference. Becky Hinz and Gloria Gruer are accepting silent auction items from Waupaca businesses.

New business included the 2006 calendar. The April meeting is moved to the third Thursday because of Maundy Thursday. Executive meetings are scheduled for January 25 at the Sugar Bush Inn, February 22 at the Weyauwega Coffee Klatsch, March 22 at the Sugar Bush Inn, and April 26 at the Weyauwega Coffee Klatsch. Executive meeting are open to any interested members.

Weather cancellations of meetings will be carried on the Waupaca and Clintonville radio stations. Members are encouraged to contact others by telephone or e-mail if meetings are cancelled

An updated membership roster was passed around for corrections. A program suggestion sheet was passed around for speaker ideas and if anyone is interested in hosting a meeting.

(Continued on next page)

January Meeting Notes *(Continued)*

The 2006 “To Do List” was discussed. This is a changing list that grew out of executive meeting discussions.

- A member survey needs to be developed to see if we are meeting members’ needs and suggestions for improvement. Do we have a volunteer to do this survey?
- The club web page needs to be updated.
- Revision of by-laws needs to be done. Election absentee ballots should be discussed.
- A calendar of monthly activities needs to be developed.

Sue King talked about the Women’s Wellness Conference held in New London on February 18. There will be no MG workshop at this conference.

Gloria Gruer had orange cosmos seeds to share.

Announcements included Pat Ritchie with membership cards and Joan Schmitt with the refreshment sign-up sheet. Susan Finkel shared pictures from the November “Make & Take” day and correspondence. February 5 is a 90th birthday open house for Verna Radtke at the Crystal House. Connie Zolkoske mentioned that the back table is for sharing items.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned. Following adjournment, the silent auction and a MG Jeopardy game were held.

Respectfully, Rebecca Weber Schmoll



Not all Water is Created Equal

Source: <http://www.icemountain.com>

Surface water. Although the vast majority of the earth’s surface is covered with water, the oceans and seas are salty. Only about 3% of the earth’s water is fresh - and two-thirds of that is ice! The tiny fraction of remaining fresh water sustains a multitude of very specific life forms, including our own. While many people get their drinking water from underground reserves, surface waters are also an important

source. In addition, lakes, rivers, and streams provide boating, swimming, fishing and other forms of recreation.

Ground water- The nation’s ground water resources are extremely valuable. Half of all Americans and more than 95% of our rural population get their household water supplies from underground sources. Ground water is also used for about half of all agricultural irrigation and a third of industrial water needs.

Rainfall and surface water, which seep into the earth’s crust over many years, form underground reservoirs. Where the water table is at or close to the surface, ground water enters wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams and provides a base flow during dry periods. By comparison to rivers and streams, ground water moves very slowly and with little turbulence.

Spring water is ground water that naturally bubbles to the surface.

So where does all the water come from? We all know rivers flow to the seas, but did you ever wonder how water gets to the rivers, streams, lakes and springs that make up our fresh water supply? The answer can be found in nature’s hydrological cycle process.

Water in lakes, streams, oceans, and soil is evaporated by the sun and rises into the air. Once in the atmosphere, water cools and condenses, then falls as rain, snow or hail to the earth where it flows over land, seeps into the ground and returns to the sea. Then the cycle begins again! This cycle has ensured that the same amount of water exists on our planet today as did at the beginning of time.

With all that information on hand, one wonders if bottled water products are more healthy and pure as their labels influence our thinking and wallets. “Glacier” water doesn’t really come from a glaciated source, but a municipal water supply... tap water in Tennessee. The “Everest” label

looks cool and refreshing but instead of being produced from Mt. Everest, it comes from a treated municipal water supply in Texas.

A few bottled waters do come from mountain springs or glacier sources, with the majority coming from wells and aquifers.

Bottled water is a convenient way consumers reach their daily requirements, but is it really healthier than tap water? The plastic bottles are safe, but if you want to conserve our natural resources, tap water might be the better choice. More than a million tons of plastic is used every year to make water bottles. Energy is used to make, ship, and refrigerate the bottles, and energy production causes air pollution. Most of the plastic which is biodegradable ends up clogging our landfills.

In developing countries, areas devastated by hurricanes or other natural disasters, unregulated private wells, or chemical spills, are times when bottled water is safer than tap water. Fluoride is now being added to some bottled water.

An interesting site to check into is <http://www.icemountain.com>, or if you have any questions about your drinking water, contact the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or check out www.epa.gov/safewater.



February’s Birthday People!

Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske

- 2/5..... Verna Radtke
- 2/10..... Nancy Weasner
- 2/18..... Debra Calmes
- 2/24..... Patti Leiskau
- 2/24..... Linda Murie



If you haven’t submitted your birthday to Connie, please contact her so she can update her list. If you don’t want your birthday published Email Barbara at blupine@centurytel.net



Gardeners Calendar

Feb 10-12, 2006

WPT's Garden Expo, Madison

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. Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center. Admission fee supports WI Public TV programming (including The WI Gardener). Visit WPT's Garden Expo website.



Feb 24, 2006 (12:00 noon)

Brown Bag Program. Biological Control of Garlic Mustard. (contact your local UW County Extension Office for access). Garlic Mustard is a rapidly spreading woodland weed which is displacing native woodland herbaceous perennials. As it dominates the forest floor it can displace most native herbaceous species within ten years. This plant is a major threat to the survival of Wisconsin's woodland herbaceous flora and the wildlife that depend on it. Until now, control methods include physical, mechanical, and chemical. New biological control efforts are being researched and demonstrated. Join Brock Woods, DNR/UW-Extension Biocontrol Coordinator for an update on evolving biological control methods.

Feb 25, 2006

A Day in the Garden, Fond du Lac

Offered by the Fond du Lac MGA, Dr. Jim Nienhuis will speak on "The Vicar of Veggies" and Dave Wanninger will talk on "What's Hot, What's Not: Plantings for the Home Garden". \$25 includes lunch. For more information contact Gloria Kelroy at (920) 929-3173.

February 26, 2:00 PM/central "Winter Interest" WPT

Gardening in the winter can take many forms. First, add color and texture to a winter garden without using evergreens. Then, do preventive pruning to shape young trees. And, get a preview of some amazing amaranths, an ancient plant grown for both grain and as a leaf vegetable. And, finally, learn how to

avoid insect and disease problems on evergreens.

Feb 28, 2006

Great Gardens in Small Spaces Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison

Join Carolyn Ulrich, Editor of Chicagoland Gardening magazine, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for a program focusing on small gardens in urban and suburban areas. Ulrich will show both professional and homeowner created spaces, roof gardens, front and back yards, and modern and historic styles. \$13 (\$11 members) by Feb 21. For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704 at (608) 246-4550.

March 5, 2006

Plant Propagation for Master Gardeners, Madison

Hands-on workshop that emphasizes materials addressed in Master Gardener lecture series; leaf cuttings, hardwood cutting, grafting, layering, tissue culture, and more! From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the DC Smith Greenhouse, UW-Madison Campus. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants. For more information or to register, contact Mike Maddox at (608) 752-3885 ext 17.

March 5, 5:30 PM/central WPT

March 30, 7:30 PM/central - NEW! "Pot It!"

Learn more about container gardening with host Shelley Ryan. In Mt. Horeb, a rock gardening enthusiast shows how to create a lightweight container that looks like it's made from solid rock. Visit Olbrich Gardens to learn about bog container gardens filled with carnivorous pitcher plants. In Green Bay Jan Wos shows how to create wonderful container gardens for fall and even winter.

March 11, 2006

Chicago Garden Show Bus Trip

Join Winnebago County MGs bus trip to the Flower and Garden Show at Chicago's Navy Pier. Cost is \$55 which includes bus and ticket. Meals are on your own. 6:30 Pickup in Menasha at UW-Fox Valley and UWEX, Cty. Y in Oshkosh. 7:00 at the Forest Mall in Fond du Lac. Send checks made out to Winnebago Cty. MGs to Meg Hunsader, 3161

Winnegamie Drive, Appleton, WI 54914, stating desired pickup point.

March 24-25, 2006

Garden Expectations, WIMGA Annual Conference hosted by the Tri-County Master Gardeners of Winnebago, Outagamie & Waupaca Counties. Held at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel & Conference Center, Appleton. Registration deadline is February 24 for best rates. Send your check and choices for breakout sessions to Colleen McCoy, E3534 Cty. EE, Waupaca, WI 54981. Make checks out to Tri County MGs. Registration is limited.



Brown Bag 2006

If you wish to access the WISline System, please notify the UW Extension office the day before the program is scheduled. The programs take place in the room next to the main UW Extension office.

On the day of the program, go to the Extension office and Nancy will connect the system for you. If she is not available, one of the other staff members should be able to help you.

The 12-1 PM monthly Brown Bag ETN Horticulture Programs are educational programs offered generally the last Friday of each month except holiday months (ie. Nov. and Dec. and sometimes other months with key holidays) when the program is held one week earlier than the holiday weekend. The programs are designed for statewide Master Gardeners and other persons interested in horticultural topics.



Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Feb 22, 630 p.m. - Coffee Klatsch in Weyauwega

March 22, 630 p.m. - Sugar Bush Inn in Sugar Bush

April 26, 630 p.m. - Coffee Klatsch in Weyauwega



Gardening in Phases

Source, Garden Gate

Gardening by the phases of the moon is one of the oldest practices. Research is showing that at least some of it makes sense scientifically and is not all 'old wives tales'.

Since the moon affects the tides and the atmosphere, it only makes sense that there is a certain rhythm to weather patterns. And gardeners are always looking for ways to use the weather to their advantage.

There are hundreds of rules to follow in gardening by the moon – and some of them seem to contradict each other. Everyone seems to agree that the best time to plant vegetables and flowers that bear their fruit or flowers above ground is when the moon is waxing – the time between a new and a full moon. And the best time to plant bulbs and crops that are harvested below ground is when the moon is waning – the time between a full moon and a new moon.

The lunar cycle can be divided into quarters, the first two quarters occurring when the moon is waxing and last two when it's waning. Narrowing it down further, the third quarter is the time to plant bulbs and below ground crops and the fourth quarter is a time to rest or do nonplanting work, such as building fences or weeding.

Whether or not you choose to believe that the moon influences the way your garden grows, organizing your chores into a schedule is a good idea. And who can disagree with a plan that even builds in time for rest?



Program Chair Needed

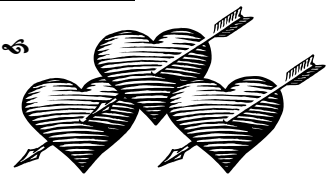
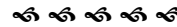
Looking for a fun time? We need a chair and members for the Program Committee! This group plans and arranges for the monthly programs and summer garden tours. If you are interested, please contact Susan Finkel at 715-752-4494 or finkel@uwosh.edu



Pine Cone Question

Since I've collected a laundry basket of weathered pine cones (so they're not sticky with pine pitch), I'm hoping to find someone who knows how to treat them with chemicals, or whatever, to make them flame with pretty colors when you add them to your burning logs in the fireplace. Does anyone know how I can do that?

Contact Gloria Gruer, 715-258-8266 or albie102623@charter.net



Waupaca County Master Gardeners
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811 Harding Street
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Phone: (715) 258-6230



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