



UW Extension Waupaca County

Master Gardener Newsletter

January 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.*



January 12 – Meeting & Silent Auction

Guidelines for the silent auction for charity are below.
Please bring your items to be auctioned off by 6:00 p.m.
so Dorothy Shaver and her committee will be able to
record them.

1. Complete a bidder registration card.
2. Use only your bidder # when placing bids.
3. Bids must be in increments of \$1 or more (no cents).
4. Please note that some items have minimum bids to start.
5. Bidding will be from 6:45 to 7:45 – no exceptions, please!
6. All Sales are final!
7. Please have your checks made out to the charity of your choice before getting into the checkout line. You can fill in the amount at checkout.
8. Please have your stamped addressed envelope ready to be turned in with your check for mailing.

January 12 – Program

MUST SEE TV?

Well, not really, but we will have fun! Join us at our January meeting for the debut performance of "MASTER GARDENER JEOPARDY!" We will be joined by celebrity emcees (some might call them "host-as") Calla Lily White and Alex "the Trellis" Trebek.

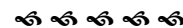
Bring resource books, your training manuals and all of your Master Gardener knowledge as we compete in teams of four to answer the challenging questions presented by our "host-as".

Our final categories are yet to be determined... but come prepared to answer questions on vegetables, annuals, perennials, Master Gardener history and trivia! It promises to be a **PLANTASTIC** evening with **VALUABULB** prizes.



January in the Garden

- Brush off ice and wet snow from tree and shrub limbs. Use an upward sweeping motion to prevent breakage. Tie together tall, multiple stemmed evergreens like arborvitae, with wire covered with hose segments or old pantyhose. Sometimes bent branches can have small cracks that are invisible once the branch has snapped back into place. Then in June when the branch inexplicably wilts, the correlation to this winter damage is seldom made.
- Check stored dahlia tubers, gladiolus, and tuberous begonias; mist if they seem dry and discard rotten ones.
- Hold off pruning roses, fruit trees, and bramble fruits this month or you may induce winter injury.
- Check perennials for signs of frost heaving. Cover with more mulch if necessary.
- Check young trees for rodent injury on lower trunks. Prevent rodent injury with hardware cloth or protective collars.
- Use sand, wood ash, or kitty litter to provide traction on icy walkways instead of de-icing salts; salt can burn your lawn and other plantings.
- Make plant and seed selections with an eye toward cold hardiness and short-season production. Plants not suited to our climate will be the first to succumb to pest and disease damage.



President's Letter

Submitted by Susan Finkel



Greetings Master Gardeners!

When I completed the Master Gardener training six years ago, I never dreamt that someday I would be the president of our group. Dorothy Shaver was the president at that time, and I remember thinking, "Wow!" I was really excited about all that I had learned during the training, and very excited to be a part of this group!

As I sit at my computer this cold wintry morning and reflect on the past six years, I am truly blessed to have this opportunity. I have learned so much from so many Master Gardeners over the past six years and treasure the memories and friendships I have gained as well.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. The garden catalogues are arriving in the mail daily. We're starting to plan where we will plant this year, what new things we will try, and what old favorites we'll put in again. I'm seriously thinking this might be the year I finally put in that flower bed at the back of the house, and I'm dreaming of purple eggplant. I've never grown eggplant... actually, I don't think I've ever eaten eggplant... but I'm fascinated by it. I'm also wondering about Brussels sprouts.

This spring, the Tri-County group will be sponsoring the state convention in Appleton. I am so excited by this opportunity. It promises to be a great learning experience. There will be shopping, and even though Appleton is only a short distance away, I'm staying overnight!

What else will the New Year bring? Time will tell, but we know that we will have our spring and fall plant sales, someone will have too many tomatoes and someone not enough, and there will always be too many weeds and mosquitoes.

Hopefully, I'll actually grow eggplant and Brussels sprouts and then will be wondering what to do with them! We know that the Program Committee will have great plans for our meetings and tours in the summer.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your membership in our group. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

Have a blessed holiday,
Susan Finkel



December Meeting Notes

Submitted by Joan Schmitt, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by president, Faye Wilson. The minutes of the October 25 executive meeting were read and approved. There was no executive meeting in November. November business meeting notes were read and approved as printed in the newsletter.

The treasurer's report was read by Colleen McCoy and filed for audit.

Pat Ritchie presented certificates for hours volunteered for 150, 250, 500, 750 and 1,000 hours.

Pat Ritchie read a letter from Susan Mahr congratulating WC MG for their time and dedication. There are 53 members in good standing. Pat also stated there will be a holiday tour of six homes in Weyauwega on Saturday, December 10 from 11-6. Pat has tickets available tonight for \$5 or tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the tour for \$7.

Dorothy Shaver reported on the silent auction to be held on January 12 at the regular business meeting. Members will complete a bidder registration card and use their bidder number when placing their bids. This silent auction will benefit the charity of your choice and members are asked to have

information available to complete their check the night of the auction.

The state conference committee is accepting raffle and silent auction items. Gloria Gruer and Becky Hinz are checking with businesses to donate items.

Faye thanked the executive board for the past year for all their work.

Gloria Gruer visited Verna Radtke at Crystal House, Waupaca. Verna sends her greetings and welcomes visitors to her new home.

Marilyn Herman attended the meeting and announced grant money as matching funds of \$1000. This money was the result of "Got Dirt Program" to get kids to eat fruits and vegetables. Marilyn wrote the grant through the Department of Health and Human Services and announced the \$1000 would be used for the children's gardens in Waupaca County. Greg Blonde was available to take a picture announcing the award.

Cynthia Holly announced the upcoming conference of Fox Valley Chapter of Wild Ones, "Forward Harmony with Nature." Keynote speaker will be Neil Diboll, owner of a nursery in Westfield. The conference will be January 21 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh.

Members were reminded that room reservations for the state convention in Appleton will be \$79. More information to follow in the January WIMGA newsletter.

New officers for the 2006 year were introduced.

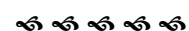
A potluck preceded the meeting. Christmas games were played and a gift exchange followed.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan Schmitt



Sore Throat? Mix ¼ cup vinegar with ¼ cup honey. Take 1 tablespoon six times a day. The vinegar kills bacteria.



January's
Birthday People!

Submitted by Connie
Jess Zolkoske



- 1/6Becky Hintz
- 1/9Terry Ranieri
- 1/10Dorothy Shaver



Certificates Received

Submitted by Pat Ritchie

Congratulations to all MGs who received the following awards for their contributions in volunteer service for 2005.

150 hours

- Loretta Brace
- Joleen Diley
- Kathy Erickson
- Rebecca Hinz
- Colleen McCoy
- Pam Nitke
- Joan Schmitt
- Judy Shaw
- Lee Shaw
- Carol West-Dahl

250 hours

- Kathy Erickson
- Pam Nitke
- Pat Pamperin
- Judy Shaw
- Lee Shaw
- Rebecca Weber Schmoll
- Suzanne Wozniak
- Karen Zahn

500 hours

- Suzanne King
- Linda Murie
- Judy Shaw

750 hours

- Christine Ross
- Dorothy Shaver
- Judy Shaw
- Carol Spiegelberg

1,000 hours

- Christine Ross
- Connie Zolkoske



Membership Committee

Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske

The membership birthday List needs updating. Could all existing members and all new members please email me at sewhappy@athenet.net or phone me at 920- 982-3388 with your birth month and day.

Birthdays are published monthly in the newsletter, however, if you do not want your birthday published, please contact Barbara at blupine@centurytel.net.



Welcome New Members from the Winter 2005 MG Class

Congratulations on your completion of the UWEX Waupaca County Master Gardener class. We welcome you to our group and look forward to working with each and every one of you in our community projects. We also look forward to meeting you at our meetings which are held the second Thursday of the month in the lower level of the Waupaca County Courthouse.

1. Leigh Braatz
2. Nadine Cull
3. Gail Dallman
4. Kathleen Jelich
5. Nancy Johnson
6. Peggy Kramer
7. Terry Kramer
8. Sally Marchel Handrich
9. Michelle Molenda Schroth
10. Barb Nollenberg
11. Theresa Peterson
12. Tom Sanders
13. Ila Sanders
14. Katherine Saunders
15. Wally Zimmerman
16. Patricia Zimmerman



Certified Members for 2006

1. Kathleen Akey
2. Loretta Brace
3. Alice Brown
4. Melanie DeRoche
5. Dorethy DeWild
6. Joleen Diley
7. Christann Dittman
8. Kathy Erickson
9. Christine Faulks
10. Robert Faulks
11. Trish Feldman

12. Susan Finkel
13. Diane Fuhrmann
14. Gloria Gruer
15. Steve Hart
16. Candace Hilker
17. Rebecca Hinz
18. Cynthia Holly
19. Carol Johnson
20. Suzanne King
21. Barbara Koehnke
22. Debbie Krogwold
23. Barbara Lamb
24. Patti Leiskau
25. Donna Mattson
26. Colleen McCoy
27. Jan Mead
28. Lyle Mork
29. Linda Murie
30. Pam Nitke
31. Lynn Owen
32. Pat Pamperin
33. Catherine Praxmarer
34. Verna Radtke
35. Theresa Ranieri
36. Glenda Rhodes
37. Pat Ritchie
38. Christine Ross
39. Joan Schmitt
40. Dorothy Shaver
41. Judy Shaw
42. Lee Shaw
43. Carol Spiegelberg
44. Susan D. Thomas
45. Jeff Weasner
46. Nancy Weasner
47. Rebecca Weber Schmoll
48. Kathy Weiner
49. Carol West-Dahl
50. Faye Wilson
51. Suzanne Wozniak
52. Karen Zahn
53. Connie Zolkoske



WCMG Accomplishment Report – 2005

Submitted by Pat Ritchie

In 2005 we volunteered:

- 1730 hours in youth education
- 123 hours in community education
- 3285 hours in support services

We participated in:

- 1385 hours of continuing education



A Gardener Grows With Time Too

By Lawanda Jungwirth, Winnebago County Master Gardener

I've been gardening for a little over 20 years and have been a Master Gardener for 12 years. At first, I wanted to grow every single plant I saw in the catalogs, and I tried, many times without success. I didn't pay any attention to sunlight requirements, or plant height or soil preferences because I didn't know any better. I made a lot of mistakes, wasted some money and had a good time doing it.

Soon I became aware of the many sources of gardening information. I read everything I could find. I checked every gardening and landscaping book out of the library and when I found myself continually renewing a book over and over I decided it was time to buy it for myself. So I amassed a shelf full of books and hundreds of articles cut from magazines and newspapers. Some of the articles I read right away but most I cut out and filed for future use. In reality, I've referred to just a few of them over the years. Today it is easier to look something up on the internet than to search through files of paper information no matter how well organized they are.

When I first became a gardener I repeatedly said to people that I wished we had just one extra month at the beginning of the growing season and one extra month at the end. I also

daydreamed about moving about 500 miles south. I could grow so many more plants!

About ten years ago, my husband's company was taken over by a Louisville, Kentucky-based company. No one knew what would happen. Would we have to move? Could we move if we wanted to? I looked at the map. Louisville is almost exactly 500 miles south, in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6. Wow! Grow time!

Obviously we didn't move south and in the past ten years I have come to appreciate our Wisconsin climate. Maybe it's because I'm ten years older, but at the end of our growing season, I'm tired! I look forward to the winter months as a time of rest and an opportunity to focus on the areas of my life that aren't governed by the weather.

It's easy to appreciate the brilliant October colors but now I admire even the stark gray lines of the tree branches in the thin November light. By late October, I'm glad to pull up the frost-killed annuals and throw them on the compost heap. The exercise of raking an acre's worth of maple leaves is invigorating even though it results in a sore back for a day or two. And shoveling is enjoyable too, at least for the first few snows.

Over time, my gardening philosophy has changed in other ways as well. I've learned to

appreciate the value of native plants and at one point would not plant anything non-native. I've since backed off on that a bit but am very careful of the possibilities of an exotic plant becoming invasive. I've become an organic gardener, and will never back off on that. I have four rain barrels and have become very conscious of how I use water and feel guilty about how I sometimes waste it.

This year, the first hard frost at my house came the last weekend in October, a month later than usual. The growing season actually did last an extra month, just as I used to wish for. My peppers and tomatoes were still producing right up until the end. The leaves wouldn't fall off the trees. The annuals were still blooming happily. When would it end? Finally I bit the bullet and pulled up the vegetable plants but couldn't bring myself to uproot the annuals. I ended up pulling them up on a damp cloudy day with an uncomfortable wind chill. I really found out the meaning of "Be careful what you wish for."



Tell Your Story

Do you have a story to share about your gardening experiences or some interesting thing that happened to you while gardening? Send it to blupine@centurytel.net.



Grant Received

Thanks to the efforts of Marilyn Herman, UWEX Waupaca County Family Living Educator, a grant for \$1,000 was received from the Waupaca County WIC Nutrition Program and the NuAct Coalition "Got Dirt" Program.

Shown left to right, are: Faye Wilson, 2005 WCMG President; Marilyn Herman, and representing the various Children's Gardens are Pam Nitke and Becky Hinz – Waupaca, Sue King – New London, and Lyle Mork – Iola.

Photo by Barb Lamb



GARDEN EXPECTATIONS

March 24-25, 2006

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

Gardeners Calendar

Jan 11, 2006

Winter Tree Walk, Green Bay Botanical Garden

Anyone can learn to identify the trees in our yards, parks and homes-even in winter. Botanist Matthew Cole teaches easy ways to recognize woody trees from under their veil of snow in this class from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Dress for the outdoors. \$14 (\$8 members). 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.

Jan 18-20, 2006

Mid-Am Horticultural Trade Show, Chicago, IL

The largest horticultural show in the Midwest, with nearly 600 vendors, numerous educational programs, inspiring landscape displays, and more. At Lakeside Center at McCormick Place. For more information visit Mid-Am's website.

Jan 21, 2006

10th Annual Toward Harmony With Nature Conference, Oshkosh

A day-long seminar from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on native landscaping sponsored by Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones. Keynote speaker Neil Diboll, President of Prairie Nursery of Westfield, Wisconsin will deliver the keynote address on the subject of "developments in native plant landscaping over the past 25 years." For more information contact Karen at (920) 987-5587.

Jan 24, 2006

New Plants of 2006, Green Bay Botanical Garden

Just when the garden seems quietest, growers and nurseries are gearing up to show you a new vision

for the spring. Goldsmith Seeds' Ken Harr returns home to GBBG with views and stories from all across horticulture, featuring the annual and perennial plants of 2006. Hear and see Ken's favorite picks among the new year's nursery releases, as well as a recap of some terrific but under-used plants from recent years in this class from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. \$14 (\$8 members). 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.

Jan 27, 2006 (12:00 noon)

2005-Fruit Production Update: The Year In-Review, Brown Bag Program

(contact your local UW County Extension Office for access). Dick Weidman, Superintendent Peninsular Agricultural Research Station will share his observations on the performance of various fruit crops during the 2005 growing season. He will also share the observed effects and impacts of the open-winter of 2004/2005 on certain fruit cultivars. The Peninsular ARS has been testing and evaluating cultivars for Wisconsin for years. Join us for an update on fruit crop performance.

Jan 28, 2006

Garden Dreams, Stevens Point

Sponsored by the Portage and Wood County MGA's. More details will be available at a later date or for more information contact Matt Lippert, Wood County UW-Extension at (715) 421-8440.

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. See the January issue of the WIMGA newsletter for more info and registration form.



UW Extension

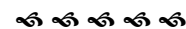
info source

Contact by phone to InfoSource is being discontinued due to the rising costs and limited use. Access to the internet still remains available by logging on to <http://infosource.uwex.edu>



2006 WCMG Executive Committee

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



Volunteer Hours/Time Sheets

Don't forget to start documenting your volunteer hours. If you have any questions regarding recordable hours, contact Pat Ritchie at 920-867-3074. Leave a message and she will return your call. Or email her at peritchie@core.com.





Lines formed on both sides of the pot luck buffet table held in the lower level of the Courthouse on December 8. Gifts brought by members were passed left and right during a story Nancy Weasner read... until the last right was left.

Photo by Barb Lamb



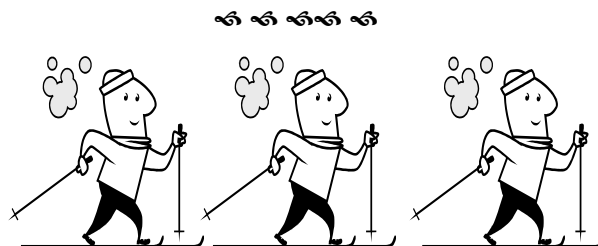
Have You Paid Your Dues for 2006?

Membership dues for 2006 of \$15 were due December 1, 2005.

If you haven't paid yet, please send your check for \$15.00, made out to Waupaca County Master Gardeners (WCMG) to:

Colleen McCoy
E3534 Cty EE
Waupaca, WI 54981

Indicate your e-mail address when submitting your payment. Address labels for the monthly newsletter are made from the active membership list.



UW
Extension Waupaca County

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