



^{UW} **Extension** Waupaca County

Master Gardener Newsletter

January 2007

**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



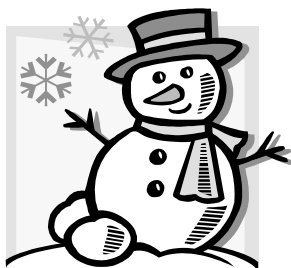
Unless otherwise stated, meetings and programs will be held in the lower level of the Waupaca County Courthouse.



January 11 - Our speaker will be Mike Hibbard, Director/Naturalist of Mosquito Hill nature Center in New London. Mike will speak on "Landscaping for Wildlife-Positive and Negative Aspects." Per his request, his talk will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the MG business meeting will follow.



February 8 - At 6:30 p.m. Stephen Schulte of Foxfire Gardens in Marshfield will give a PowerPoint presentation on "Creating a True Sanctuary." Stephen has developed beautiful Oriental and hosta gardens on a property outside Marshfield. His presentation will be open to the public. See article in this newsletter for more information.



January in the Garden

Make at least one of your resolutions a gardening one. Maybe a big project like a pond, raised beds in the vegetable garden or a cold frame. Or make this the year that you keep a garden journal - all season long! Or you could finally map your perennial bed. Maybe you will get around to renovating that part of the yard that was once in full sun and has matured to cool shade.

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's damage is seldom made.

Reuse Christmas Trees

- Cut off limbs and use them to cover perennial plants.
- Place trees near an existing bird feeder or suet feeder to give birds winter protection.

House Plants

- Poinsettia and holiday cactus plants need bright light, cooler temperatures, with reduced watering.
- Give houseplants a shower to wash the leaves from dust that has settled and clogs the pores. Check for indication of insect invasion (webs, crusty bumps, or crawlies). Water that runs through the soil helps leach out minerals and salts. Fertilize sparingly and wait until vigorous growth begins (around spring) to transplant pot-bound plants.
- Make plant and seed selections with an eye toward cold hardiness and short-season production. Plants not suited to your climate will be the first to succumb to pest and disease damage.
- 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 birdseed to provide traction on icy walkways instead of de-icing salts; salts can burn your lawn and other plantings.



Past President's Note

Submitted by Susan Finkel

Dear Waupaca Master Gardeners,
I want to thank



you for allowing me to be the president of this fine group for the past year. It is a memory I will always treasure! This is a wonderful group, and one of which I am very proud to be a member! Have a wonderful year!
Susan Finkel



Christmas Giving

Submitted by Colleen McCoy

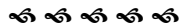
Dear Waupaca County Master Gardeners,
I started Christmas in July and beyond hoping to help one family in Waupaca County who fell between the cracks of the system. Little did I know how overwhelming this program was going to turn out.

Not only did we as a group help make the holidays a little brighter for one family, but a total of three families received our giving spirit! And then you wonder how many other families are out there. And these are people who, even though they have very little, would be the first to help you out.

I know I have been nothing but a crying fool, even as I am writing this article, to say "Thank You" from the bottom of my heart. There are just not enough words to express the feelings I have to this great group of people, the WCMGs.

I hope you are sitting down when reading this... but because of you, we raised \$900 for these families! We paid the electric bill for Jake and his family. We then took the remaining money and divided it three ways. Marilyn Herman and I had considered using the money for gift certificates but thought what if these people needed medication or some other bills paid, so we decided that this was the best way to go.

I would like to thank you again. You also gave me the greatest Christmas present I could ever ask for...the real spirit of Christmas. I realize how blessed I am and how lucky I am to have all of you in my life. What a great group of people you are. I am still overwhelmed!



Happy Birthday to the January Birthday People!



1/6Becky Hintz
1/9Terry Raniere
1/10 ...Dorothy Shaver



2007 Slate of Officers

- President** – Pam Nitke
- Vice President** – Kate Saunders
- Secretary** – Rebecca Weber Schmoll
- Treasurer** – Terry Kramer
- Board Members** - Kathy Akey
Sally Marchel Handrich
Susan Finkel
- State Board Rep** – Pat Ritchie

Seed catalogs are responsible for more unfulfilled fantasies than Enron and Playboy combined.
Wisconsin Public Radio



February 8 Program Open to the Public

Submitted by Greg Blonde

The Waupaca County Master Gardeners monthly meeting on Thursday, February 8 will be open to the public for a feature presentation by Stephen Schulte of Foxfire Gardens. Schulte is well-known for his development of

beautiful Oriental and hosta gardens near Marshfield.

His topic will be "Creating a True Sanctuary". The presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Waupaca County Courthouse at 811 Harding Street in Waupaca.

The general public is welcome to attend. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Advance registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as long as seating is available. For more information or to reserve your seat in advance, contact Waupaca County Master Gardener program coordinator Nancy Johnson (920-982-9413) or the Waupaca County UW-Extension office (715-258-6230).



There will be an Executive Board Meeting held on Thursday, January 4, 2007, at 5:00 p.m. at the Waupaca County Library in one of the meeting rooms.



2007 Master Gardener General Training Program

Training is from January 16 - April 17, 2007
Contact Greg Blonde for registration information.



Dues for 2007 are Due Now!

Membership dues for 2007 of \$15 are past due.

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

Terry Kramer
N2537 Pleasant View Lane
Waupaca, WI 54981



December Meeting Notes

*Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmoll,
Secretary*

No attendance sheet was passed around. Approximately 35 members and two guests attended our holiday potluck meeting.



Sue Eiler shared her citron melon with members, and she also explained the history of this interesting heirloom melon.

Nancy Weasner shared a preserve recipe using citron.

An informal business meeting was held. Committee sign-up sheets were passed around. Project budget and capital requests must be turned in to Colleen, Terry, or Pam by January 2, 2007.

Executive meeting will be held January 4, 2007 at the Waupaca County library in one of the meeting rooms at 5 o'clock.

New members were welcomed to the Waupaca County Volunteer Master Gardeners.

The January meeting's program will be a speaker from Mosquito Hill who will talk about landscaping for/with wild life.

The 2007 budget will also be presented to the members at the January meeting. The budget will be voted on at the February meeting.

Pat Ritchie handed out membership cards and recognition of volunteer hours to members.

Joleen Diley brought cookbooks to the meeting to sell (an ideal Christmas gift).

The new training class will start in January, and members were asked to sign up to "host" a class night.



Gardeners Calendar

Jan 17-19, 2007

**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.

**Jan 19-21, 2007
Wisconsin School for Beginning
Market Growers, Madison**

This intensive three-day school demonstrates what it takes to set up and run a successful organic market garden or small farm. For more information contact John Hendrickson at (608) 265-3704.

**Jan 20, 2007
11th Annual Toward Harmony with
Nature Conference, Oshkosh**

This day-long seminar on native landscaping is sponsored by Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones. Keynote speaker Steve Hazell will offer up a set of songs featuring the most requested tunes from ten years of Wild Ones performances. Held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Oshkosh, WI. For more information call Karen at (920) 987-5587 for more information or e-mail Harmony@for-wild.org.

**Jan 26, 2007 (12:00 noon)
2006 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 2006 growing season. He will also share the observed effects and impacts of the wet spring, followed by the drought of 2006 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.

**February 8, 2007
Creating a True Sanctuary
Waupaca County Courthouse**

Presentation by Stephen Schulte of Foxfire Gardens will start at 6:30 p.m. Schulte is well-known for his development of beautiful Oriental and hosta gardens near Marshfield. Held in the lower level of the Waupaca County Courthouse at 811 Harding Street in Waupaca. General public is welcome. Cost is \$5.00 per person. Advance registration is

encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as long as seating is available. For more information or to reserve your seat in advance, contact Nancy Johnson (920-982-9413) or the Waupaca County UW-Extension office (715-258-6230).

**Feb 9-11, 2007
WPT's Garden Expo, Madison**

Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event draws nearly 15,000 people to view 300 booths, provided by 160 exhibitors over 75,000 square-feet. The Madison Area Master Gardeners will staff their own booth. 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. An admission fee is charged to this fundraiser to support WI Public TV programming (including The WI Gardener). For more information visit WPT's Garden Expo website.

**Feb 23, 2007 (12:00 noon)
Exploring the Growing of Garden
Mums, Brown Bag Program**

(contact your local UW County Extension Office for access) The mums of today have undergone many changes. First their hardiness and blooming times have been greatly improved for gardeners. They come through the winter with greater success and their flowering can often be enjoyed as much as two weeks sooner than in the past. To achieve this dependable blooming and winter hardiness, mums must be grown in a way that assures full sunlight, ample water, well-drained soil and proper fertilization. Mums offer a great diversity in plant habit, flower color, and form.

**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.



Potato Soup

- 6 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 4 carrots, sliced
- 2 quarts water
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1-1/2 cups milk
- 4 stalks of celery, sliced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 6 Tbsp. flour
- 1/2 tsp. pepper

In a large kettle, cook potatoes, carrots and celery in 2 quarts of water for 15 minutes or until tender. Drain, reserving liquid. Set vegetables aside.

In the same kettle, sauté onion in butter until soft. Stir in flour, salt and pepper. Gradually add milk, stirring constantly until thickened.

Gently stir in cooked vegetables. Add 3 cups or more of reserved cooking liquid until soup is of desired consistency. It will thicken the longer it simmers.

Makes approximately 3 quarts.



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

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

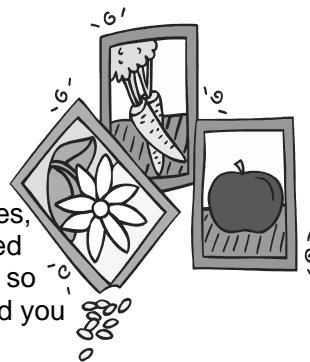
MG Web Site: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener>

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



Here They Come, Already!

It appears the government, phone companies, and utility services have difficulty locating you when you change addresses, but it is astounding how the seed companies can track you down so precisely and speedily and send you their catalog!



The year barely ended, the ground has frozen but a few inches, some areas don't even have snow cover, and here come the seed catalogs! Maybe it isn't too early to start thinking about outside gardens... especially when in the grocery stores radishes are 89¢ a bunch (a bunch consists of 7), lettuce is 99¢ a pound, cherry tomatoes are \$1.99 a handful, and watermelon is 89¢ a pound (a wedge costs \$4.09).

And if the begonias, geraniums and impatiens plants brought in before the last freeze are still thriving, it might be worth starting slips to fill in late spring gardens... or contacting a friend who collects seeds. 😊



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.