



## <sup>UW</sup> **Extension** Waupaca County

# Master Gardener Newsletter

March 2007

**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.*



**March 8 - 6:30 - Program** - Greg Blonde and Mike Koles of the UW Extension will be joining us to talk about land use planning and the comprehensive planning process currently underway in Waupaca County. Please note that our March program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with our business meeting immediately following the presentation.



**April 12 - 6:30 Meeting, 7:30 Program.** Dr. Robert Freckmann will speak on Rare Native Plants of NE Wisconsin.

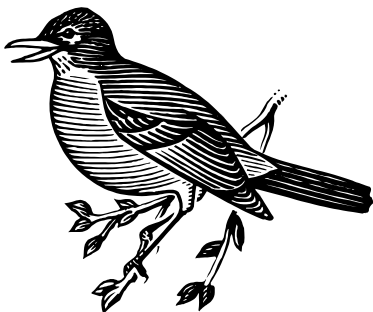


**InfoSource:** <http://infosource.uwex.edu>

**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/](http://www.wihort.uwex.edu/)



## Spring is Coming!

### March in the Garden

#### Home

- Prune, repot and clean houseplants as needed.
- Keep spent leaves and flowers of houseplants removed to improve appearance and encourage more blooms. Begin fertilizing this month.
- Make St. Patrick's Day a floral holiday with shamrocks and other assorted foliage plants. Kids get a kick out of making their own "Irish" carnations by using white carnations and a vase of green food coloring and water. At the same time they learn that plants suck water up and move it through the whole plant.

#### Yard

- Prune trees and shrubs while plants are still dormant, except those that bloom early in spring. Pines are the exception. Let their new growth expand until young needles are half of full size before pruning. Elm, maple, birch, and black walnut ooze sap when pruned in the spring due to water pressure from the moist soil. It will not harm the plant but you can prune these in early summer or late fall instead if you are bothered by it.

#### Garden

- Watch for blooms of early spring bulbs, such as daffodils, squill, crocus, dwarf iris and snowdrops.
- Sow seeds indoors for the following vegetables: broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, eggplant, and head lettuce.
- Sow seeds indoors for the following flowers: alyssum, verbena, calendula, celosia, coleus, dahlia, phlox, and salvia.
- 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.
- Plans for cold frames, trellises, benches, etc. can be found in the many gardening books available at the library. Rig up supplemental lighting for starting vegetable seeds indoors. Use one cool white and one warm white fluorescent bulb in a fixture which can be adjusted to keep it 4 - 6" above the plants, adjusting it as they grow.



## Note From Our President, Pam Nitke



Well, "only in Wisconsin" as my dad always says to me when I complain about the weather. One week of 50 degree weather and snow, snow, snow the next week. Thank goodness we have dreams of the wonderful Foxfire Gardens to hold us over until we can get to work in our own gardens.

What a wonderful presentation by Steve Schulte, we really do need to plan a bus trip to the gardens as a group. If anyone is interested in looking into the costs please let me know.

The Program Committee has started the year with 2 wonderful speakers. I can't wait to see what's scheduled for the rest of the year; they have all done a wonderful job. Our group is always looking for new ideas, so if you hear of anything you think the group might be interested in, please let the Program Committee know and they can put it on the next year's schedule.

A list is being finalized of all the committee members and their chairs and everyone will be given a copy. If you would like to be on a committee, but did not get a chance to sign up, just let the chair of that committee know and they will be glad to add you to the list.

Have fun in the snow, drive safe!!



## Garden Expo Visit

*Submitted by Gloria Gruer*

I would like to share a few good ideas I picked up in Madison last month at the Garden Expo. I attended every "compost type" seminar they offered.

1. When you water your plants, water your compost pile.
2. Add no meat, no dairy, no chicken manure (has too much ammonia), no lime.

3. Shredded paper is a great carbon source and today's newspapers have become compost-safe.

4. Wood ashes are o.k. but not too much as it adds a lot of potash. NO CHARCOAL BRIQUETTE ashes as there are too many chemicals in them.

5. Drywall has lots of sulfur and is o.k. Of course, it always helps to break it up into small pieces to speed up the breakdown.

6. Make-up of compost should be carbon to nitrogen, 30 to 1, adding 2/3 brown to 1/3 green.

## Garden Tips

1. Wood chips should not be put on your garden because they need lots of nitrogen to break down and it takes away from your soil robbing your plants.

2. "Creeping Charlie" can be eliminated from your lawn if sprayed with DICAMBA when it is in full bloom (May-June) or after the 1st frost. (I personally doubt it!)

3. "Vermicomposting" was a fascinating session (raising worms, red crawlers, for their castings). Each worm can eat twice its weight in one day. I had been very concerned that my spring rototilling, incorporating the winter rye I had planted the previous fall, was killing my worms but our instructor said, "Don't worry about it. Worms have 5 hearts and their 'multiplication' puts rabbits to shame". I feel much better about it.

That's all, Happy Spring!



## February Program Results

*Submitted by Suzanne Wozniak*

The Program Committee sends a big thank-you to all the MGVs who helped with set-up and clean-up and publicity and cookies (!) for our February presentation of "Creating Sanctuary." It was wonderful to have everyone working together to make a successful program.

Audience responses to the questionnaire were predominantly 5s for "outstanding," with a few 4s for "very good." One person wrote, "Thank you for letting us come." Nine people checked the newspaper as their source of information on the evening, but "word of mouth," especially through MGs, had 13 ticks.

Suggestions for future programs included four MGVs who would like to take a road trip to Foxfire Gardens. Another suggested "the emerging Wild Ones national headquarters site in Appleton." Other suggestions were for programs on wildflower gardens and statuary used in gardens, and "a presentation on horticulture in which we could take the time to look at and discuss the different varieties."

About fifteen people responded to the question of what they learned at the program that they would like to use in their own gardens. Several people focused on the use of rocks and creating complementary plantings around them, paying attention to different heights and shapes. Others wanted to learn more about Oriental gardening, and to study garden design for creating comfort, tranquility, and balance. One liked the idea of adding a waterfall or a pond, and another wanted to enlarge their pond. Minimal use of insecticide and using more fertilizer were also mentioned.



## MG Class Sign-Up

*Submitted by Kathy Akey*

Mentors are still needed for the MG Class being held at the Clintonville High School IMC for April 3, 10, and 17.

Please contact me with the date you wish to come and if you need directions to the school. (715) 823-2357 [kakey@dotnet.com](mailto:kakey@dotnet.com). Your time counts as Educational hours!!



## February Meeting Notes

Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Secretary



In Attendance:

Kathleen Akey, Dorethy DeWild, Chris Dittman, Kathy Erickson, Gloria Gruer, Dorrie Hipschman, Cynthia Holly, Bill Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Sue King, Barbara Koehnke, Peggy Kramer, Terry Kramer, Deb Krogwold, Barb Lamb, Patti Leiskau, Hope MacIntyre, Sally Marchel Handrich, Colleen McCoy, Jan Mead, Lyle Mork, Pam Nitke, Glenda Rhodes, Pat Ritchie, Kate Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Kathy Weiner, Faye Wilson, Suzanne Wozniak, Connie Jess Zolkoske, Kay Durrant.

President Pam Nitke welcomed members and guests to the February 8 meeting held at the Waupaca County Courthouse.

The January meeting minutes were approved, with one correction: (The books were audited, and no errors were found.) Barb Lamb moved to approve the minutes with a second by Joan Schmitt.

Terry Kramer gave the treasurer's report. There are no unpaid bills at this time. The budget for the new financial year was discussed with no questions raised. At this time, we have a surplus in the budget with monies being set aside for the next year's budget. Gloria Gruer moved, with a second by Dort DeWild, to approve the budget. The budget passed as proposed.

Pat Ritchie gave the state representative report. There are no new member badges yet. The badges have been delayed because of the changes to the badge to reflect the name change to Master Gardener Volunteer. Pat reminded members of the Garden Expo in Madison over the weekend of February 9 to 11. Education hours can be earned for attending this event. Garden Expectations put on by Outagamie County

Master Gardeners is being held March 10. Pat has information about a job opportunity for working in green houses from April to mid July. Recognition of hours (500) of service was handed out to deserving members. Pat reminded members to vote for the member at large state representative by March 5, either by mailing in your ballot or voting on-line. Pat is running for this position.

No committee reports were given.

Other business included Terry Kramer talking about the Waupaca County Community Gardens. A planning meeting is being held at the Waupaca High School February 20. The community garden is up and running. This will be a fenced, irrigated garden that will be student driven. Members will be able to earn volunteer hours for helping to design the vegetable and flower gardens and helping in the summer. Food grown will be donated to the food pantries. The goal is to introduce this program to every high school in Waupaca County.

Gloria Gruer shared zinnia seeds for her garden.

Kathy Akey needs members to volunteer to facilitate the Master Gardener training classes in Clintonville. March 6, April 3, April 10, and April 17 are open dates for a facilitator at the class.

Members can contact Pam Nitke, Terry Kramer, or Barb Lamb for the tax-exempt card number when making MG purchases.

Faye Wilson asked members to sign up for the different committees. This needs to be done so that information can be included in the membership folders.

Twenty-four people paid to attend the February program and hear Stephen Schulte of Foxfire Gardens speak and view his Power Point presentation.

The meeting was adjourned, moved by Dort DeWild and seconded by Connie Zolkoske.



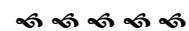
## Foxfire Gardens in Marshfield

If you haven't seen Stephen and Linda Schulte's Foxfire Gardens in Marshfield, put it on your list of things to do this gardening season. There is a mixture of rocks, water, and plant life in a natural setting, creating a dramatic eight-acre oasis that you will find very enjoyable and interesting.

Over the years they have had over 250 dump truck loads of rock hauled in to make it a green and serenity paradise. Besides the bright colors of Asiatic lilies, rhododendrons, and azaleas, you will find a hosta display garden with over 2,600 different varieties of hostas.

The gardens are open to the public from May 1 to October 1, daily, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Group tours are available upon request. They are located at M220 Sugarbush Lane, in Marshfield. (715) 387-3050. Directions: Take Hwy 10 West to Hwy 13 (Country E). Continue through Marshfield, turn left on Sugarbush Lane.

After visiting the Foxfire Gardens, you won't want to miss the rustic yard display down the road a bit. Turn left instead of right, when leaving Foxfire to go home. It's a display you won't forget!



*Happy Birthday to  
the March  
Birthday People!*



3/1 Joan Schmitt  
3/16 Tom Sanders  
3/18 Pam Nitke  
3/19 Barb Nollenberg  
3/22 Rebecca Weber Schmoll  
3/25 Pat Pamperin  
Alice Brown  
3/27 Kate Saunders  
3/31 Kathy Weiner

## Gardeners Calendar

**March 3-4, 2007**

**Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society Show and Sale, Neenah**  
Lots of beautiful orchids from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Riverwalk Holiday Inn, 123 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah. For more information contact Ruth Freye at (920) 734-5978.

**March 4, 5:45 PM/central**

**"Pot It!" WPT** - Learn more about container gardening with host Shelley Ryan. Container gardens can be attractive and edible at the same time. Many vegetables and herbs lend themselves to containers. In Mt. Horeb, a rock gardening enthusiast shows how to create a lightweight container that looks like it's made from solid rock. The program also visits Olbrich Gardens in Madison to learn about bog container gardens filled with carnivorous pitcher plants. In Green Bay Jon Wos shows how to create wonderful container gardens for fall and even winter.

**March 4, 5:00 PM/central and March 29, 7:30 PM/central and April 1, 2:30 PM/central**

**NEW! "Garden Design" - WPT**  
Learn the fine art of garden design with host Shelley Ryan. In Lake Geneva a professional gardener shares tips for basic garden design and creating an anchor point. The rose garden at Olbrich Gardens in Madison is an excellent example of how to design a mixed border. All America Selection winners are plants that tested all over the country. Mark Dwyer of Rotary Gardens shares some of his favorites and Anne Wallker of Madison shows how to design and create garden rooms. Get more garden design resources.

**March 8, 2007**

**Houseplant Basics, Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton**

*Natalie Bjorklund, Director of Horticulture, Presenter*

Come and learn the basics of adding green plants to your home or office. We'll cover plant selection, cultivation requirements including light, soil conditions, and watering techniques; also a basic overview of the insects and diseases you may encounter.

Friends of the Gardens \$8 per person; general public \$12. Time is 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911, (920) 993-1900  
[info@gardensofoxcities.org](mailto:info@gardensofoxcities.org)

**March 10, 2007**

**Gardening Expectations**

*From the Ground Up-  
The Art, Science  
and Selection  
of Gardening*

is a one-day gardening conference scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at Appleton East High School. It is sponsored by the Outagamie Master Gardeners.

The cost for the full day, including a box lunch, is \$30. Make your checks payable to OCMG and mail to Pam Hagen, 2139 W. Glendale Ave., Appleton, WI 54914. For more information contact Kathy Baum at (920) 731-9385.

**March 13, 2007**

**The Whole Story of Hostas, Green Bay Botanical Garden**

The shade-tolerant and cold-hardy hosta is one of the most commonly planted ornamentals in northern gardens. Join grower Phil Korth from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and learn about hosta. \$18 (\$13 members), pre-registration required. For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden at (920) 490-9457.

**March 17, 2007**

**March Into Spring Workshops**

Sponsored by the Winnebago County Master Gardens, the workshop will be held at the Coughlin Center, Oshkosh, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Focus will be on herbs with Jackie Johnson and Cindy Hermson, and container gardening with Jon Wos and Glenn Spevacek.

Checks of \$30 payable to WCMGA can be sent to Marge Bolding, Treasurer, 1138 Evans St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. Include your name, address, phone number. More info is available at [aud@vbe.com](mailto:aud@vbe.com).

**March 23, 2007 (12:00 noon)**

**Lilies for the Home Garden  
Brown Bag Program**

Lilies can be a colorful addition to your garden and landscape. By choosing a combination of early,

mid-season, and late-blooming cultivars, you can have lilies in flower from mid June through mid September. These hardy bulbs require only minimal care. True lilies Asiatic and Oriental lilies are the two most popular types of lilies for northern gardens. Join Bob Tomesh in a discussion of the many lily types and the care and culture of the interesting flowering plant.

**March 24, 2007**

**A Day in the Garden Seminar  
Fond du Lac**

Co-sponsored by Fond du Lac Co. and Calumet Co. MG Associations. The event is from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. at UW Extension, Fond du Lac. Topics include: Landscape Design, Heirloom Flowers, Herbs 101, and Orchids. For more info contact Gloria Kelroy at (920) 929-3173.

**March 27, 2007**

**Wake Up Your Garden  
Green Bay Botanical Garden**

Lisa Stubbe of Landscape Artisans readies battalions of beds and phalanxes of flowers. She will discuss the methods that will bring your garden up-to-speed for a productive growing season in this class from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. \$14 (\$8 members), pre-registration required. For more information, contact the Green Bay Botanical Garden at (920) 490-9457.

**March 28-29, 2007**

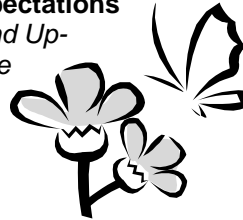
**National Garden Club Garden  
Study Course, Series VI, Course 1  
Fond du Lac, WI**

Soils, Houseplant basics, plant propagation and Propagation Activity, Botany and Supplemental Subject. At Moraine Park Technical College, 235 N. National Avenue, Fond du Lac, WI. For more information contact: Registrar, Vivian Paduano, 19 Stone Castle Drive, Fond du Lac, WI 54935 Or Local Chairman, Sandra Smet, 552 Vermont Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54937-1838, at (920) 923-6085.



### Last Chance to Vote

Cast your vote for Pat Ritchie for the position of WIMGA Board Member-At-Large before March 5.



## ***Master Gardener Volunteers Program Schedule 2007***

<b><i>Month</i></b>	<b><i>Title/Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Speaker</i></b>	<b><i>Start Time:</i></b>
January	“Landscaping for Wildlife”	Mike Hibbard, Mosquito Hill Nature Center	6:30 pm
February	“Creating Sanctuary”	Dr. Steve Schulte, Foxfire Gardens	6:30 pm
March	Land Use Planning & Comprehensive Planning Processes in Waupaca Co.	Greg Blonde & Mike Koles, UW Extension	6:30 pm
April	“Rare Native Plants of NE Wisconsin”	Dr. Robert Freckmann	7:30 pm
May	Bees & Beekeeping	Curt Patten, Waupaca County Beekeepers Association	TBA
June	Garden Tour – Heirloom Tomatoes & Peppers	Mr. Lyn Swanson	6:30 pm
July	Prairie Garden Tour	Susan Smith	6:30 pm
August	Garden Tour/Children’s Garden	TBA	6:30 pm
September	Rain Gardens	Mr. Bruce Bushweiler, Waupaca County Conservationist	TBA

TBA: To be announced

Topics being considered for programs:

- Tour of Scott and Shelly Christie’s home and garden in Waupaca
- Health issues in the garden
- Water quality/water in the garden
- Make & take/garden jeopardy

If you have any ideas for future programs you feel would be of interest to the group, please contact a member of the program committee. Our current committee members are Suzanne Wozniak, Nancy Johnson, Colleen McCoy, Ila Sanders and Rebecca Weber Schmoll. Thanks!



### First Day of Spring

We're hoping spring marches in this month, at least the official start of spring. Whether the weather recognizes it or not remains to be seen. Gardeners here are pretty accustomed to the tricks spring weather plays being balmy one day and freezing the next. Right now we watch the snow we got this winter begin to melt down to nourish emerging bulbs getting ready for their upcoming show of flowers. Some of the so-called "minor bulbs" are too anxious to wait for the snow to disappear and push through the snow to flower. Among these are crocus, Grecian windflower, winter aconite and snowdrops.

While you are waiting, plant some pansies in a pot. They are much tougher than their name implies since they can take what March dishes out including snow and freezing temperature. Get a jump on spring by setting up a cold frame. Build one yourself or buy one that's a little more high tech. An old storm window supported on straw bales works pretty well, too.



### Border Plants

When choosing combination plants for your border, think about a plant's uniqueness and follow this order to get amazing results:

- Plant shape
- Type of foliage
- Blossom time

No-Fail Border Combinations should have good contrast, texture and color.

Try putting Phlox next to ornamental grasses; ferns next to a bold hosta; shades of purple such as mauve, lilac, and plum next to the color orange to make an electrifying combination.

Using gray foliage to harmonize unrelated colors is striking. However, use yellows sparingly. When you start out, begin with a single color and grow with it from that color family.



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 programming including Title IX and ADA.

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