



UW Extension Waupaca County

Master Gardener Newsletter

March 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*



March 9 - Fantasy Garden Workshop

Pam Nitke will lead us through our fantasy garden workshop. Please bring crayons, markers, or colored pencils, scissors, glue stick and garden catalogues you are willing to cut up! You'll work with a partner to create a "fantasy garden" given a set of criteria. We'll work, chat, and share!



Volunteer Hours Reporting

Meeting time and travel to and from the meeting counts for your hours. The time spent on Master Gardener business at a meeting is recording under Support Service and the presentation at the meeting (speaker or video presentation, etc) is Continuing Education time. So typically a meeting will be about 1 hour of service and 1 hour of continuing education. Remember also to count your time to and from the meetings.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!



March in the Garden

Pruning

- Check deciduous trees and shrubs that may need pruning. Carry your pruners with you when you stroll around the yard. A snip here, a dead twig there may cut your pruning chores down a bit. Improve shapes by pruning. Remove branches that intrude into walkways or over steps.
- Spring flowering shrubs shouldn't be pruned until after they have flowered.

Houseplants

- Purchase a sterile soilless mix for starting seeds. Always use fresh potting soil when repotting.
- Inspect roots and check for soft, rotted or browned dead roots. Prune out and repot.
- Snip back stems to encourage new growth. Now is a good time to use cuttings for new plants.
- Plants with thick leaves can take lower light levels than those with thin leaves. Let cacti go semi-dormant and water only to avoid shriveling.
- Place mesh screening wire over the drainage holes of pots to keep soil from washing out after watering. If not available, coffee filters work quite well.

Geraniums

- Remove old stems and leaves, trim back new, spindly growth, and water well. Move to a sunny, cool window.

Stored Vegetables

- Inspect stored vegetables and either use immediately or throw out any that show signs of spoilage.
- Do a quick check on canned produce assuring the lids are still sealed.



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/

President's Letter

Submitted by Susan Finkel

Welcome to March!



Each day brings signs of spring, along with yet more seed catalogues! I'm anticipating the state conference at the end of the month. I've been so busy with work, home, and all the other "stuff" of life that I'm really looking forward to a weekend of garden talk! If you haven't yet done so, please consider signing up!

Have you ever dreamt of what you might do in your garden, if only? If only you had a different soil type, lived in a different zone, didn't have so many rabbits, had unlimited funds, and time to garden all day, every day? Well, at our March meeting, you'll have the opportunity to realize those dreams! We'll be having a Fantasy Garden workshop. No, we won't have Mr. Ruark or his little friend to entertain us, but we will have a great time "dreaming". Come and join us at the March meeting!

In this month's newsletter, you'll find a list of committees and members. If you have not signed up for a committee, and would still be interested in doing so, please contact the chair of that committee and they will be glad to add your name to their list!



Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

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



If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be welcome on any lawn.

Andrew V. Mason

Please Add to Your Roster

Melanie DeRoche
N2989 Pryse Drive
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-256-9720
melanie@gqlbbs.com



March Birthdays

Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske



- Joan Schmitt 3/1
- Pam Nitke 3/18
- Barb Nollenberg..... 3/19
- Chris Ross..... 3/21
- Rebecca Weber Schmoll.... 3/22
- Alice Brown..... 3/25
- Pat Pamperin..... 3/25
- Kate Saunders..... 3/27
- Kathy Weiner..... 3/31

If you don't want your birthday published Email Barbara at blupine@centurytel.net



Gardening Journal

Submitted by Trish Feldman

www.northerngardening.com

This is a wonderful web site created by a Minnesota MG specializing in, what else, northern gardening.



I found the site while looking for a garden journal and was pleasantly surprised when I found not only a garden journal to download (for free), but a variety of other gardening related information specific to colder climates.

The garden journal consists of 19 pages. The topics include garden plot graphs, soil preparation, indoor seed starting, disease and pest control, fertilization, etc. You can pick and choose which ones you

want to use, make as many copies as you like and add pages of your own. A major benefit I found with the journal is that it can be perpetual rather than annual. I have mine in a 3 ring binder with dividers between each topic. Within each topic I have my records in chronological order so that I can easily look to prior years without looking for that year's journal.

This journal is so generic you can easily have one for flowers/shrubs and another for vegetable gardening. You can add pages of your own such as "Divisions" to keep track of what was divided and when, "Wish List", add photos to growing records, etc.

What a wonderful gift for a gardening friend!



Seedlings in Cardboard Tubes

Source, Garden Gate Magazine

Peat pots are a great way to start seeds, but you don't have to go to the store to find biodegradable pots. Instead, use cardboard tubes from paper towels and toilet paper to start seedlings. Cut the tubes into 2-3 inch lengths.

After cutting them, line the cylinders up in a tray so they touch. This way they support each other as you water the seedlings. They also dry out more slowly when they're set close together. Fill each pot with a seed-starting mix, gently packing it down and then sow the seeds. When its time to plant the seedlings in the garden, break down the side of the roll so the cardboard will be buried underground. Just as with peat pots, if the edges stick up above the surface, they'll wick moisture away from the roots.



Gardening is not a happening. It's not an event. It's a process. It keeps going on and on and it keeps changing.

Don Rosenbohm



February Meeting Notes

Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Secretary



Attendance: Kathleen Akey, Greg Blonde, Leigh Braatz, Debra Calmes, Trish Feldman, Susan Finkel, Gloria Gruer, Steve Hart, Becky Hinz, Cynthia Holly, Bill Johnson, Carol Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Sue King, Peggy Kramer, Terry Kramer, Debbie Krogwold, Patti Leiskau, Colleen McCoy, Jan Mead, Lyle Mork, Pam Nitke, Barb Nollenberg, Glenda Rhodes, Pat Ritchie, Kate Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Faye Wilson, Sue Wozniak, Connie Jess Zolkoske

The February meeting began with a presentation by Kay and Larry Herried on seed starting. President Sue Finkel called the meeting to order. The February meeting began with the introduction of three guests to our meeting. New members who have completed training were also welcomed. President Sue Finkel reminded members of the parking lot theory. Any problematic issue will be “parked” and revisited by officers at an executive meeting.

January meeting minutes were approved by Faye Wilson and seconded by Lee Shaw.

Secretary Rebecca Weber Schmoll read the executive meeting minutes from the January 25 meeting. The 2006 budget was passed, approved by Kathy Akey and seconded by Joan Schmitt.

Treasurer Colleen McCoy gave the treasurers report.

Members were reminded again to use the project approval forms.

State Rep Report: Pat Ritchie gave the state representative report. A question was raised if new members were getting the newsletter. Pat reported on a number of events happening in the state. February 25 in Fond du Lac is “A Day in the Garden” and March 3 and 4 Mineral Point is hosting “A

Garden Get-away.” The state convention was discussed. The January WIMGA newsletter carries a registration form. This completed form is to be returned to Colleen McCoy with a February 24 deadline for the reduced rate. Pat has raffle tickets for the state conference. These tickets sell at 6/\$5. Pat reminded the group that hours are important and should be recorded accurately. Pat sends the club members’ hours on to the state office. We are an extension program, one group out of forty-three clubs in the state. Our state funding for our program is based on the number of hours that members contribute. Pat reminded new members that they do not need any continuing education hours for the first year. Pat also shared an easy way of keeping track of volunteer hours is to record the hours on a calendar.

Book Share: Glenda Rhodes shared information on the book, *Making the Most of the Shade* by Larry Hodgeson.

Old Business:

The cookbook update is that we have approximately 300 cookbooks left to sell out of the 560 cookbooks that we had printed. Cookbooks will be sold at the state conference. Price is \$10. Cookbooks might also be sold at the Outagamie County spring plant sale.

Committee updates were discussed. The list of committees will be published in the March newsletter. The **Program Committee** still needs a chairman. Joan Schmitt of the **Refreshment Committee** needs two more people to bring refreshments for the March meeting. Connie Jess Zolkoske of the **Mentoring Committee** reported that new members have been given temporary membership badges. Lyle Mork of the **Plant Sale Committee** reported on a plant sale meeting that discussed the fall plant sale. Lyle also shared that he has compiled a plant sale book that contains all the

information and forms needed to make each plant sale successful. President Susan Finkel again asked all committee chairmen to inform her of committee meeting dates so that Sue may stay “in the loop” with all committees.

State Conference update was given by Faye Wilson. The conference is March 24 and 25 in Appleton. Brochures about the conference may be found at various locations. More business donations for both the raffle and silent auction are needed. Gloria Gruer and Becky Hinz are on this committee and accepting donations. Hotel rooms at the Radisson are reserved at a discount rate. If seventy-five rooms are rented out, the \$1,000 rental fee for the hall is waived. Volunteer workers are needed to be in the silent auction room. Volunteers are also needed to help run our Master Gardener table. The utility workers will help with set up and welcoming people to the conference. Connie Jess Zolkoske is the chair of this committee. Members are reminded that all these activities count towards volunteer hours.

New Business

The regular meeting feature of “**Getting to Know Our Programs and Committee**” was presented. Our club has both committees and projects. Committees receive a budgeted amount of money and help our club function. Some committees have a specific job to do, and some committees have a project. An example would be the Plant Sale Committee.

Glenda Rhodes reported on the **Library Resource Committee**. This committee promotes library resources and buys materials to donate to the nine libraries in our area. This committee also does garden related book reviews.

The **Membership Committee’s** mission statement is to keep members motivated. This committee is both the “Sunshine”

(Continued on next page.)

Meeting Notes *(Continued)*

committee and the mentoring committee of new members.

The By-law Committee reported that revisions were completed last year. By-laws will again be talked about and possibly revised.

Other new business was discussed. The question was raised as to whom (Michelle Molenda-Schroth?) will revise our club's web page.

Membership survey will be done. The club's annual calendar was discussed.

Other Items included the New London Children's Garden. The Recreation Department would add on to the present garden to accommodate an advanced group of children. Last summer twenty-seven children were "little gardeners." Some of these children need to graduate to an advanced program. A meeting on February 11 at 10 A.M. at Familiar Grounds in New London will discuss this advanced curriculum for the older children.

Correspondence - No written correspondence.

Announcements

The Iola Children's Garden is now expanding to include adult gardeners in a community garden. Krause Publication will match fund raising.

Greg Blonde has information about a lily show in July.

Cynthia Holly discussed the Wild Ones Organization. This is an excellent group, would be a source of speakers for our meetings, and would be a wonderful group to become more involved in because of its founding philosophy.

Gloria Gruer shared zinnia seeds and reminded people to not store the seeds in an airtight container.

Colleen McCoy moved to adjourn the meeting and Joan Schmitt seconded this.

Respectfully, Rebecca Weber Schmall



2006 Committee Listing

Library Resources/Book Reviews Committee

Chair: Glenda Rhodes
Jeff Weasner
Pam Nitke
Barb Lamb
Carol Spiegelberg
Jan Mead

Membership/Mentoring Committee

Chair: Connie Jess Zolkoske,
Pat Ritchie
Becky Hinz
Joan Schmitt
Dorothy Shaver
Chris Dittman
Sue King
Barb Lamb

Program Committee

Chair; still vacant
Suzanne Wozniak
Rebecca Weber Schmall

Nominating Committee

Chair: Connie Jess Zolkoske
Jeff Weasner
Becky Hinz

By-Laws Committee

Chair: Faye Wilson
Jeff Weasner
Nancy Weasner
Pat Ritchie

Fall Plant Sale Committee

Chair: Barb Lamb
Nancy Weasner
Jeff Weasner
Steve Hart
Carol Spiegelberg
Joan Schmitt
Lyle Mork
Becky Hinz

Waupaca County Fair Committee

Co-Chairs: Pat Ritchie and Lee Shaw
Colleen McCoy
Sue King
Joan Schmitt
Becky Hinz
Pat Pamperin

Auditing Committee

Chair: Trish Feldman
Terry Kramer

Christmas Party Committee

Chair: Dorothy Shaver
Colleen McCoy
Rebecca Weber Schmall
Becky Hinz

Scholarship Committee

Chair: Sue King
Pat Ritchie
Judy Shaw
Jan Mead

Publicity Committee

Chair: Becky Hinz

Promotional Display Committee

Chair: Sue King
Becky Hinz

Refreshments Committee

Chair: Joan Schmitt
Carol Johnson
Faye Wilson
Rebecca Weber Schmall

Spring Plant Sale

Chair: Lyle Mork
Steve Hart
Carol Spiegelberg
Joan Schmitt
Pam Nitke
Terry Kramer
Peggy Kramer
Barb Lamb
Bill Johnson
Becky Hinz
Chris Dittman
Jeff Weasner

Courthouse Planter Committee

(must be a courthouse employee)
Chair: Steve Hart



If you didn't get a chance to sign up for a committee and would still be interested in doing so, please contact the chair of that committee and they will be glad to add your name to their list!



Gardeners Calendar

March 1, 2006

Organic Gardening & Composting Memorial Park Arboretum & Gardens, Appleton

Learn organic practices you can employ in your own garden including how to compost in your backyard in this class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$12 (\$8 members). For more information, contact the Arb at (920) 993-1900 or visit their website at www.memorialparkarb.org.

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. In Green Bay Jan Wos shows how to create wonderful container gardens for fall and even winter.

March 7 and 14, 2006

Knowing and Growing Perennials Memorial Park Arboretum & Gardens, Appleton

Learn the keys to growing perennials, which ones perform most reliably year after year, as well as some of the newer varieties that are available today in this two part class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$24 (\$16 members). For more info, contact the Arb at (920) 993-1900 or visit their website at www.memorialparkarb.org.

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 14, 2006

Apple Grafting Workshop, Appleton

Home orchardists can learn the basics of apple grafting and home orchard management in this workshop. Successful grafting techniques will be reviewed at a hands-on workshop offered by Robert Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist. For more information contact the Winnebago Co. UW-Extension Office at (920) 727-8643.

March 21, 2006

Repotting Orchids, Green Bay

Learn the simple basics needed to repot your orchids at home. Join Mary Stewart of Goin' To Pot Orchids and Repotting Service. Class consists of demonstrations and handouts to be followed by repotting time. Class fee covers all materials needed to successfully repot one orchid (up to 6 inch pot). Plants and supplies will be available for purchase. Sponsored by the N.E.W. Master Gardeners from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Brown Co. UW-Extension Office, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay. \$15 (\$10 members) by March 14. To register or for more information contact Carol at (920) 499-8541.

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.

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.

March 29, 2006

Apple Grafting Workshop, Chilton,

Home orchardists can learn the basics of apple grafting and home orchard management in this workshop. Successful grafting techniques will be reviewed at a hands-on workshop offered by Robert Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist. For more information contact the Calumet Co. UW-Extension Office at (920) 2654.

March 31, 2006 (12:00 noon)

Phenology: A Component to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Brown Bag Program

Phenology is a branch of science that studies the relationships between periodic biological events and seasonal environmental changes.

April 1, 2006

Magical Mixed Borders Green Bay

This program will provide you with a wide array of ideas to personalize yard boundaries and make your outdoor space your place to go. Provided is a slide show format by Glenn Spevacek of Green Bay Nursery and sponsored by the N.E.W. Master Gardeners from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the Brown Co. UW-Extension Office, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay. Register by March 24. Free, but a non-perishable food item for Paul's Pantry is requested. To register or for more information contact Carol at (920) 499-8541.

April 8, 2006

Spring Educational and Bulb Sale

Hosted by The Wisconsin Regional Lily Society, 9:00-5:00 p.m. at the L.E. Phillips Senior Center 1616 Bellinger St. Eau Claire, WI. Agenda includes: 10:00 - How to prepare your lilies for showing (Betty Holmes and Sue Kaul); 11:30 - Bark, Berries, and Grass (Jeff Epping-Olbrich Gardens); 1:00 - English Design Gardens (Jeff Epping-Olbrich Gardens). Free admission. For more information or for a Bulb Sale Order form, contact Sandy 715-723-8168. schleyzelm2@charter.net



Shamrock Meringue Pie

1 cup sugar
½ cup cornstarch
1-1/2 cups water
3 egg yolks, lightly beaten
¼ cup lemon juice
1 tablespoon butter
1-1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
5 drops green food coloring
1 baked 9-inch pastry shell

Meringue

3 egg whites
1/3 cup sugar

Combine sugar, cornstarch and water in a saucepan; stir until smooth. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir a small amount into egg yolks; return all to the pan. Cook and stir 1 minute.

Remove from heat; stir in lemon juice, butter, lemon peel, and food coloring until smooth. Pour into crust.

For Meringue, beat egg whites until foamy. Gradually add sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Spread over hot filling, sealing to the edges.

Bake at 350° for 10-15 minutes or until light brown. Cool



You Know You Are a Master Gardener When...

Created by Audrey, Emmitsburg, MD

10. You rejoice in rain, even after 10 straight days of it.
9. You have pride in how bad your hands look.
8. You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
7. You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.
6. Soil test results actually mean something.
5. IPM rules!
4. You'd rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothes store.
3. You look for gardens open to the public whenever you go on vacation.
2. Your non-gardening spouse is actually getting involved with your garden endeavors... digging ponds, building bird houses, watering, pruning, turning compost piles, planting.
1. You are surrounded by terrific people who share your passion!



***UW* Extension** Waupaca County

Waupaca County Master Gardeners

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