

Master Gardener Volunteers' Newsletter

Master Gardener Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the Month.

In the event that a meeting or event is canceled due to weather, please listen to WJMQ 92.3 and WDUX 92.7 for cancellation information. We will also attempt to notify members via email.

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

March Meeting Information

!!!!!! March meeting will be held at Farmer's State Bank!!!!!!
March 12, 6:00 p.m. Social
6:30 pm Business meeting
7:30 pm Program –see article

2009 Executive Board Members

President, Nancy Johnson
Vice-President, Suzanne Wozniak
Treasurer, Rebecca Weber Schmoll
Secretary, Peggy Kramer
Board Member, Bill Johnson
Board Member, Sally Marchal Handrich
Past President, Kate Saunders

From Greg Blonde: MGV members please contact my secretary or me at 715-258-6230 extension 12 with any changes regarding contact information. For example send a change in name, email or mailing address, or phone number.

March 12 PROGRAM
Held at Farmers State

Plant Propagation & Seed Sprouting

This timely program will be presented by Teri Gear, Wood County Horticulture Educator. Some of our group may be acquainted with Teri, as she has been a presenter for several Master Gardener events and garden club groups, one of the most recent being "Garden Inspirations", a February seminar sponsored by the Portage County Master Gardeners. We welcome her expertise.

President's note ...

This is the time of year to take care of all of those necessary jobs to prepare for spring. At our house, we are taking out the remaining carpeting in the bedrooms and replacing it with laminate flooring. Hopefully, this will help with my son's and husband's allergies and make cleaning a little easier.

As master gardener volunteers, we have our own way of preparing for spring. Our by-laws committee has been busy these past few months taking care of cleaning up and revising our by-laws to help us move forward. The plant sale committee has also been busy preparing the way for our spring sale. Flyers, new releases, and ordering plugs are just a few of the tasks they take care of on behalf of all of us this time of year. Many other committees are also gearing up for the upcoming year. It is the somewhat tedious tasks of this season that lay the foundation for the rest for the year. My thanks to all of you who are working hard to ensure a successful year for our organization!

Nancy

**Waupaca County Master Gardener
Meeting Minutes
Waupaca County Courthouse
February 13, 2009 7:35 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by President Nancy Johnson at 7:35 p.m. Nancy welcomed all members present and new MG trainees Eric Loberg, Heidi Jacobson, Gerry Schneekler and Sue Morach.

Members present: Julie Bosquez, Leigh Braatz, Deb Calmes, Dort DeWild, Gloria Gruer, Dorrie Hipschman, Bill Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Peggy Kramer, Deb Krogwold, Patti Leiskau, Sharon Lemmers, Hope MacIntyre, Agnes Marchel, Sally Marchel-Handrich, Barb Nollenberg, Penny Pritzlaff, Pat Ritchie, Ila Sanders, Tom Sanders, Kate Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Dorothy Shaver, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Carol Spiegelberg, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Carol West-Dahl, Suzanne Wozniak and Connie Zolkoske.

A motion was made by Lee Shaw and seconded by Ila Sanders that the January minutes be approved with the following correction pertaining to the By-Laws: "Copies will be passed out prior to discussion at the February meeting." Motion carried. Rebecca Weber Schmoll gave the Treasurer's report.

The Budget for 2009 was passed out. The following corrections were added to the printed budget-The Hutchinson/Holly House (\$300.00) and the Waupaca County Fair (\$175.00). Voting on the budget will take place at the March meeting.

State Representatives Report by Pat Ritchie
* The 2009 Garden Expo will be held February 13, 14 and 15 in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison.

* Chippewa County "Think Spring" seminar will take place on February 21.

* Garden Expectation-Outagamie County Master Gardener Conference is on March 7, from 9am to 3pm, registration is available on-line.

Members in Good Standing cards, hours awards and stickers for volunteer hours are available from Pat if a member missed the January meeting.

Book Review given by Hope MacIntyre
Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas / Illustrated by Layne Johnson. Besides being a general and the first president of the United States, George Washington was also a farmer. His efforts to create a self-sufficient farm at Mount Vernon, Virginia, mirrored his struggle to form a new nation.

Spring Plant Sale report given by Sally Marchel-Handrich.

Two workshops will be held at the Spring Plant Sale. Terry Kramer and Pat Phair will be giving a presentation on the Waupaca Community Garden. Another workshop will be a demonstration of making willow wreaths. The committee is now taking donations of potting soil. The preferred type is Miracle Grow Potting Soil with fertilizer. Potting soil may be brought to the monthly meetings. Members may start seedlings of perennials, annuals and vegetables at any time to donate to the sale. Huecheras (Coral Bells) and Echinacea (Coneflowers) have been ordered as specialty plants for this sale.

Membership Committee Report - Connie Zolkowske announced that February is an important month of the year. We celebrate President's day as a nation, so we shall celebrate it also in honoring our past and present presidents. Each president received a flower for the number of years they served as president.

Nancy Johnson	Present
Kate Saunders	2008
Pam Nitke	2007
Sue Finkel	2006
Faye Wilson	2005
Kathy Weiner	2004
Linda Murray	2003
Dorothy Shaver	2002 and 2001
Connie Zolkowske and Pat Ritchie	
co-presidents	2000
Deb Calmes	1999 and 1998
Murnell Olsen	1997
Gloria Gruer	1996

Special Award-Ila Sanders announced that Kate Saunders won 3rd Place and the People's Choice award for a photograph she entered in the photography contest for Garden Visions held in Wausau on January 31, 2009.

Sheets are available to sign up for projects and committees.

REMINDER!!! The March meeting will be held at the Farmer's State Bank.

Suzanne Wozniak made a motion that the membership vote on whether the WMGA will meet on Maundy Thursday. Connie Zolkowske seconded. The vote was in favor of keeping the meeting as scheduled.

Nancy Johnson spoke about a conference held in Woodruff, WI on March 28, 2009, entitled Gardening Northwoods Style, A Workshop for northern Gardeners, presented by The Master Gardeners of the North. For information call Betty Henry at 715 358-2570.

The By-laws committee presented the changes for the By-Laws. Each member received a draft of the By-Laws. New wording or mechanics are marked in red. If an item is crossed off it is suggested as a deletion from the By-Laws. Pat Ritchie, Bill Johnson and Faye Wilson were the working members of the By-Laws committee. A ballot will be presented at the next meeting. There will be 15 items to vote on with a "Yes" or "No" for acceptance or rejection of the new wording for the By-Laws. The amendments to the By-Laws must be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote. NOTE: Please bring the copies of the draft to the next meeting. One change from the draft that will be made is to Article X Section 4, which will substitute 'November' for 'December'. Nancy Johnson thanked the By-Laws committee for their time and effort in this time consuming and tedious job.

Ila Sanders moved that the meeting be adjourned, Tom Sanders seconded, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Kramer, Secretary

Spring officially begins March 21 !!!



March and beyond Education Opportunites

Garden Expectations

The Outagamie County Master Gardeners announce their annual Garden Expectations Conference to be held **Saturday, March 7, 2009** from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Appleton East High School, 2121 Emmers Drive, Appleton. This year's theme is "Where Friends Gather," emphasizing that gardening is not a singular endeavor; it's meant to be shared with family, friends and strangers who pass by.

Gardening in Tune with Nature

Presented by the Waushara County Master Gardeners: Shar-a Gardeners and Friends **March 14, 2009** from 8 am to 4 pm. For more information, email Jackie Schafer @ wilbur@vbe.com or phone 920-787-3110

Gardening Northwoods Style,

Workshop for northern Gardeners, presented by The Master Gardeners of the North. **March 28, 2009** For information call Betty Henry at 715 358-2570

Spring Fling

A Day of Learning and Renewal is slated for **Thursday, April 16th** at the Courthouse in Waupaca. Sessions that might interest Master Gardeners
9:00 - 10:30 "Sandhill Cranes" with Steve Hoffman, Wildlife Biologist, Wisconsin DNR;
10:30 - 11:45 "Wisconsin Wildflowers: Road, Field and Forest" with Bob Frechmann, UW-Stevens Point Professor Emeritus of Biology.
Half-Day registration is \$7.50.
Afternoon sessions include "Barn Quilts of Lafayette County" and "What Would Your Mother Say?"

For a full brochure please contact Marilyn Herman at the Waupaca County Extension Office (715) 258-6225.

See the State Website for more opportunities....

Plant Sale Committee Report – Feb. 13, 2009

There are many ways that you can help our Waupaca County MGV Spring Plant Sale. Let me list some of these initial projects:

- **Start seedlings/plants for the June 7, 2009 Spring Plant Sale – plant vegetables, perennials, annuals – nurture them along so they are healthy looking plants to sell. All the time you spend on this project will go towards your MGV volunteer hours.**
- **Donate potting soil – Miracle-Gro Potting soil with the slow release fertilizer in the soil. This soil is needed to transplant the plugs ordered. If you want to start bringing that to monthly meetings, we would appreciate it. Leave it in your car & we'll get it after the meetings. Or you can call me (Sally 258-4888) and I'll come get it.**
- **Donate blinds (privacy blind slats) – start bringing to monthly MGV meetings**
- **We will need a co-chair for the Fall Plant Sale**

This year we are going to try and have every plant brought in the day before the plant sale (June 6), properly labeled. If you have issues with labeling plants, please contact me and I will provide such label. Also we will need to have the plants that are brought in, clean and healthy. Any kind of pruning, cleaning up etc. needs to be done before delivery of the plants on June 6. Please keep that in mind.

**Sally Marchel Handrich, Chair, MGV Spring Plant Sale (715-258-4888)
Nancy Weasner, Co-Chair, MGV Spring Plant Sale**

National Kidney Foundation Gardens Proposal

The 2010 National Kidney Foundation U.S. Transplant Games will be held in Madison, Wisconsin July 31-August 4. Individuals who have received a life-saving transplant (heart, lung, liver, bone marrow, kidney or pancreas) along with donor family members (families who have donated the organs of their loved ones) will come together during those 4-days to celebrate the 'second chance at life' and to honor those deceased donors who have given the ultimate gift.

In preparation for this national event, the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin would like to organize a program to create tribute or legacy gardens in communities throughout the state to honor local individuals who are affected by organ donation and transplantation AND to pay tribute to those who will be visiting our state in 2010 for the Games. They believe creating a community conversation about the importance and impact of organ, tissue and eye donation, will help draw attention to the current waiting list of 100,000+ children and adults (1700 in Wisconsin) who are waiting for an organ.

They hope to have a torch relay to connect at least some of the communities and their gardens.

They are looking for assistance in developing plot plans or garden designs this year that could be distributed to service groups throughout the state for planting in 2010. If your association is interested in helping with developing garden designs and detailed plans with annual plant selections appropriate for Wisconsin, please contact:

Cindy Huber -Chief Executive Officer
National Kidney Foundation of WISCONSIN
16655 W. Bluemound Rd, Suite 240
Brookfield, WI 53005-5935
262.821.0705 ext. 14
1.800.543.6393 ext. 14 FAX 262.821.5641
chuber@kidneywi.org



Happy St. Patrick's Day

Field Guide to Invasive Plants of the Midwest

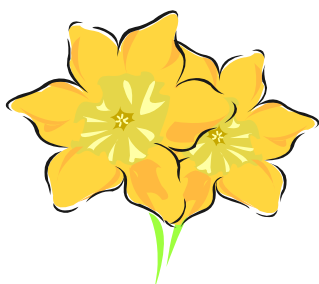
The Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) has produced a 68-page field guide (adapted from a MN DNR guide) in a small (4½ x 5½"), spiral bound format. The field guide covers 36 species, with photos and basic information on identification and the ecological threat each poses. They are being sold for \$6 each. Bulk orders of 25 or more copies are \$4 (\$3 for MIPN members) or \$3 for pre-orders. Mark Renz is coordinating ordering guides for various UW groups, so if your association would like to get these at the reduced price, please contact Mark directly at mrenz@wisc.edu

Lemon Balm: Grow and Use From Marilyn Herman

Lemon Balm is a hearty perennial that grows into a bush about 24 inches round with light green, ridged leaves. Lemon Balm likes some shade during the heat of the day, is drought tolerant, does not like its roots in standing water and prefers loose soil. Do not fertilize as this speeds growth but dilutes essential oils. Harvest three or more times in a growing season. Being in the mint family, it will spread uncontrollably if allowed to go to seed.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Submitted by
Connie Jess Zolkoske



3/1 Joan Schmitt
3/3 Sharon Lemmers
3/16 Tom Sanders
3/18 Pam Nitke
3/19 Barb Nollenberg
3/22 Rebecca Weber Schmolli
3/25 Alice Brown
3/27 Kate Saunders

Grow from seed, divide roots in spring or take cuttings in fall to overwinter and replant in spring. Harvest by cutting stems a few inches from base of plant. Wash vigorously under running hot water to remove sand and grim. Dry in dehydrator, microwave or bag dry. Snip dry leaves from stems and store in covered container, out of sunlight.

How to Use: Fill coffeemaker basket with fresh lemon balm and/or mint leaves to make hot or iced tea. Use a teaspoon of dried lemon balm leaves per cup of boiling water for tea. Lemon balm is a wonderful addition to tea concoctions with rose petals; lemon verbena, mint, chamomile flowers, lemon-scented geranium leaves or dried lavender flowers. Lemon Balm can be chopped fresh or dried and added to bread dressing for chicken, turkey, wild fowl; added to herb butter blends; chopped into favorite sugar cookie recipe; or substituted for lemon peel in cookie or cake recipes.

In the March Garden

YARD –

- Prune trees and shrubs while plants are still dormant, except those that bloom early in spring.
- Remove trunk wraps that were applied to prevent bark from splitting
- Fertilize woody plants before new growth begins, but after soil temperatures have reached 40 degrees F.

HOME –

- Prune, repot and clean houseplants as needed.
- Remove spent leaves and flowers of houseplants to improve appearance and encourage more blooms.

Garden –

- Start seed of warm season vegetables and flowers indoors.
- Prune grape vines
- Follow last fall's soil test recommendations for fertilizer and pH adjustment. It's not too late to test soil if you missed last year.

State Master Gardener - At-Large Election Reminder

Don't forget to vote for your favorite candidate for the highly contested At-Large Board member. Return your paper ballot or send an email to Susan Mahr by the deadline of Friday, March 6 to make your vote count! It's a pretty tight race right now, so every vote can make a difference.

University of Wisconsin, U.S. Department
of Agriculture and Wisconsin Counties
cooperating. UW-Extension provides
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programming including Title IX and ADA.

Phone: (715) 258-6230

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University of Wisconsin Extension

Waupaca County Master Gardeners

Waupaca County

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