



^{UW} **Extension** Waupaca County

Master Gardener Newsletter

May 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.



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



May 10 - Meeting at 6:30, Program at 7:30 p.m.

Curt Patten from the Waupaca County Beekeepers Association will speak on Bees and Beekeeping. Kurt is an eight year hobbyist beekeeper from Scandinavia, and will be talking about the history of the honey bee, their important roll in pollination of blossoms, good nectar producing plants, and problems that the honey bee and we are fighting. Information, reference material, and beekeeping suppliers will be provided.



June 3 - Plant Sale - 8:00 - 2:00 p.m., Fairgrounds in Weyauwega. See full page in this newsletter.



June 14 - 6:30 p. m. Garden Tour – Heirloom Tomatoes & Peppers; Mr. Lyn Swanson.

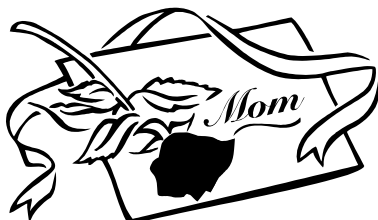


InfoSource: <http://infosource.uwex.edu>

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/



May in the Garden

Dig and Divide

- Dig and divide fall blooming perennials before top growth gets too tall. Move perennials every three years to prevent them from overcrowding. (Good time to think about our June Plant Sale!)

Lawns

- Apply a crabgrass preventative to your lawn before crabgrass emerges, which is typically when lilacs are in bloom (normally early May).

Bulbs

- Deadhead spring bulbs when they are done flowering; this directs energy back into the bulb.
- Discard tulips that only produced large leaves and no flowers.

Pinch Now

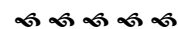
- Pinch the tips off garden phlox, asters, and mums to encourage the stems to branch for bushy growth and even more bloom. Process should be repeated before July 1.
- Basil should be pinched to encourage branching and the flowers removed as they form. The best time to harvest herbs for drying is shortly before bloom.

Planting

- Plant onion sets, carrots, beets, chard, leaf lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, and spinach.
- Begin hardening off frost tender plants now including vegetables, herbs, perennial and annual flowers that have been started indoors, as well as summer flowering bulbs such as tuberous begonias, cannas, dahlia, and caladium. Start by placing them in a shaded, sheltered location for the day and bringing them in at night. Every couple of days select a sunnier, windier spot until the end of the last week of May when it is finally safe to plant most things outdoors.

Pruning

- Avoid pruning oaks and elms between mid-April and mid-July.
- Prune shrubs such as weigela, flowering almond, and forsythia as soon as possible after flowering. Cutting a few entire older stems to the ground will rejuvenate the plants.



Note From Our President, Pam Nitke



It's a beautiful day and I'm quickly writing this letter while looking out at my messy flowerbeds. There is a little color with the blossoms from the primrose, tulips and hyacinth. There is also a large pile of wood chips waiting for me, sooo if anyone with extra time (*HA HA!!*) would like to come and help me reduce the pile, give me a call!

We had the chance to sit and look over the New Member Folders Faye worked so hard on at the executive meeting and we came up with these additions: Add the Invasive Plant Project to your Committee List. Volunteers are: Bill Johnson (chair), Susan Finkel, Sally Marchel Handrich, Nancy Johnson, Peggy and Terry Kramer, Colleen McCoy, Kate Saunders, and Suzanne Wozniak. Also change the address for Karen Zahn on the MG Roster to: 125 Robert St. Clintonville, WI 54929; same phone number. If anyone found any other changes please let an officer know at the next meeting or call me, Thank You again, Faye, for all your hard work.

New Project hours were approved for: River Road Community Garden, Lyle Mork (chair) Weyauwega Health Care (Faye W. and Connie Z.) Ice Age Trail Tree planting (Deb K. and Patti L.) If anyone is interested in these projects, please talk with other volunteers to see if additional help is needed.

I will not be at the May meeting so Kate will run things. I was invited to represent the Master Gardeners at the Leadership Waupaca County Graduation Banquet. Pat Ritchie and Dorrie Hipschman will do their group presentations during the afternoon, graduation ceremonies to follow. I am so honored to be representing this group.

Happy Gardening, Pam



Variety Vegetables/Flowers

Source, Tom Kalb, Ph.D. Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension

There are lots of new vegetable and flower varieties available this year. You can find new super sweet peas, bright red carrots, Green Bay Packer ornamental corn, lettuce with freckles, red sunflowers, and marigolds that look like fluffy chrysanthemums!

Are these varieties any good? We honestly don't know. The University needs your help! The University is developing a team of over 100 gardeners to test 130 varieties of vegetables and flowers. Gardening is for everyone, and everyone is welcome to participate! This includes beginners and experts. It is a wonderful project for families!

There are 65 trials (2 varieties each). Gardeners can choose to participate in up to 5 trials (\$2 each). Marking stakes and instructions will be provided.

The University is not looking for complicated data. For each trial, we simply wish to know which of the two varieties was most healthy, produced the most vegetables (or flowers) and had the highest quality vegetables (or flowers).

At the end of the year, participating gardeners will receive a final report and a certificate that recognizes their participation.

To learn more about this fun project, go to www.UWvarieties.com. Download our seed catalog. If you don't have access to a computer, please contact Horticulture Educator Tom Kalb at (715) 839-4712 for a registration form. We are accepting orders for seeds/transplants now.



University Research Opportunity

Source, Tom Kalb, Ph.D. Horticulture Educator, UW-Extension

Now that spring is here, you may be looking for volunteer projects for members of your Master Gardener Volunteer association. How about

inviting them to conduct research for the University?

We are inviting backyard gardeners across the state to test vegetable and flower varieties. This project will support research done at experiment stations to help us determine the best varieties for Wisconsin gardeners. It's a perfect project for Master Gardener Volunteers!

As of today, 125 households have agreed to join the research team!

Besides individual members testing seeds, I am also willing to share some seeds with any Master Gardener group who would like to establish a public demonstration garden. There would be no fee.

For more information on the project, please go to www.uwvarieties.com, or contact Tom Kalb at (715) 839-4712.



Happy Birthday to the May Birthday People!



- 5/5 Carol Spiegelberg
- 5/13 Bill Johnson
- 5/21 Candy Hilker
- 5/27 Ila Sanders



Heritage Beans

Rebecca Weber Schmoll will be bringing heritage bean seeds to share at the May meeting. These are heirloom seeds for growing pole beans to produce dry beans to use in soups, stews, casseroles, and bean dishes.

If you aren't much for cooking with beans, these bean seeds will produce plants with flowers that the hummingbirds love.



April Meeting Notes

Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Secretary



Attendance: Greg Blonde, Leigh Braatz, Lorry Brace, Dort DeWild, Kay Durrant, Gloria Gruer, Cynthia Holly, Bill Johnson, Sue King, Peggy Kramer, Terry Kramer, Deb Krogwold, Barb Lamb, Patti Leiskau, Sally Marchel Handrich, Jan Mead, Lyle Mork, Pam Nitke, Barb Nollenberg, Pat Ritchie, Ila Sanders, Katherine Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Kathy Weiner, Carol West-Dahl, Faye Wilson, Suzanne Wozniak, and Connie Zolkoske.

President Pam Nitke called the meeting to order. There were no visitors at the meeting.

The March meeting minutes were moved to approval by Lorry Brace and seconded by Barb Lamb. The March executive meeting minutes were read and discussed.

The treasurer's report was read by Terry Kramer. Bills remaining to be paid are the computer system and Mantis tiller.

The state representative report was read by Pat Ritchie. She shared the thank you note sent by Louisiana. The thirteen state conference and the state Master Gardener conference will be held at the same time in July 2008. A resource list of speakers is being developed to share with other county Master Gardener groups. Pat reviewed the use of the title of Master Gardener Volunteer. The state resource committee is looking for grants and will then share this information with others. Although Pat did not succeed in her election bid to the state WIMGA at-large board member, she was appointed to the board due to the resignation of one of the board members.

There was no book review this month.

Old business included the member folders that Faye Wilson compiled. These folders were passed out at the meeting. Due to the confidentiality of membership information, members in training will not be given these folders until they join the Waupaca County Master Gardeners. Faye reviewed what information is included in the folders.

A planning meeting for the Waupaca County Community Gardens was held after the monthly business meeting. Terry Kramer is involved in this project.

New business included a basket from the Master Gardeners for the Eau Claire conference. Barb Lamb moved and Joan Schmitt seconded that a basket is made up and donated to this conference.

Bill Johnson discussed the computer equipment, including Micro Soft Power Point Program that the Master Gardeners have purchased. This is for everyone's use for Master Gardener business. Instruction on using this equipment should be provided. Members will need to complete a rental agreement to use the equipment. Bill mentioned that we did get a very good price for purchasing this equipment.

The scholarship committee has sent out applications to all the high schools. Scholarships to people attending technical college in the horticultural programs should also be considered because these people often work and settle in this area.

Our website needs to be updated and improved. We need to include pictures on our site. Pictures should be submitted to Susan Mahr for inclusion on our website.

Committee heads of the various children's garden are asked to develop an infomercial of their gardens for next month's meeting.

Newsletters should be going to all the people attending the Clintonville training sessions.

The spring plant sale will be June 3, and Debbie Krogwold is chairing this project. Posters advertising this sale were distributed. Pots and mini blinds for plant labels will be shared at the next monthly meeting. Sign up sheets for volunteering at the sale were passed around.

Members are asked to donate seeds for the various food pantries next month.

Lyle Mork spoke about the Clintonville Public Gardens, which has been established by a local arborist and with display gardens. Labor is needed to help with developing these gardens. Lyle has the contact information if anyone is interested in helping with this garden.

Ninth grade students from the Waupaca High School are helping with the gardens at Holly House and the Hutchinson House.

The April executive meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. in Weyauwega at the Coffee Klatch.

Nancy Johnson moved the meeting to adjournment.



Aphid Deterrent

*Submitted by Gloria Gruer
Source, Christine Bucks, editor of Great Garden Fix-its: Organic Remedies for Everything from Aphids to Weeds*

Aphids, also called "plant lice", can damage garden plants. To keep them away, spray plants with a homemade citrus mixture. Combine one tablespoon of freshly grated citrus rind (orange, lemon, or grapefruit) with one pint of boiling water. Let the mixture steep overnight, then strain it through a coffee filter into a spray bottle. Add three drops of washing liquid to the bottle. Aphids are repelled by the scent of the citrus rind, and the soap helps the mixture cling to the plants. Spray every 5 to 7 days until the aphids are gone.



Gardeners Calendar

May 5, 2007

Bus Trip to Madison/Oregon Area, Bus Pickup - Oshkosh

Join the Winnebago Co. MGs on a bus trip to the Madison area to visit several plant nurseries to purchase plants. Time is 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. \$38 with box lunch, \$30 without lunch. Make check payable to WCMGA and mail to Marge Bolding, treasurer, 1138 Evans St., Oshkosh, WI 54901. Confirmation sent via postcard. For more information contact Marge at marmen4105@sbcglobal.net.

May 18, 2007 (12:00 noon)

Pest Management in the Fruit Orchard

Brown Bag Program (contact your local UW County Extension Office for access). There are many types of insects and diseases that reduce the quality of the fruit that is produced in the home orchard. Join Bob Tomesh in a discussion for the annual planning and implementation of pest management using a combination of organic and chemical approaches.

May 19, 2007

Plant Sale, Fond du Lac

The Fond du Lac Co. MGA will offer a variety of plants for sale from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at UW-Fond du Lac.

May 19, 2007

Southeast Wisconsin MGA Plant Sale, Milwaukee,

SEWMG will hold its 12th annual perennial plant sale from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the DNR area at the State Fair Park. There will be thousands of MG locally grown perennials on sale. Free plants with parking receipt. For more information contact John Hahn.

June 2007

Invasive Species Awareness Month, Wisconsin

Governor Doyle has declared June as the third annual Invasive Species Awareness Month and has recognized this as an opportunity for all of us to join forces and "take action against the introduction and spread of invasive species". For more information contact Rachel Orwan, Invasive Species Awareness

Month Coordinator, at (715) 462-9614.

June 2, 2007

8th Annual Plant Sale, Appleton

The Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association will be holding their 8th Annual Plant Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, 2007, on the Outagamie County University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Office grounds at 3365 West Brewster Street in Appleton.

This sale offers a wide variety of new types of perennial and annual flowers, shade plants, vegetable plants, house plants, grasses, and garden composites, all at very reasonable prices.

Back by popular demand, we will be hosting our second annual Silent Auction, featuring unique and unusual plants.

This year Kevin Jarek, Outagamie County Crops, Soils, and Horticulture Agent will be presenting a Weeds Seminar at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Kevin will lead a discussion detailing what homeowners can do to correctly identify, control, and prevent weeds from becoming a problem not only in lawns, but landscapes in general.

The Outagamie Master Gardeners are very pleased to offer a new type of educational opportunity this year. UW-Extension Summer Horticulturist David Bayer will be conducting a Plant Diagnostic Clinic from 9:00 am until noon. Mr. Bayer will answer questions on plant diseases and welcomes samples of diseased plants for identification and will offer suggestions on prevention.

Master Gardeners will be available throughout the sale to answer gardening questions and personally help shoppers select plants for individual garden sites.

June 3, 2007

Plant Sale, Waupaca County MG's

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Waupaca County Fairgrounds in Weyauwega. Master Gardeners will be selling annuals, perennials, houseplants, native plants and garden accents.

For more information, contact Debbie Krogwold at 715-677-4974, dkrogw@co.waupaca.wi.us

June 12, 2007

Madison Garden/Nursery Bus Trip

Sponsored by Outagamie County Master Gardeners (OCMG).

Allen Centennial Garden, UW-Madison.

Major emphasis is herbaceous ornamental perennials

- Guided tour of this outstanding outdoor classroom located in the heart of the Madison campus (very difficult to drive to)

- Multiple garden areas (formal, water, etc).

- Virtual tour at

www.horticulture.wisc.edu/allencentennialgardens

Morningwood Farm, Mount Horeb

- Unique and high-quality perennials, trees, shrubs, evergreens and annuals.

(www.morningwoodfarm.com)

Landscape Design, McFarland, WI

- Specializes in rare and unusual plants

- Perennials, shrubs, etc

(www.stevelesch-ldi.com)

Cost is \$25 per person. Open to members and public. Transportation (Kobussen Coach Bus w/ bathroom & TV). Bring your own box lunch (no refrigeration available).

7:00 a.m. departure from UW-Extension, 3365 W. Brewster St. Appleton. Return time between 5:30 and 6:00 p.m.

Space is Limited. Your check reserves your seat. Make checks payable to Outagamie County Master Gardeners. Mail to Meg Hunsader, 3161 Winnegamie Dr, Appleton, WI 54914



Email Address Change

Patti Leiskau's new email address:
66pk1@sbcglobal.net



MASTER GARDENER SPRING PLANT SALE

Sunday, June 3, 2006

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Weyauwega Fairgrounds

Two Weeks Til' the Day . . .

- May 10th Waupaca County Master Gardener meeting. Bring extra pots to share with others. The volunteer signup sheet will be passed around. Take advantage of this great opportunity to accumulate volunteer hours! Pick up plant labels if you need them. There will be a brief plant sale committee meeting Thursday, May 10th, 2007, at 6 p.m. before the regular meeting.
- Start now dividing and potting your plants. Allow them a week or two to fill the pot and look beautiful for the sale. Especially hostas. Divide them just as they start peeping through the ground. They will fill your pots nicely! Remove any weeds from around the top of the plant before you pot them.
- Team up with a fellow Master Gardener to help with their garden if you don't have large enough plants yet to divide. I'm sure the extra hands will be appreciated!

Plant Sale Weekend . . .

- Saturday, June 2, 1 – 4 p.m. Bring plants and garden items to the Multipurpose Building/Showing at the Waupaca County Fairgrounds in Weyauwega, South Street entrance. All plants must be labeled (see label information below). Check for and remove any weeds.
- Markdowns. Towards the end of the sale day, some plants may be reduced in price to insure sale by 2 p.m. If you don't want your items marked down in price, please state so in writing and indicate on your plant label, NOT TO BE REDUCED.
- Leftover plants and other items must be picked up at the end of the sale. Otherwise, anything left over will be given to Waupaca County Master Gardener's garden projects.
- Volunteer Hours. Help is needed on both Saturday and Sunday. A sign-up sheet will be at the May 10th meeting, or you can contact Debbie Krogwold at 715-677-4974 or dkrogw@co.waupaca.wi.us

Plant Sale Labels – all labels must include . . .

- Botanical name
- Common name
- Cultivar name (if you know it)
- Annual/Perennial/Bi-Annual
- Height
- Bloom Time
- Color of Bloom
- Sun/Part Sun/Shade
- Your MG# -- refer to the MOST RECENT roster (numbers change as we add new members)
- Special note, if any, such as INVASIVE.

If you have any question on some of your plants, please seek out a fellow Master Gardener to assist you. We all LOVE plants and would be more than willing to help!

Salt Uses In the Kitchen

- Soak discolored glasses in a salt and vinegar solution to remove yellowish stains.
- Use salt to clean your discolored coffeepot.
- Sprinkle salt in your oven before scrubbing it clean.
- Clean greasy pans with a paper towel and salt.
- Rub salt on your pancake griddle to prevent your pancakes from sticking.
- If a fruit pie bubbles over in your oven, put a handful of salt on top of the spilled juice. The smell won't remain, and the mess and will bake into a dry, light crust which will wipe off easily after the oven has cooled.
- Use a mixture of salt and baking soda to sweeten the odor of your refrigerator.
- Freshen kitchen sponges by soaking them in salt water.
- Remove offensive odors from your stove with salt and cinnamon.
- Remove odors from sink drainpipes with a strong, hot solution of salt water.



Care Safety For Fruit and Vegetables

Excerpts from May 2004 newsletter, submitted by Marilyn Herman, Family Living Educator, UWEX,

The dirt and other 'natural' elements clinging to fruit, vegetables or herbs need to be washed off before freezing. Botulism is carried in dirt and even at freezer temperatures, will grow in any airtight container producing a deadly poison.

Put berries, herbs, or vegetables like greens or asparagus in a colander and run hot water through the food and colander for 20-30 seconds. Allow to drain well. If produce sits in water as you clean it, dirt and grime are likely to re-settle on the food.

Strawberries and other soft berries will not absorb water when rinsing them if there is more than a 10 degrees difference in water and fruit temperature. If berries are air temperature from the garden, use cool or cold water to rinse. If berries are chilled from the refrigerator when rinsing, use warm water to clean.



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.

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