

# Master Gardener Volunteer's Newsletter

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.*



## May Meeting Information

*Submitted by Terry Kramer*

**May 8th - Social 6:00-6:30 p.m.; Meeting 6:30-7:30  
p.m.; Program 7:30, Waupaca**

Terry Kramer and Pat Phair will give a Powerpoint  
presentation on the Waupaca High School/Community  
Garden at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held after the  
program.



## Seed Sharing at May Meeting

*Submitted by Rebecca Weber Schmoll*

I will bring heritage bean seeds, many varieties, for  
growing your own dried beans and angel trumpet  
flower seeds to share at the May meeting. Save some  
garden space!!



## New Email Addresses

*Submitted by Greg Blonde*

MGV members please contact my secretary or me at  
715-258-6230x12 with any changes regarding contact  
information. For example, send a change in name,  
email or mailing address, or phone number.

## May in the Garden

\*Dig and divide fall blooming  
perennials before top growth gets too  
tall. Move perennials every three years  
to prevent them from overcrowding.  
(See information regarding the June  
plant sale!)

\*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 the tips off garden phlox, asters,  
and mums to encourage the stems to  
branch for bushy growth and even more  
bloom.

\*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.

\*Plant onion sets, carrots, beets, chard,  
leaf lettuce, peas, potatoes, radishes, and  
spinach.

\*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.



## A Note From Our President, Kate Saunders

Ahhh...spring is finally here. I spent my weekend out in my gardens, raking off the pine needles, carefully uncovering my perennials, checking for buds on my shrubs and pruning away dead branches. It was wonderful to see the crocus and daffodils in bloom.

Although my muscles ached and I popped some ibuprofen before heading to bed, I felt such joy at being back out in my gardens that I didn't mind my sore back or aching shoulders.

On April 15 and 17, I was able to help cut and treat invasive species on the River Ridge Trail in Swan Park with MGV's Bill Johnson and Tom Sanders and two wonderful RRT volunteers. Bill and the RRT volunteers also worked on the 16th and we were able to establish all three test plots. Boy is Japanese Barberry wicked!! Thanks to Bill Johnson for all his hard work organizing this project.

I heard from Nancy Johnson that the plant sale transplant team did an efficient job making short work of transplanting thousands of seedlings for the sale. My 200 little Gazania seedlings are happy in their new 6-packs. This spring plant sale should be one of our best so far thanks to the organizing efforts of Dorrie Hipschmann and her plant sale crew. Now each of us needs to pot our perennial divisions and sign up to help out at the sale.

It was wonderful to see and hear the buzz when I walked into the meeting room at the courthouse on April 10<sup>th</sup>. I know that all of the projects are gearing up for the season as I watch groups meet to do their planning. Thanks for all your efforts; I trust that our MG projects will be served well again this season.

The May meeting will be chaired by our V.P. Nancy Johnson. I will be attending the graduation ceremony for MGV Suzanne Wozniak from the Leadership Waupaca County Program. I am honored to represent the Master Gardener Organization at this banquet

Enjoy your spring gardening; it is my favorite time of the year!  
-Kate



**All members are encouraged to submit newsletter information!**

**June articles are due by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

### Tips & Tidbits: Roses

*Submitted by Gloria Gruer*

*Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Garden Variety by Jan Riggerbach*

The challenge: You want to encourage your roses to have big, plentiful flowers. You've heard that the plants are heavy feeders, but you don't know when and how to fertilize them this spring.

The solution: The American Rose Society provides a quick and easy basic recipe for a spring start-up fertilizer. For each rose bush, mix one cup bone meal, one cup cotton-seed meal, one-half cup each of blood meal, fish meal and Epsom salts. Immediately after you finish spring pruning, water the soil if it is dry. Scratch this mixture into the top inch or two of soil in a circle to the outer perimeter of the bush, then water again.

## Happy Birthday to You! May Birthdays

*Submitted by Connie Jess Zolkoske*

05/05 Carol Spiegelberg

05/13 Bill Johnson

05/27 Ila Sanders

Best Wishes to All of You!



## April Meeting Notes

*Submitted by Peggy Kramer*

The meeting was called to order by President Kate Saunders at 8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kathleen Akey, Greg Blonde, Julie Bosquez, Leigh Braatz, Lorry Brace. Alice Brown, Dort DeWild, Kay Durrant, Gloria Gruer, Dorrie Hipschman, Bill Johnson, Carol Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Peggy Kramer, Terry Kramer, Barb Lamb, Patti Leiskau, Sharon Lemmers, Hope MacIntyre, Agnes Marchel, Sally Marchel-Handrich, Lyle Mork, Pam Nitke, Barb Nollenberg, Pat Ritchie, Ila Sanders, Tom Sanders, Kate Saunders, Joan Schmitt, Judy Shaw, Lee Shaw, Carol Spiegelberg, Jeff Weasner, Nancy Weasner, Rebecca Weber Schmoll, Faye Wilson, Suzanne Wozniak, and Connie Zolkoske.

Gloria Gruer made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 13, 2008 meeting as written. Patty Leiskau seconded and the motion carried.

Pat Ritchie gave the State Representative's Report. Pat has raffle tickets available for the summer conference. Tickets are 6 for \$5.00. All prizes are monetary. Please contact Pat if you would like to buy, or sell, some raffle tickets. The early registration date for the summer conference has been extended to May 1, 2008. To find the online registration, go to the state Master Gardener website.

Kate Saunders explained that the Standard Operating Procedure Committee is nearing completion of the written project. She will contact people who have not yet sent in their project reports or descriptions.

Sally Marchel-Handrich gave the Membership Committee report. Sally expressed that volunteering is vital to our Master Gardener Association. The plant sales are our main money raisers, so the committee encourages 100% participation from the membership. There are unlimited opportunities for contributing. Sally passed a sheet for everyone to pledge their support for the Spring Plant Sale by indicating what they will be doing for it.

Spring Plant Sale Committee report: Nancy Johnson read the Plant Sale rules to the membership. These rules will be outlined in the next monthly newsletter.

Dorrie Hipschman stated that projects (such as the specific gardens, etc.) may put in a written request for types of plants they would be able to utilize if they are left over at the end of the sale.

Faye Wilson presided over the voting of the By-Law changes. Each member present was to cast a written ballot. Ballots were counted and each new By-Law was passed.

New Business: Jeff Weasner announced that the company that sold us the Latin pronunciation books would let him send back the surplus and receive credit.

Nancy Weasner announced that the Hutchinson House committee will meet at the Hutchinson House on Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 am.

Terry Kramer gave a report on the Waupaca Community Garden. The garden has received a grant from Roundy's in the amount of \$1000.00. He shared the "Adopt a Row" concept with the membership. For \$25.00 (tax deductible) people may purchase a row and their name will be posted on a plaque in the garden.

Kate Saunders passed along some important pieces of information. The first was an article about Heirloom plants. The following websites are useful in considering these plants:

[www.seedtrust.com](http://www.seedtrust.com)  
[www.tomatogrowers.com](http://www.tomatogrowers.com)  
[www.heirloomseeds.com](http://www.heirloomseeds.com)

Kate also spoke about hanging birdfeeders 8 feet off the ground in order to avoid deer feeding at the feeders.

Members are encouraged to take pictures of all projects and send them into their local papers so that WMGV gets publicity on all the good that they do in the area.

Nancy Johnson moved that the meeting be adjourned. Joan Schmit seconded. Kate Sanders adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.



## Herb for Migraines

Source: <http://www.drweil.com/drw/u/TIP02825/Herb-for-Migraines.html>

If you suffer from migraines, and don't like the thought of taking strong prescription medications, consider trying butterbur (*Petasites hybridus*). This herb is native to Europe, northern Africa and southwestern Asia, and has been used for centuries as an effective remedy for headaches, back pain, and asthma. More recent evidence suggests migraine sufferers may benefit from butterbur's actions - reducing inflammation and spasms in blood-vessel walls - without experiencing the side effects associated with prescription medications (except some burping). A study published in *Neurology*, Dec. 28, 2004 reported that after four months, people taking 75 mg of butterbur for migraines had 48 percent fewer migraine attacks per month - similar to the effects of prescription migraine drugs. Be very careful about the butterbur you purchase - only use butterbur extracts that are guaranteed to be free of pyrrolizidine alkaloids. The adult dosage ranges from 50-100 mg twice daily, and should be taken with meals.



## A Garden Craft: Hanging Bird Basin

Source: [www.marthastewart.com](http://www.marthastewart.com)

Originally sold as washbasin sets with pitchers, durable ironstone basins can be purchased at flea markets for between \$5 and \$30. To make one into a birdbath, choose a basin with a wide lip.

How-To: Cut a length of 18-gauge copper wire to equal the bowl's circumference plus 4 inches. Thread 2 inches of wire through a lead sleeve, and loop wire back through the sleeve, pinching with needle-nose pliers to secure. Thread 8 sleeves onto this "ring" wire from the other end, spacing them evenly in pairs. Secure each sleeve. Cut 4 pieces of the 18-gauge wire to desired hanging length. Loop one end of each hanging wire between each pair of lead sleeves. Slip sleeve onto hanging wire, and secure the loop. Thread another sleeve

onto the ring wire. Form ring wire into a circle, looping one end through the original loop and then threading it through the last sleeve and securing it. Insert basin. Twist the hanging wires together, several inches from the top, and form a hook. A rock in the basin helps small birds wade or drink.



## Upcoming Events

Source: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

### May 5, 2008 Wildflowers and Butterflies -- Naturally Together, Wausau, WI

This program from 2:00 - 3:15 p.m. will introduce you to the relationship of native Wisconsin wildflowers and the butterflies that feed upon them during one or more of their life stages. This presentation by NCW MGV Arlene Brandenburg will focus on an appropriate selection of wildflowers for your garden or meadow. \$3, preregistration required. For more information contact the Marathon Co. UW-Extension Office at (715) 261-1231 or download the [Wildflowers and Butterflies Program Flyer](#).

### May 8, 2008 Spring Garden Walk Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Join Director of Horticulture, Natalia Bjorklund, for a personal tour of the more than 25,000 beautiful spring bulbs and other blooms that create Gardens of the Fox Cities' must-see garden display, Fox Cities Blooms, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Free. For more information, contact [Gardens of the Fox Cities](#), 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920) 993-1900.

### May 14, 2008 Fairy Gardens Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Learn the legends of fairies as you fashion your own miniature garden for the deck, office or home. All materials and plants included. This class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$24 (\$20 member), advance registration is required. For more information or to register, contact [Gardens of the Fox Cities](#), 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920) 993-1900.

### May 17, 2008 An Evening with Dr. Allen Armitage Burlington, WI

Dr. Allen Armitage, world renowned author and plantsman, will lead an intimate walk-about through the gardens of Northwind and discuss plant life as he sees it. Following the walk he will be available for book signing as well as questions. Wine and hors d'oeuvres served throughout the evening from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. \$50, reservations required. At Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd, Burlington. For more information call (262) 248-8229 or visit the [Northwind Perennial Farm website](#).

## Invasive Plants Project Establishes Demonstration Plots on River Ridge Trail, Waupaca

Submitted by Bill Johnson

Demonstration plots were successfully established by the Invasive Plants Project Team during the week of April 14, 2008. The plots are located along the northern segment of the River Ridge Trail in Swan Park, City of Waupaca. The purpose is to show users of the Trail, and other visitors, how several of the more common troublesome invasive plant species can be effectively controlled by selected chemical treatments and application methods.

Three plots were established. The plots extend about 100 feet along the trail and about 25 feet back from the trail. The first plot had a heavy stand of common and glossy buckthorn, the second plot had a heavy mixed stand of common and glossy buckthorn and Japanese barberry, and the third plot was predominantly Japanese barberry. Scattered through the plots were other invasive plant species such as oriental bittersweet, wild grape, raspberry and blackberry, and prickly ash. These are all invasive plant species common to wooded uplands in the Waupaca area. The invasive plants present were all cut at the base of the plant and the cut stumps were treated with Element 4 (a generic form of Garlon 4) in Bark Oil Blue carrier applied at a concentration of 12% active ingredient (triclopyr).

Appropriate signage will be placed on each of the demonstration plots and they will be monitored during the upcoming growing season with special emphasis on the comparison of the stands of invasive plant species in treated areas with adjacent untreated areas.

Thank you to those IP Project Team MGVs who helped establish the plots. And a very special thanks for significant help every day we were out there from Rhiney Malzhan and

Bill Dunn, two men who volunteer in maintaining that segment of the River Ridge Trail.



### Hibiscus acetosella

Source: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

The Master Gardener's State Website is featuring new spring articles. The article regarding the *Hibiscus acetosella* begins with:

Most people grow *Hibiscus* plants for their showy flowers – the exotic ones you envision on tropical islands. There is one species, however, that is more noted for its interesting foliage than the flowers. *Hibiscus acetosella* is a bold addition to the garden, with deep red-purple foliage that makes a great contrast with green and silver-leaved plants. This tender perennial subshrub, native to tropical East Africa, is hardy only to zone 8 or 9, but is easily grown as an annual in colder climates. It is not often referred to by a common name, but you may see it listed as African rosemallow, false roselle, maroon mallow, cranberry hibiscus or red leaved hibiscus.

The palmate leaves are dissected to varying degrees, depending on the cultivar, and in general are reminiscent of a Japanese maple. The leaves of the species are variable, lobed or unlobed, green and red or all red, but those of selections offered as ornamentals have dark maroon, bronze colored, or variegated leaves and stems. The foliage is particularly attractive when backlit and the sun shines through the leaves. The plants grow 3-5 feet tall and up to 30" wide in one season.

(For more information and beautiful photos, see the article in its entirety at the state website.)



# Waupaca County Master Gardener Volunteers 2008 Spring Plant Sale Policies and Guidelines

*Submitted by Nancy Johnson*

## General Information

The Waupaca County Master Gardener Volunteers (WCMGVs) shall have, at a minimum, a spring and fall plant sale each year. The plant sales shall be held at the Waupaca County Fairgrounds in Weyauwega, WI.

## Leadership

Each plant sale shall be co-chaired by two members of the WCMGVs with a new co-chair appointed for each sale. The spring assistant co-chair will become chairperson of the fall sale and the fall assistant chair will become chairperson for the spring sale. This will ensure that there will always be an experienced chairperson leading each sale.

## Purchasing of Plants by WCMGVs

Prior to the plant sale and up to 11am during the plant sale, no member shall be allowed to make any purchases or to put aside and save any plant or item from the sale for purchase later. At 11am and thereafter, members will be allowed to purchase plants at current price.

## Price Policy

The day of the sale, all plants, unless specifically designated, will be reduced 50% at 1pm.

## Unsold Plants and Merchandise

Project chairpersons or project committee members must submit written requests to the plant sale chairperson for unsold plants they would like to be distributed to their projects. Plants will be distributed, as they are available. Individual WCMGVs are free to take any plants remaining at the end of the sale after the distribution of plants to projects.



## Let's Get Ready for the Plant Sale!

*Submitted by Dorrie Hipschman*

The plant sale is June 1st and all master gardeners should divide and pot up their perennials in mid-May. THANKS!



*Happy Mother's Day!*

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.

Waupaca County Master Gardeners  
University of Wisconsin Extension  
811 Harding Street  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
Phone: (715) 258-6230



Waupaca County



