



GREEN PAGES

A newsletter for people interested in horticulture and natural resources in Western Wisconsin
April 2009 No.11

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About this newsletter

This monthly newsletter's purpose is to disseminate research based information on topics of horticultural and natural resources in Western WI. In addition, it's purpose is to connect the public with local events of similar topics.



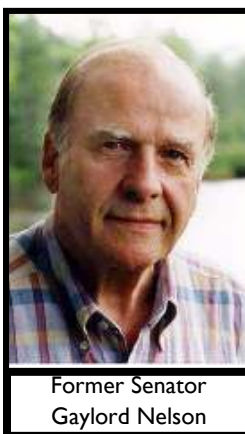
How the First Earth Day Came About

By Senator Gaylord Nelson,
Founder of Earth Day

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>

What was the purpose of Earth Day? How did it start? These are the questions I am most frequently asked.

Actually, the idea for Earth Day evolved over a period of seven years starting in 1962. For several years, it had been troubling me that the state of our environment was simply a non-issue in the politics of the country. Finally, in November 1962, an idea occurred to me that was, I thought, a virtual cinch to put the environment into the political "limelight" once and for all. The idea was to persuade President Kennedy to give visibility to this issue by going on a national conservation tour. I flew to Washington to discuss the proposal with Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who liked the idea. So did the President. The President began his five-day, eleven-state conservation tour in September 1963. For many reasons the tour did not succeed in putting the issue onto the national political agenda. However, it was the germ of the idea that ultimately flowered into Earth Day.



Former Senator
Gaylord Nelson

mental issues to a variety of audiences in some twenty-five states. All across the country, evidence of environmental degradation was appearing everywhere, and everyone noticed except the political establishment. The environmental issue simply was not to be found on the nation's political agenda. The people were concerned, but the politicians were not.

After President Kennedy's tour, I still hoped for some idea that would thrust the environment into the political mainstream. Six years would pass before the idea that became Earth Day occurred to me while on a conservation speaking tour out West in the summer of 1969. At the time, anti-Vietnam War demonstrations, called "teach-ins," had spread to college campuses all across the nation. Suddenly, the idea occurred to me - why not organize a huge grassroots protest over what was happening to our environment?

I was satisfied that if we could tap into the environmental concerns of the general public and infuse the student anti-war energy into the environmental cause, we could generate a demonstration that would force this issue onto the political agenda. It was a big gamble, but worth a try.

I continued to speak on environ-

(Continued on page 4)

National Volunteer Week (19th-25th): Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers

*Right here in Eau Claire County
we have a hidden treasure...*

The Eau Claire Area Master
Gardener Volunteers!

They provide thousands of hours of volunteer services in the realm of horticulture and environmental stewardship. In fact, in 2008 the organization provided 4,725 hours. They strive to create a healthy community with their efforts. They teach, beautify the city, support the Eau Claire UW Extension office, and financially support youth gardens in low income neighborhoods. In addition, they host an annual Winter Garden Seminar that attracts over 160 participants and host an annual plant sale.

The next time you meet a MGV or attend one of their events please thank them for their efforts. They deserve it!



The Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteers are a local association of the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. Members in the local organization are from Buffalo, Dunn, Chippewa, and Eau Claire counties. Many counties around Wisconsin have their own local association and many states have their own program as well. If you'd like information on how to become a Eau Claire Area Master Gardener Volunteer contact Erin

LaFaive, Horticulture Educator, erin.lafaive@co.eau-claire.wi.us or 715-839-4712. For those Green Pages readers not in the Eau Claire area, contact your local extension office <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/>.

National Volunteer Week began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering.

Thank You Master Gardener Volunteers!

UW-Eau Claire Welcomes Sustainability Speaker

Terry Gips, the president of Sustainability Associates, is scheduled for a campus visit on Monday March 30. An agricultural economist, he also works as a sustainability business consultant and an independent Natural Step Framework (NSF) instructor.

Mr. Gips will speak on "Taking the Natural Step to Sustainability: A Win-Win-Win for Business, Communities and the Earth," from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Schofield Auditorium. This is free and open to the public. Mr. Gips' is a lively and engaging speaker, whose presentation is informed by over 30

years of experience in global environmental leadership, government policy, sustainable development, business management and consulting.

This event will mark the beginning of Earth Month in the Chippewa Valley, to be followed by a variety of events throughout April and culminating in the Saturday April 25th Earth Day Celebration in Owen Park.

More information about Mr. Gips is available online. <http://www.sustainabilityassociates.com/>
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/3/b93/782>

Invasive Species: Dodder

This is an example of a plant that is native to our area but is invasive to other native species too.

What is dodder?

Dodder is the name of several species of parasitic plants that are widely distributed in

North America and Europe. Plants parasitized by dodder include alfalfa, carrots, onions, potatoes, cranberries, a variety of herbaceous and woody ornamentals, and many weed species. Parasitized plants become weakened, have reduced yields (in the case of agronomic crops), and can potentially die.



Spaghetti-like dodder plants parasitizing carrots.

What does dodder look like?

Dodders lack roots and leaves, and also lack chlorophyll, the green pigment found in most plants. Dodders have slender, yellow-orange stems that cover infected plants in a spreading, tangled, spaghetti-like mass. From May through July, dodders produce white, pink, or yellowish flowers.

Where does dodder come from?

Dodders produce large numbers of seeds that germinate in the spring to produce shoots that attach to suitable host plants. Dodders penetrate host tissue, and absorb nutrients via specialized structures called haustoria. Once established on a host, the bottom of a dodder plant dies (thereby severing its connection with the soil), and the dodder plant becomes dependent on the host plant for water and nutrients.

How do I save plants parasitized by dodder?

On woody ornamentals, simply prune out dodder-parasitized branches. When small patches of

dodder occur among herbaceous plants, apply contact herbicides such as 2,4-D early in the season, preferably before dodder seedlings have parasitized host plants. Keep in mind that use of contact herbicides

will likely also kill host plants. Alternatively, cut or burn dodder and parasitized plants to keep dodder from spreading, and to prevent seed production. For widespread dodder infestations, a combination of frequent tilling, burning and herbicide applications may be needed to achieve control. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions of the herbicide that you select to ensure that you use the product in the safest and most effective manner possible.

How do I avoid problems with dodder in the future?

Dodder's wide host range and ability to survive as dormant seeds in soil make eradication difficult. Preventing introduction of dodder is the best method of control. Use dodder-free seed, and be sure to clean equipment after working in a dodder-infested area. Try to restrict animal movement between infested and non-infested areas as well. Depending upon the specific crop or location, use of pre-emergent herbicides containing DCPA, dichlobenil, propyzamide, or trifluralin may be possible to prevent germination of dodder seeds. Destroy actively growing dodder and any parasitized plants before the dodder produces seeds. In agricultural settings where dodder has been a problem, rotate away from susceptible crops and grow non-host crops (e.g., corn, soybeans, or small grain cereals). In conjunction with rotation, adequate control of weed hosts is critical to achieve control.

Jennifer Clifford, Amilcar Sanchez, Trenton Stanger, and Brian Hudelson

Recommended Book on Plant Invasive Species

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest: An Illustrated Guide to Their Identification and Control by Elizabeth J. Czarapata reminded me again how many invasive plant species. The great thing about this book is the pictures show the plant in various stages and different parts such as the flower, leaves, and twigs for easier identification.

The author was director of the Weed-Out Program of the Park People of Milwaukee County, a member of the Wild Ones Natural Landscapers and the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin, and the founder of the Wind Lake Environmental Club.

Thank you to the Master Gardener Volunteer who donated this book to the Eau Claire UW Extension Office.

Asian Multicolored Lady Beetle



The latin name is *Harmonia axyridis*.

Despite the fact that this nonnative beetle is an effective biological control agent of aphids and other pests, it is a nuisance to homeowners when it invades houses in large numbers while searching for protected sites to overwinter in the fall. The adults occurs in many color forms, from pale yellow-orange to brighter orange, with or without black spots on the wing covers. Prevention is the key to keeping this beetle from getting into homes.

Control

- Seal windows and doors with weather stripping.
- Caulk cracks around windows, doors and pipes.
- Screen or seal attic and exhaust vents.
- Use a vacuum cleaner to pick up beetles in the house. Using pesticides to kill them is not suggested.

UW Extension Master Gardener Program

History of Earth Day (Continued from page 4)

At a conference in Seattle in September 1969, I announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment and invited everyone to participate. The wire services carried the story from coast to coast. The response was electric. It took off like gangbusters. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air - and they did so with spectacular exuberance. For the next four months, two members of my Senate staff, Linda Billings and John Heritage, managed Earth Day affairs out of my Senate office.

Five months before Earth Day, on Sunday, November 30, 1969, The New York Times carried a lengthy article by Gladwin Hill reporting on the astonishing proliferation of environmental events:

"Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation's campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam...a national day of

observance of environmental problems...is being planned for next spring...when a nationwide environmental 'teach-in'...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned...."



It was obvious that we were headed for a spectacular success on Earth Day. It was also obvious that grassroots activities had ballooned beyond the capacity of my U.S. Senate office staff to keep up with the telephone calls, paper work, inquiries, etc. In mid-January, three months before Earth Day, John Gardner, Founder of Common Cause, provided temporary space for a Washington, D.C. headquarters. I staffed the office with college students and selected Denis Hayes as coordinator of activities.

Earth Day worked because of the spontaneous response at the grassroots level. We had neither the time nor resources to organize 20 million demonstrators and the thousands of schools and local communities that participated. That was the remarkable thing about Earth Day. It organized itself.

Horticulture Quiz

Test your knowledge of plant term or simply look at the answers and learn some terms! Match the answers to the question. Answers are on the bottom of the page. Information obtained from the Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer Program Training Manual.



Questions

1. Contain relatively large amounts of hardened xylem tissue in the central core, and are typical of most fruit trees and ornamental trees and shrubs.
2. Contain only small amounts of xylem tissue and usually live for only one growing season.
3. Pass through their entire life cycle from seed germination to seed production in one growing season, and then die.
4. Plants that start from seed and produce vegetative structures and food storage organs the first season. During the second season, flowers, fruit and seed develop to complete the life cycle.
5. Live for many years and after reaching maturity typically produce flowers and seeds annually.
6. The ___ is the first part of the seedling to emerge from the seed. It develops into the primary root.
7. The ___ is the portion of the seedling between the radicle and the first leaf-like structure.
8. ___ encase the embryo and are usually different in shape from the leaves that the mature plant will produce.

Answers

- A. Cotyledons
- B. Woody stems
- C. Annuals
- D. Hypocotyl
- E. Perennials
- F. Biennials
- G. Radicle
- H. Herbaceous



Cucumber Beetles

Striped and spotted cucumber beetles are a problem on cucumbers and melons mainly because they transmit a bacterial wilt. The first symptom of this disease is a distinct wilting of individual leaves. Eventually, the entire plant wilts and dies. Plants infected with bacterial wilt will not recover. It is therefore important to control the beetles early in the season to prevent infection.

Control



- Cover plants with floating row cover to keep the beetles out (but you must uncover flowering plants for the bees to pollinate).
- Remove diseased plants immediately to prevent the spread to other plants.
- Use insecticides to control the adults, following label directions. Do not apply carbaryl when bees are present.

Text provided by UW-Extension Master Gardeners & picture by UW Garden Facts reference sheet

#XHT1156

April Gardening Tips

- Late winter to early spring is the ideal time of year to prune your apple, cherry, peach, pear or plum tree.
- Test soil every 3-5 years before adding nutrients.
- Set out pansy plants when ground is workable.
- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as the ground can be worked.
- Fertilize shade tree and shrubs with high-nitrogen fertilizer (16-8-8) when buds swell.
- Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- Rake lawn when excess moisture has been absorbed and lawn has had time to dry out.
- Plant strawberries as soon as ground can be worked.
- Remove mulch from strawberries when leaves start to grow. Leave mulch near beds for late frost protection of blossoms if necessary.
- Plant grass seed from late April through May if you haven't done so last fall. Remember, the best time to plant grass seed is mid-August through mid-September.
- Dig and divide fall-blooming perennials before vigorous tip growth.
- Remove rose cones when soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from around rose plants. Prune rose canes if not done last fall.
- Rake and clean up winter debris as weather allows.
- Reseed bare spots, and establish a new lawn, if you desire.
- Apply a pre-emergent crabgrass herbicide to your established lawn (read labels carefully).
- Mow your lawn to remove 1/3 of the current grass height. Grass should be 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 inches tall after mowing.
- The sap in maples and birch trees is running strong now. Nevertheless, now is a good time to prune these trees. Don't worry about the bleeding of the sap. Some scientists believe this sap can actually help seal the wounds.



Yard Waste Directory



There is no municipal facility in Eau Claire County that accepts yard waste materials such as leaves, grass clippings or garden refuse. This has been considered in the past but due to the anticipated volume of materials, a yard waste facility would have to be an engineered site at a minimum cost of \$150,000.

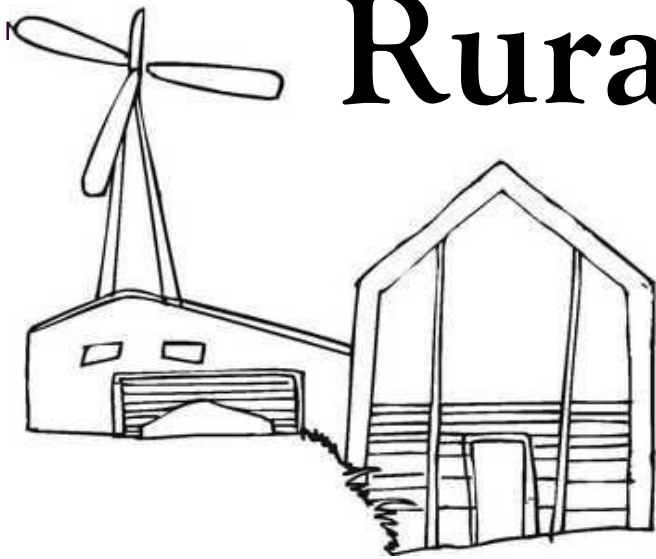
In place of a central collection site, the recycling program has put together a yard waste directory consisting of businesses and homeowners who accept leaves, grass, pine needles, and other materials. A paper copy of the directory, printed in spring, is available at most libraries, at the Eau Claire City Hall, and in the Planning Department in the County Courthouse.

To use this list, find the business or homeowner who accepts the type of yard waste you wish to dispose of, give them a call, and make arrangements for either drop-off or pick-up of the

...a yard waste directory consists of businesses and homeowners who accept leaves, grass, pine needles, and other materials.

material. The list is found at http://www.co.eau-claire.wi.us/health_and_environment/Recycle/yardwaste.htm or call Jon Tullman at 715-839-6190.

If you would like to receive yard wastes by being added to the Yard Waste Directory contact Jon Tulman, jon.tulman@co.eau-claire.wi.us, 715-839-6190. He needs full name (only first names are published), full address (not given to the public), what you are willing to accept, phone number (that's how the public contacts you), and any specific instructions.



Rural Living Day

Making the Most Out of Country Life

Saturday, April 18, 2009
Beaver Creek Reserve
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

- * Discover tools that will help you learn more about your land.
- * Expand your knowledge on ways to use your land and resources.

- * Dig into resources that will help you make your country living dream a reality.

Join Us for a Day that Includes:

Exhibits

Lee Christianson, Key Note Speaker

Presentations on:

- * On-site Energy Production
- * Organic Gardening
- * Private Woodlot Management
- * Large & Small Scale Prairies
- * Learning About Your Land
- * Wild Country Critters
- * Small Livestock Operations
- * Earning a Living on the Land
- * Rain Barrels & Rain Gardens

***After the event, you are welcome to
further explore the grounds at Beaver
Creek Reserve***

Registration Fee:

\$25.00 per person

*Includes Lunch &
Access to Beaver Creek Reserve*

For More Information Contact
Eau Claire County UW-Extension
227 First Street West
Altoona, WI 54720
(715) 839-4712

Beaver Creek Reserve

is located 3 1/2 miles north of
Fall Creek, Wisconsin
on County Rd K
(12 miles east of Eau Claire)

Events

Chippewa Falls Public Library Earth Day Events

The Chippewa Falls Public Library has designated the entire month of April to Environmental Awareness. A combination of documentaries & presentations by the Chippewa Valley Master Gardener Association will touch on local, national, & global issues. **Free. No registration required. For more information stop by the Information Desk, call 723-1146, <http://www.chippewafallslibrary.org/>, or email cfplref@ifls.lib.wi.us**

Shoreland Landscaping: A View from Across the Water— Thursday April 30. 6:00 PM, Mary Jo Fleming and Linda Stockinger

Shoreland landscaping involves more than just choosing plants that suit growing conditions. The presentation will offer basic information about zoning laws for buffer strips and viewing corridors, planting methods that control erosion on sandy slopes, and appropriate native plants for a variety of vegetative layers.

Starting a Vegetable Garden— Thursday, April 23, 6:00 PM - Brian Hefty, instructor

If you're a new gardener and would like to learn how to start a vegetable garden this is the class for you! We'll talk about the best location for your garden, a variety of garden layouts, what vegetable plants to grow and maybe even a little about some garden pests. We will also talk about the exciting new opportunity for community gardening being offered in Chippewa Falls.



King Corn—Monday, April 20, 6:00 PM

Curt Ellis & Ian Cheney. Fueled by curiosity and a dash of naiveté, college buddies Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis return to their ancestral home of Greene, Iowa, to find out how the modest corn kernel conquered America. With the help of real farmers, powerful fertilizer, government aid, and genetically modified seeds, the friends manage to grow one acre of corn. Along the way, they unlock the hidden truths about America's modern food system.



An Inconvenient Truth—Thursday, April 9, 6:00 PM- Al Gore.

A passionate and inspiring look at former Vice President Al Gore's campaign to expose the myths and misconceptions of global warming, and to create public awareness on the subject.

Building Healthy Soil— Thursday, April 16, 6:00 PM - Jerry Clark, UW-Extension Crops and Soils Educator

Soil is the backbone of any productive garden. Learn about what makes a soil healthy. Nutrients, microorganisms, and organic matter all contribute to a healthy garden. Come and learn about soil structure, texture and how nutrients interact with your garden plants. Find out how simple home composting can add to your garden's well being!



Honey Bee's Honey-Do List

Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Wise Nature Center

Join naturalists Mike Harden and Pam Rasmussen on a guided tour of the Schmidt Maple Forest near Stanley. The Schmidt Forest is a Nature Conservancy site managed by UW-Eau Claire. The spring ephemeral bloom is spectacular and your expert guides will share interesting and important information on many of the plants encountered. Meet at the Nature Center, we'll carpool to the site. Be sure to bring your field guides and binoculars, warblers should be present.

Full payment required at registration until April 29. 715-877-2212

Friends \$5 Adult/\$2 Child
Nonmembers \$7 Adult/\$3 Child



Trainings

Master Composter Training

The locations for the Master Composter Program initial training workshops have been set for the spring of 2009. Workshops will be held in four locations this year.

The Master Composter program is a train the trainer program that aims to build the capacity of composters to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for composting with others. In order to become a certified Master Composter trainees must attend the one day workshop, participate in a Wisline program and complete three outreach activities.

The composters who participate in the program will gain a more thorough understanding of the composting process as well as common uses for compost. The program also provides an introduction to vermicomposting and techniques to reduce the amount of waste generated. Most importantly Master Composter trainees will learn strategies that will enable them to share their knowledge and interest in composting with others.

One day workshops are scheduled to be held in the following communities:

- Milwaukee County, April 18
- Barron County, April 25

For additional information about the scheduled workshops or the Master Composter Program please contact:

Joe Van Rossum,
SHWEC Recycling Specialist
vanrossum@epd.engr.wisc.edu
608-262-0936



Master Food Preservation Training

Wondering what to do with all that garden produce that you are sure to have come August this year? We are happy to announce the availability of Master Food Preserver training classes this summer. This training is appropriate for both UWEX staff and interested volunteers; with each class ideally having a mix of both types of participants. Pre-registration is required.



Do you want to learn about home canning, freezing foods, or drying foods so that you can teach others? Then consider attending the **Master Food Preserver and Food Safety Volunteer** training! This 3-day program is designed to introduce you to the basics of food safety and home food preservation. Participants completing the pretest, the 3-day hands-on training, and scoring a satisfactory grade on the daily take-home examinations and the final test will be certified as **Master Food Preservers**. Master Food Preservers are asked to provide 20 hours of volunteer service annually to UW-Extension in their county, helping to answer general food safety and food preservation questions.

Over the course of the 3-day workshop, you will have the opportunity to learn about the following topics:

- General food safety, microorganisms and home food processing; Canning high acid foods like peaches and apple pie filling; Canning low acid foods like carrots, green beans or meat; Freezing and drying food; Making jams and jellies; Canning acidified foods like salsa, pickles and tomatoes; Successful fermentation to produce sauerkraut or genuine dill pickles; There will be time set aside for learning, group discussion and hands-on exercises.

This training will be offered at 3 locations around the state this summer: Ashland, WI - June 24-26; Green Bay, WI - July 7-9; Mosinee, WI - August 11-13

Please contact Barb Ingham at bhingham@wisc.edu or 608-263-7383 for questions about the program. Please contact the appropriate location with questions about registration.

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people interested in horticulture
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Unless otherwise noted, articles for this newsletter are submitted and/or written by Eau Claire County UW-Cooperative Extension Horticulture Educator Erin LaFaive. Unless otherwise noted, graphics are from clipart. Newsletter layout by Nikki Jackson.

For more Eau Claire County
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go to our website:
www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/eauc Claire/

Phone: 715-839-4712

Fax: 715-839-6277

M-F 8AM-5PM

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