



JUNEAU COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS ✨

NEWSLETTER

December 2008

UW-Extension Juneau County



Seasons Greeting

We wish you all

A Very Merry & Blessed Christmas



And

A Positively Happy New Year

Note from Gypsy

Dear Friends

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I told Santa Claus to tell his cousin "Mother Nature" to be good to us this spring – after all I've been a very "good girl" this year.

Seed catalogs will soon be here. So curl up and look at your new "wish books". Anticipate the new garden year and stay warm while the snow is flying. A new season is coming and we're not getting any younger!

Until next time

Gypsy Jean

aka Jean Morton



VARIATIONS THEMES ON CHRISTMAS SONGS

SUBMITTED BY RICH MILGROM



GOD REST YE, WEARY GARDENERS

(sung to "God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen")

God rest ye, weary gardeners, let's take the winter off
Remember the creator left himself one day for golf
To sleep in isn't such a sin, though workaholics scoff
Oh, I'm hiding 'til April or May
April or May
Oh, I'm hiding 'til April or May.



I SAW THREE SEEDS

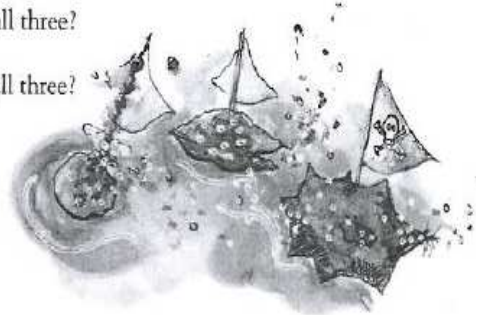
(sung to "I Saw Three Ships")

I saw three seeds come floating in
To my backyard, to my backyard
I saw three seeds come floating in
To my backyard in the morning

And what plants were those seeds all three?
In my backyard, in my backyard
And what plants were those seeds all three?
In my backyard in the morning

Invasives from the farthest realms
In my backyard, in my backyard
Invasives from the farthest realms
In my backyard in the morning

My plants are gone, the weeds remain
In my backyard, in my backyard
Exotics will forever reign
In my backyard in the morning.



Here's another idea: I can't vouch for the accuracy of the following, but it does make sense - maybe.

Submitted by the editor

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me. What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas? Today, I found out.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit--Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit--Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

So there is your history for today. This knowledge was shared with me and I found it interesting and enlightening, and now I know how that strange song may have become a Christmas Carol

Juneau County Master Gardeners

There are over 50 members of our association, with 21 trained in 2008 and 27 certified for 2009.

In 2008 we volunteered	2	hours in youth education
	27	hours in community education
	1,149	hours in support service
and participated in	937	hours in continuing education



The Juneau County MGs (JCMGA) started in 2003 with only 4 members and has now grown to over 50 members of which 27 are certified. We continue to publish a monthly newsletter, hold meetings April through October, and have been acknowledged several times in the local newspapers for the work in our surrounding communities.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. Two classes were given at the local library: Food Preservation Presentation and Container Gardening.
2. Two plant sales were conducted over Memorial Day weekend by the JCMGA with profits donated to The Carl W. Nelson Animal Shelter and Relay for Life – Cancer and Diabetes. Plant sales continued through the summer for the Animal Shelter, totaling over \$700. The total for Relay for Life and Diabetes was \$1,150.
3. JCMGVs began restoring a Healing Garden at the Hess Memorial Hospital in Mauston, and did planting at the Moose Lodge in Mauston, the Boorman House, Prairie Flower Restoration at Buckhorn State Park and planters in New Lisbon. Several members did individual projects at churches, government buildings, and historical sites.
4. JCMGVs decorated a sunroom at the Juneau Co. Historical Boorman House for their Christmas walk.
5. The JCMGA's booth at the Juneau County Fair included information and plant sales (over \$300). We installed a temporary planting in front of the 4-H building (right). Several volunteers also helped with judging the 4-H produce and plants entries.



Healing Garden, Hess Memorial Hospital, Mauston



Highlighted Project: Hunger Prevention

Several members put in plantings at the Mauston Community Sharing Pantry building to make it more appealing. Many have also donated produce. A donation of \$100 was made to each of the five area food pantries (a total of \$500) – Juneau County is one of the poorest counties economically so there is a very great need at our local food pantries for financial assistance. A large collection of non-perishable food and produce was taken up at one of our meetings (left).



JCMGVs are currently working on establishing a two-acre plot as a community garden starting this fall. They will be assisting new gardeners in the spring of 2009 to help them grow some of their own food.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTE: Be sure to call & check times & dates to verify event

Nov 28 - Dec 28, 2008 - Olbrich's Holiday Express - Flower and Model Train Show - Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI - Twinkling lights, festive poinsettias, tiny landscapes, and large-scale model trains: all aboard for Olbrich's Holiday Express! Trains travel through miniature evergreen forests and colorful poinsettias as they make their way through a detailed landscape made of natural materials by Olbrich's horticulture staff. Mondays through Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children ages 3 – 12 (OBS members free) and includes admission to the tropical Bolz Conservatory. Admission is free each Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Dec 19, 2008 (12:00 noon) - Pruning Shrubs for a Reason - Brown Bag Program - contact UW Ext Office for access - Proper pruning is one of the most essential of all management practices for shrubs in the home landscape. Correct pruning procedures will help keep shrubs vigorous, maintain them in proper shape and form for a desirable landscape effect, and add years to their usefulness. Pruning will help maintain natural habit of growth; remove dead, diseased or broken branches; promote flower and fruit development; encourage vigorous growth of plants with colored twigs; and improve chances of survival at transplanting time.

Jan 4-6, 2009 - Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI - This program features five educational tracks--apple, berry, grape, vegetable, and tourism--as well as general sessions that will appeal to all attendees. The schedule, topics, speakers, and registration information are available on the WFFVC website - <http://www.wisconsinfreshproduce.org/WFFVC/>.

Jan 8, 2009 - Winter Seminar Series: Organic Lawn Care & Ash Diseases, Madison, WI - First in Series -. Doug Soldat, of the UW Soils Department, will discuss organic lawn care methods and products. Glen Stanosz, forest pathologist, will talk about ash yellows and ash decline, two ash diseases that may be mistaken for EAB damage or may occur with it. At the Lyman Anderson Ag and Conservation Center, 1 Fen Oak Court, Madison. 8:45 a.m. to noon \$18, register by Jan 5. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at (608) 224-3715

Jan 15, 2009 - Winter Seminar Series: Garden Trends & EAB Update, Madison, WI – Second in Series - Ed Lyon, director of the Allen Centennial Gardens will update us on the latest garden trends to keep us ahead of the curve. Jennifer Statz of DATCP will give a presentation on the latest EAB finds, facts and DATCP plans for dealing with the pest. At the Lyman Anderson Ag and Conservation Center, 1 Fen Oak Court, Madison. 8:45 a.m. to noon. \$18, register by Jan 5. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at (608) 224-3715

Jan 22, 2009 - Winter Seminar Series: Insects & Tree Fertilizers, Madison, WI – Third in Series - Phil Pellitteri, entomologist and director of the Insect Diagnostic Lab on campus will comment on the top 10 insect pests of 2008. Laura Jull, woody ornamental specialist, will be speaking on the use of tree fertilizers in urban settings. At the Lyman Anderson Ag and Conservation Center, 1 Fen Oak Court, Madison. 8:45 a.m. to noon. \$18, register by Jan 5. For more information contact Lisa Johnson at (608) 224-3715

Jan 29, 2009 - Winter Seminar Series: How Herbicides Work & EAB Insecticides, Madison, WI – Fourth in Series - Dr. Jed Coloquhoun will talk about how herbicides work in practical terms, with weed control strategies in landscape situations and update us on new products. Chris Williamson, turf and entomology specialist will give a report on insecticides registered for EAB, and their use. At the Lyman Anderson Ag and Conservation Center, 1 Fen Oak Court, Madison. 8:45 a.m. to noon. \$18, register by Jan 5. For more information contact Lisa Johnson

Jan 30, 2009 (12:00 noon) - 2008 - Fruit Production Update: The Year In Review - Brown Bag Program - contact UW Ext Office for access - Dick Weidman, Superintendent Peninsular Agricultural Research Station will share his observations on the performance of various fruit crops during the 2006 growing season. He will also share the observed effects and impacts of the wet spring, followed by the drought of 2006 on certain fruit cultivars. The Peninsular ARS has been testing and evaluating cultivars for Wisconsin for years. Join us for an update on fruit crop performance.

Jan 31-Feb 1, 2009 - Orchid Quest 2009 - Madison, WI - The annual mid-winter show and sale of the Madison Orchid Growers Guild will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily in the Exhibition Hall of the Alliant Energy Center. Educational seminars each day and many vendors. For more information see the [Orchid Grower's Guild Orchid Quest webpage](#).

Feb 7, 2009 – Garden Inspirations – Steven Point WI - A Saturday with the Portage County Master Gardeners. Seminars on “Fantastic Foliage Perennials”, “Foolproof Plants for Weekend Warrior”, Harvesting Herbs for Fun, Flavor, and Fragrance”, and “Growing Vegetables in Cooperation with Mother Nature”. Hours 8 to 3:30 at Lettie W. Jensen Community Center, 487 North Main St, Amherst WI 54406. Fee \$30 includes a hot lunch. Contact Portage Cty Ext Office 715-3346-1316 for more information and to register

Feb 13-15, 2009 - WPT's Garden Expo - Madison, WI - Sponsored by Wisconsin Public Television, Friends of WHA-TV, and the UW-Extension Horticulture Team, this event draws nearly 16,000 people to view 400 booths, provided by numerous exhibitors over 100,000 square-feet. The Madison Area Master Gardeners will staff their own booth. Numerous educational seminars, demonstrations, and workshops are offered on a variety of horticultural topics.

Hours are Fri 4:00-9:00, Sat 8:00-6:00, and Sun 10:00-4:00. In the Exhibition Hall, Alliant Energy Center. An admission fee is charged to this fundraiser to support WI Public TV programming (including The WI Gardener). For more information visit WPT's Garden Expo website.

Feb 19, 2009 - Midwest Gardening Symposium: Incredible and Edible Gardens - Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI - This day-long seminar sponsored by Olbrich Botanical Gardens and Allen Centennial Gardens will feature five hands-on experts with practical and useful advice geared to the Midwest. For more information contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608) 246-4550

Feb 27, 2009 (12:00 noon) - Community Gardens - Brown Bag Program - contact UW Ext Office for access - A community garden is a collaborative greenspace in which the participants share in both the maintenance and the rewards. There is a long tradition of community gardening in various parts of the United States and around the world. Individual plot management often is used for vegetable gardening. In the common greenspace approach, garden members cooperate in managing one area and may include ornamental landscapes or pocket parks, community beautification, clean-up of degraded urban landscapes, for job training, horticultural demonstrations, outdoor classrooms or food production. Join us in discussion about starting a community garden.

March 7, 2009 - Spring into Gardening - La Crosse, WI - Sponsored by Bluff Country Master Gardeners, this

workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. features afternoon keynote speaker Mark Dwyer of Rotary Gardens. A choice of breakout sessions with local experts will be offered in the morning. More details will be available in January 2009. For more information contact bluffcountrymg@yahoo.com

March 27, 2009 (12:00 noon) - Vegetable Garden Planning and Site Preparation - Brown Bag Program - contact UW Ext Office for access - Vegetable gardening is a rewarding opportunity in which the whole family can become involved. Planning is a cold weather task, but a well planned garden provides opportunity to select plant types and varieties, extended seasonal produce, choice of seed verses transplant establishment, and much more. Proper site preparation will result in better soil conditions, fewer weeds and increased production. Join Dr. Robert Tomesh in a review of tactics to increase your gardens production potential.

April 24, 2009 (12:00 noon) - Fruits and Vegetables: Ready, Set, and Preserve - Brown Bag Program - contact UW Ext Office for access - Nothing is more enjoyable than home preserved food that is safe and of high quality. Beginning with jams and jellies and extending to canned potatoes, there are several basic steps to preparing for a season of preserving the bounty of your garden and orchard. This program will highlight tips and hints on getting ready to preserve safe, high quality fruits and vegetables. Join Dr. Barb Ingham in a review of safe food preservation tactics.



December Gardening Tips



When thinking of a Christmas gifts: a garden journal, plant labels, new tools, wheel barrow, mower, or even a gift certificate from a garden center might be a useful and thoughtful idea. Holiday gift plants such as poinsettia and Christmas cactus or an amaryllis already to pot up and grow are always a good idea.

With winter almost officially here, the weather we have been having is very wintery already. Just some reminders for all that cold and snow:

- Shovel heavy snowdrifts off low-lying perennial beds, small shrubs and trees to prevent damage.
- Don't shovel snow onto perennial beds. Disturbed snow is denser and can reduce oxygen to the soil.
- After severe weather inspect plants for damage. Immediate repairs can save them rather than be irreparable if neglected until spring.
- Inspect stored vegetables for signs of spoilage. Use immediately if possible or discard.

Houseplants should be watered as needed and a shower with tepid water will give them a boost as well as a bit of fertilizer.

Soon the spring garden catalogs will be coming in the mail. You can begin planning your gardening projects for next year. Begin by reviewing this past year's projects and revise as needed adding and changing as needed. Think about what you want to do differently and what you will do the same.

Master Gardeners Photo Contest Launched

Pull out your gardening pictures or get your cameras clicking and prepare to enter the first annual Master Gardeners Photography contest! North Central Wisconsin and Portage County Master Gardeners are looking for budding photographers who enjoy documenting the gardens and landscapes around them.

There are five categories to enter the contest:

1. Gardens & Landscapes
2. Flowers & Foliage
3. Garden Accents & Oddities
4. Critters & Creatures
5. Fruits, Vegetables & Produce.



All entries must be by amateur photographers and this contest is open to the public. Entries must be a minimum size of 8" X 10" and **without** frames or matting and cannot have previously been published. Entry fee is \$3. per photograph or \$5 for a maximum of three photographs per person.

Submission and deadline for receipt of photographs must be received in the UW Extension Marathon County office no later than 4:00 PM January 10, 2009. Entry forms are available at UW Extension Marathon County, Wausau (715) 261-1231 and UW Extension Portage County, Stevens Point (715) 346-1316 or go to www.gardenvisions.org. For further information or questions, please contact Joanne Blise, Photo Contest Chair at 715-298-1142.

Adams County Master Gardeners annual fruit tree and plant sale

Typically offering strawberries, raspberries, apples, flowering crabapples, blueberries, and asparagus. Some new additions have been rhubarb, currants, grapes, and elderberries. Deadline for Orders: February 1, 2009

Order forms are available at:

Adams County UW - Extension Office
569 North Cedar Street, Suite 3
Adams, WI 53910
Phone: 608-339-4237



Who makes a garden, works with God !

Anonymous

2009 JUNEAU COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

AREAS OF INTEREST THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT– Check all that Apply

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>LANDSCAPING</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FRUITS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GROUND COVERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMALL FRUITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHRUBS & TREES	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILD FRUITS
<input type="checkbox"/>	LAWN CARE	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	WATER GARDENING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PESTS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	DESIGN	<input type="checkbox"/>	INSECTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	NATIVE PLANTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILDLIFE
<input type="checkbox"/>	GRASSES	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTROL
<input type="checkbox"/>	VINES	<input type="checkbox"/>	PESTICIDES
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>HOUSEPLANTS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISEASES
<input type="checkbox"/>	CACTI & SUCCULENTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>FLOWERS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ORCHIDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	PERENNIALS
<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	ANNUALS
		<input type="checkbox"/>	ROSES
		<input type="checkbox"/>	WILD FLOWERS
	<u>OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMPOSTING	<input type="checkbox"/>	ORGANIC GARDENING
<input type="checkbox"/>	GARDEN PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/>	VEGETABLES
<input type="checkbox"/>	PHOTOGRAPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	SEED STARTING
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRUNING	<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTAINER GARDENING
<input type="checkbox"/>	HERBS		

- ❖ If you would like to host a garden tour list two months of your choice: _____
- ❖ If you are a current Master Gardener List the year you took your training: _____
- ❖ If not, would you like information on becoming a Master Gardener? _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL _____

ANNUAL DUES: **\$12.00** from January thru December 2009
 CHECK PAYABLE TO: **Juneau County Master Gardeners**
 MAIL THIS FORM AND CHECK TO:
Irene Klingemann, W5805 Brown Rd, Mauston WI 53948

Send articles and other ideas for the Master Gardeners Newsletter to:
 Irene Klingemann
 W5805 Brown Rd
 Mauston WI 53948
 Or email – note new address klingermstn@wildblue.net

Request from Rich Milgrom

Please save pop-tops from cans for Rich. His camping group, The Jack Pine Travelers and most of the rest of the Good Sam Organization are saving them for the Ronald McDonald House. Each pop-top is worth one minute of dialysis for a child.

Please save until our next regular meeting.

*Thanks
 Rich*



A Fun website for Christmas Bakers

For cookies, cakes, and other yummy stuff!!

<http://www.northpole.com/Kitchen/Cookbook/>



Cooperative Extension
Juneau County UW-Extension
211 Hickory Street
Mauston WI 53948

An EEO/Affirmative Action employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal Opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements.



Reminders

- ◇ Keep your membership up-to-date and the newsletters coming, fill out and mail your JCMG membership form for 2009 along with \$12.00 - form is on page 7 - if not paid up for 2009, this is your last newsletter.
- ◇ **Note** that for Certified JCMG members only, \$5.00 of this goes towards membership in WIMGA and the WIMGA newsletter. Remember, there is a promotion to go electronic and receive the newsletter by e-mail to save on time, cost, postage, and paper.....**and most importantly save a tree.**
- ◇ The next JCMG meeting will be in April of 2009, details to follow in March/April newsletter.
- ◇ If you haven't received your ordered Wisconsin Garden Journal for 2009, they are at the UW Extension office, opened Monday thru Friday 8 to 4:30. The cost is \$13.00 this year.
- ◇ It's not too late to send your Master Gardener Volunteer Hours in to Jan Brendle, N8420 19th Ave, Necedah WI 54646 or janbrendle@tds.net or call 608-565-7290 as soon as possible.
- ◇ Those interested in Master Gardener Training, classes will be in Adams County for 2009. Please contact Don Genrich, Agriculture Agent, Adams County Extension Office, 608-339-4237 for more information and to verify dates and to register.
- ◇ **Again Seasons greetings to all.**