



## Continuing Ed:

University Wisconsin Specialists, Chris Williamson and JoAnn Cruse, will present an informational program on the Emerald Ash Borer via the Wisline on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Manitowoc County UW Extension Offices, 4319 Expo Drive, Manitowoc.

### Program Schedule:

7:00 pm – 7:10pm Introduction to the Emerald Ash Borer

7:10 pm – 7:50 pm PowerPoint “Emerald Ash Borer: Status, Biology, and Management” by Chris Williamson with question and answer

8:00 pm – 8:20 pm PowerPoint “Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Update” by JoAnn Cruse with question and answer

It’s Free – and the public is invited to attend to learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer that is slowly creeping our way. Master Gardeners can receive “Continuing Education” credit by participating.

## Inside This Edition:

- Continuing Ed & Plant Diagnostics ... Cover
- Garden Events ..... pages 2-3
- Volunteer Opportunities/ Killer Bugs page..4
- Seed Exchange 101....page 5
- Lawn Care ....page 6
- Pruning ...page 7
- March Minutes ...page 8

## Plant Diagnostics Training

Learn the basics of diagnosing plant problems so you can help answer homeowner’s garden questions. This Plant Health Advisor Advanced Training program is completely online via UW-Extension Desire 2 Learn website so you can access it any day of the week and any time of the day. It is designed to be interactive as well as informative.

Plant Health Advisor Advanced Online Training covers fundamental steps of plant diagnosis and essential information on plant identification, plant pathology and entomology needed by Master Gardener Plant Health Advisors. A number of resources and references, which can be printed at home, are part of the course content. Online discussion groups and other subject matter support will be given by UW-Extension horticulture educators. Participants must take an online exam at the completion of the course. Master Gardener Volunteers scoring a minimum of 70% on the exam will become a Plant Health Advisor and receive a certificate.

The training is only available to active certified Master Gardener Volunteers, current Master Gardener Interns, and UW-Extension staff. The course fee is \$25. Fees are used to cover the cost of technical support.

Participants are expected to complete the course within two months, but individual participants will have access for one year so materials can be reviewed as needed.

For more information, contact Rosie or Renee.

# Garden Events

May 7, 2009 A Dinner's Worth of Herbs: Herbal recipes for Salads, Main Dishes, and Desserts  
Cedarburg, WI

A panel of HSA and OMGVs will share their favorite herbal recipes for turning ho-hum meals into tastebud-tantalizing and palate-pleasing fare. Sponsored by the Ozaukee MGA and Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America with Ozaukee MGV Kathleen Awe at 7:00 p.m. \$5, includes herbal refreshments, lots of samples and take-home recipes. At the 4-H Youth Building at the Ozaukee Co. Fairgrounds. For more information contact Kathleen at (262) 377-3276 or Annie at (262) 238-8610.

May 9, 2009 5th Annual Northeast Wisconsin HerbFest, Green Bay, WI

Sponsored by the Northeast Wisconsin Unit of the herb Society of America. programs on Garlic-Nature's Gift to Man; Bay - Herb of the Year 2009; Kitchen Herbology; Culinary Herbs; and Nourishing Herbs. At the Green Bay Botanical Garden, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Jackie at (920) 246-7377.

May 9, 2009 Girdling Tree Root Demo, Green Bay, WI

Girdling tree root is when one or more tree roots wrap around the trunk of the tree and "choke" the tree over a period of time. The tree begins to look stressed and over time will die. The tree can be saved using an air spade – a tool that uses compressed air to remove the dirt and mulch from around the tree without damage to the roots. A visual inspection is then possible and corrective action can be taken. Join Mike Maederer, owner of A Four Seasons Tree Care and ISA certified arborist in this hands-on workshop as he demonstrates the use of an air spade and learn what corrective actions can help save the life of the tree. Hosted by the NEW Master Gardeners from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay. Free, but pre-registration is required. For more information or to register contact Debi at (920) 465-8512.

May 13, 2009 Wisconsin Native Medicinal Plants, Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Wisconsin is home to many native (and some naturalized) plants that were used for medicines, magic and food. Sample a native soup with some surprising ingredients! With Jackie Johnson, NEW Unit of Herb Society of America from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$16 (\$8 members). Advance registration required. For more information or to register, contact the Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, at (920) 993-1900.

May 18 May Monthly Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting with Plant Exchange **6:00 pm**

Location: Maribel Caves **\*\*\*Note Time\*\*\***

May 29, 2009 -- 12:00 noon at the County Office Complex

Managing Tomatoes and other Vining Vegetable Crops for Better Production Brown Bag Program  
Soil management, mulches, irrigation, pruning and trellising are requirements of any successful vegetable operation. It is also critical to the production of quality vegetables that grow on vines. Most vegetables are 85 to 95 percent water, so any loss in water weight is equal to a loss in production. Trellising tomatoes improves fruit quality by keeping plants and fruits off the ground and by providing better pesticide coverage. Join Dr. Robert Tomesh in a discussion of managing tomato vines during the growing season.

May 30, 2009 Melinda Meyers at the Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI

The Manitowoc Garden Club is hosting Melinda Meyers on Saturday, May 30th, 2009. The event will take place at the Holiday Inn starting at 11 AM. The cost is \$3.00 to attend the event.

June 10, 2009 Willow Plant Stand Workshop Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Each participant will make a willow plant stand of their own in this workshop from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. \$55 (\$45 members), includes all supplies; just bring a hammer and battery-operated drill. Advance registration required. For more information or to register, contact the Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, at (920) 993-1900.

June 17, 2009 Leaf Casting Workshop Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI

Create a concrete leaf sculpture to add to your garden this summer! Workshop from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. Some leaves will be available if you cannot bring your favorite leaves from home. Leaves need to be heavy veined the type that work best are rhubarb, burdock and hosta; leaves need to fit on a 16" x 24" board. \$44 (\$36 members). Advance registration required. For more information or to register, contact the Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd., Appleton, at (920) 993-1900.

June 20, 2009 Garden Discoveries Fox Cities area, WI

The Outagamie Co. MGA has organized this educational tour of 5 select gardens in Neenah, Appleton, Menasha and Combined Locks from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. \$5 + 2 non-perishable food items. For more information contact Tom Brinkman at (920) 729-9404 or Kathy Baum at (920) 731-9385

June 20-21, 2009 Waukesha Symphony League Summer Solstice Garden Tour 2009 Delafield, WI

Tour seven private gardens from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Melinda Myers (sponsored by Kanavas Landscaping Management) will be at Hawks Inn on Saturday starting at 11:00 AM to answer gardener's questions and will also have her books available for sale. Tea, lemonade and cookies will be served throughout the day on Saturday. \$12 advance; \$15 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Waukesha Symphony Orchestra. Advance tickets will be on sale at specific Stein Gardens & Gifts locations (to be announced) in June. For more information contact the Waukesha Symphony Office at (262) 547-1858.

June 22, 2009 June Monthly Master Gardener Volunteer Meeting Location: **Tentatively** set for VanderBloomen Bog @ Silver Lake College. 6:00 PM **\*\*\*Note Time\*\*\***

June 26, 2009 -- 12:00 noon at the County Office Complex

Late Plantings of Cool- and Warm-Season Vegetables Brown Bag Program

Though often overlooked by the gardener, planting vegetables in July and August for fall production is an excellent practice. Late plantings of cool- and warm-season vegetables can extend the harvest long after spring-planted crops have ceased production. Most cool-season vegetables grow as well as or better than those planted in the spring as they mature during shorter, cooler days. Flavors of vegetables maturing in the cool, crisp days of autumn are often sweeter and milder than those grown during hot summer weather. Join us for a discussion for planning a fall crop of vegetables.

June 27, 2009 Manitowoc Co. 2009 Garden Walk -- See article on page 4 for more details

## Volunteer Opportunities:

May 19 -- 5 pm - 6:30pm Garlic Mustard Pull at the Maribel Caves

May 30 -- 1 pm Garlic Mustard Pull at the Maribel Caves

June 27 -- 1 pm Woodland Dunes Cutting Buckthorn

Now - Fall Volunteers are needed at the Two Rivers Library Gardens. Call Mary McLean at 242-2412 for more information.

Master Gardener to present an idea something simple or tips to provide the public at the May 23rd Farmers Market -- contact Sherrie at 682.4794 or cell 323.6417

## 2009 Garden Walk:

When: June 27, 2009

Where: At the following gardens in Manitowoc

Shirley Scriver  
Aurora Hospital 5000 Memorial Dr

Jim & Mary Carlson  
1406 Hubbard Circle

Paula Radl  
1721 Green Street

Chris Boeder  
930 South 35th

Mary Jo Stangel  
711 North 9th Street

Eunice McDonald  
1131 North 18th Street

Marian Sepnafski  
711 South 22nd Street

## Roorbach Flowers Events:

### May:

Saturday, May 2, 9:00am - "Living Wreath" workshop - \$60.00

Saturday, May 2, 1:00pm - "Painted Pots for Mom" workshop - \$7.00

Saturday, May 16, 10:00am - "European Garden Basket" workshop - \$55.00

Wednesday, June 10, 6:00pm (plus another day to finish) - "Concrete Garden Leaf" workshop - \$55.00

### June:

Saturday, June 20, 10:00am - "Table Top Fairie Garden" workshop - \$20.00

Saturday, June 27, 10:00am - "Hypertoofa Ball Garden Accent" workshop - \$TBA

### July:

Saturday, July 18, 10:00am (plus another day in fall to finish)- "Herb Topiaries" workshop - \$40.00

Sunday, July 26, All Day - "Illinois Garden Conservancy Open Day" - bus tour - \$TBA (not to exceed \$60.00 each)

### In the planning stage:

Successful Orchid growing - class

Tie-dyed silk scarf - workshop

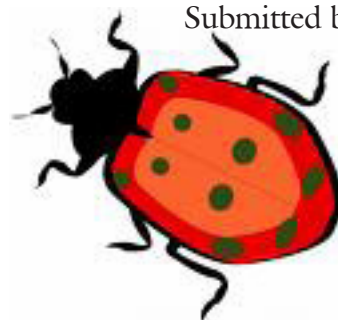
Bowling Ball Bugs/Garden Accent - workshop

For more information, call Roorbach Flowers at 920.682.6331

## Homemade Bug Killer

In a plastic milk jug mix 1 cup sugar, 1 cup vinegar, and a banana peel. Hang the open jug in a tree or place it in the garden to attract the bugs that are eating your prized fruit and vegetables. This really works! Try it on your raspberries.

Submitted by Joyce Sheahan



# Seed Exchange 101

**What is a seed exchange?** Exchanging seed is a time-honored tradition among gardeners. We collect ripe seed throughout the growing season. In late fall or early winter the seeds are brought or sent to a central place and distributed to those who want them.

**When should seeds be collected?** Collect seeds all season long! The first to ripen are ready. Pay attention to those developing seed pods as you stroll about your garden. Pick seeds as soon as they are ready or the plant, the wind, the birds or chipmunks will disperse them. Wait too long and the seeds will be gone.

**When is a seed ripe?** As you watch the fruiting structure develop, be it seed pod, capsule, seed head, or berry, it will expand and change color, becoming darker as the seed ripens. The seed, too, will darken. When ripe, the seed will be hard, so that you are not able to easily crush it between your fingers.

**What should I collect seeds in?** Anything that will contain them and allow them to dry. An open dish, glass, jar, envelope, or paper bag will do. I am partial to envelopes. Lots are available in junk mail solicitations. When the seeds is dry, envelopes are easy to seal up. The envelope is labeled, of course, as soon as the seeds are put in.

**How should seeds be stored until exchange time?** Traditional advice is to store them in a cool, dry place. Mine do fine on the bookshelves in my living room. A major exception to this is for seeds of most early woodland wild flowers, such as Dutchmans Breeches, Hepatica, and Trillium. These seeds should not be allowed to dry out and require special storage conditions.

**What sort of seeds are best to collect for sharing?** Bring seeds of plants that people ask for, from plants you want lots of -- and don't want to pay \$5 apiece for, from plants that don't divide well or spread too slowly, reseeding annuals and short-lived perennials. Keep in mind that seed of named varieties and hybrids will, in general, produce plants that differ from their parents. Seeds from an unnamed species will come true.

**How many seeds should I collect?** A little bit of seed goes a long way. A teaspoon of primrose seed is enough for 25 people. Collecting into a letter size envelope will prevent over collecting.

**How should seed be prepared for a seed exchange?** At minimum, bring seed, clean or not, in a labelled container. It is desirable to have more information about the plant -- common name, scientific name, cultural requirements, appearance, why you recommend this plant.

**What is seed cleaning and why is it done?** Seed cleaning is the process of separating the seed from the other bits of plant material (chaff) collected with it. Removing chaff aids seed longevity by removing seed-damaging insects and fungi and keeps seed drier, as chaff tends to attract moisture. Cleaning also vastly reduces the volume of material to store and makes it possible to know how much seed is present. Most national exchanges require seed to be clean, so it is a good skill to learn. It can also be fun devising ways to separate all those little bits.

**How is seed cleaned?** Begin the process by separating the seed from its pod or cluster. Shake it, crumble it, rub it over a screen or coarse surface, crush it with a rolling pin -- do anything that works. Then shake the seed/chaff mix through sieves and screens of various sizes held over a collecting box. Sometimes the seed will fall through and the chaff will be left on top. Sometimes the reverse happens. When a seed/chaff mix cannot be separated by size, it can probably be separated by taking advantage of weight differences. Place the mix in a shallow box such as a shoebox lid. Blow very gently at the mix. The chaff, being lighter, should blow off. Another approach is to place the mix at one end of the box. Raise that end about 30 degrees from horizontal, and gently tap the box. The seed, being heavier, generally falls to the lower end of the box. Blowing gently while taping will keep the chaff at the high end of the box.

Written by Ruth Cadoret - published in Perennial Notes, Newsletter of the Wisconsin Hardy Plant Society

Submitted by Dorothy Bugs

## Get Your Lawn Off To A Healthy Start This Spring

Madison, Wis. – Early spring is the time when homeowners look forward to moving the shovels and snowblower to the far corner of the garage and pulling out the lawnmower. It's also time to think about the best way to help a winter-weary lawn recover and prepare for summer's heat.

John Stier, University of Wisconsin-Extension turfgrass specialist, says some simple steps taken in early spring can lead to a healthy, thick, green lawn by summer.

-- Clean up. Clear away tree leaves, sticks and the litter that accumulates in snowdrifts over the winter. Rake away dead grass only if it's covering the surface of the turf.

-- Get a soil test. Lawn experts recommend testing the soil about every three years to determine how much and what kind of fertilizer your grass needs.

-- Re-seed or re-sod. You may find that winter weather has killed grass in some places. To patch a bare spot with seed, mix soil and seed together in a pail, spread the mixture on bare spot and step lightly on it. Spring is not the best time to establish an entirely new lawn because seedlings will have to compete with weeds, but you do want to stop erosion of any bare spots.

-- Wait to fertilize. Many homeowners rush to apply fertilizer early, expecting to give their grass a head start. But if you applied fertilizer last fall, you don't need more in spring. And late fall fertilization is better for the lawn than a spring application because it encourages root growth.

-- Wait until Memorial Day to fertilize, unless the lawn has several bare areas and is thin. Too much fertilizer in the spring will cause the plants to produce leaves instead of roots and without good roots the lawn suffers more from summer drought. However, if the lawn is very thin, a dose of fertilizer will help it fill in and crowd out weeds.

-- Mow. When the grass is about three inches high, you can begin mowing. Leave the clippings on the lawn to recycle nutrients - it's the equivalent of one free fertilizer application after two years. Never mow your lawn shorter than 2.5 inches. Higher lawns mean deeper roots, and longer grass blades shade the soil and discourage weeds.

-- Avoid the temptation to reach for weed-killers without first considering why the weeds are present. If you have a lot of weeds in the lawn, there's something wrong with the way you are growing your lawn. Shade, poor drainage, lack of nutrients and compacted soils create weak lawns and healthy weeds. Rather than use only chemicals, fix the real problem.

## Early Spring Is A Great Time To Prune Trees And Shrubs

Madison, Wis. – There's still a little time to prune trees and shrubs while you can still see the overall structure of the plants and before insects and diseases that can infect plants become active. In fact, horticulturalists like Dr. Laura Jull, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension, say late winter and early spring are the best time to prune trees and shrubs.

Timing is particularly important for oak trees. Oak wilt is a devastating fungal disease infecting native North American oaks. The pathogen that causes oak wilt and the insect that spreads the fungus become active starting in early to mid April, depending on temperature.

The oak wilt fungus is spread by natural root grafts between adjacent oaks and by picnic beetles that are attracted to mats of the oak wilt fungus in infected trees. These insects pick up spores of the fungus on their bodies and carry the spores to healthy trees that have fresh wounds caused by either storm damage or by pruning. The pathogen can spread by pruning infected trees and not disinfecting pruning tools before pruning healthy trees.

Pruning oaks and many other tree and shrub species before mid April can help prevent the spread of other diseases as well. If pruning or storms damage oaks during the growing season, immediately cover the wounds with pruning paint or wound dressing. This treatment is only required on oaks pruned during the growing season, which can start in early to mid April and end in mid to late fall. Otherwise, do not use wound dressing or pruning paint on plants following pruning as these compounds can actually impede wound closure.

Don't prune newly planted trees unless a branch is broken, diseased or dead. After the tree is established, prune it every two to three years to encourage a desirable shape and promote strong structural branches. After these branches have been established, prune the trees less often to remove broken, dead or diseased wood or maintain the overall structure of the tree. Be careful not to remove more than a third of the crown at one time. If larger trees need pruning, it is best to hire an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist to do the job.

You can prune flowering shrubs in late winter or early spring, before budbreak, especially if they bloom in the summer (Japanese spirea, potentilla, Annabelle hydrangea, shrub roses). These shrubs produce flower buds on new growth in the spring, so if you postpone pruning until late spring or early summer, you will remove many flower buds.

Plants such as lilac, forsythia, viburnum, and mockorange produce flower buds the preceding summer and flower in spring. These plants can be pruned in the dormant season, but pruning will remove some flower buds and reducing the floral display in spring. If you don't want to reduce the flower show, prune right after flowering but before summer.

Do not prune any tree or shrub during leaf expansion in spring. Developing leaves rely on stored carbohydrates in plant tissues. Removing branches during leaf expansion can significantly hinder further shoot growth.

Written by: Laura Jull, April 2009

MASTER GARDENERS OF MANITOWOC COUNTY  
MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: March 23, 2009  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.  
PLACE: Manitowoc County Office Complex  
ATTENDANCE: 21  
EDUCATION: Costa Rica Presentation – Rosie Bugs – 45 min.

President Renee Lemberger thanked Rosie for her interesting presentation and called the March meeting to order. The reports from the secretary and treasurer were approved as read.

OLD BUSINESS

- 1) Rosie informed us that the Basic Class is half over and there are 12 people enrolled in it.
- 2) A discussion took place as to whether we should have a table at the Earth Day celebration that will be held on April 18th. Gladwyn Doughman and Butch Lehman will attend this year and report next month as to whether we should consider it in the future.
- 3) A discussion also took place as to whether future newsletters should be emailed to members, sent via regular mail or a combination of the two. After comments from the members, a motion was made and passed to continue sending the newsletter by regular mail.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) A handout was distributed on the Wisconsin Master Food Preserver Training that will be held in Green Bay, July 7-9. A Volunteer Agreement sheet will also have to be filled out.
- 2) Judy Vogel informed us of a Wisconsin Wildflower Class that will be held at Silver Lake College on four Tuesdays in May.
- 3) Volunteer information from the Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan was also distributed.
- 4) Pat Hollen and Chris Boeder are in need of help for cleaning at the zoo and Chamber of Commerce gardens. A date will possibly be set at the April meeting and emailed to members.
- 5) Gladwyn informed us that there will be a meeting of the Wild Ones on April 21 at 6:30 p.m. "Simple Steps in Establishing a Prairie" will be the presentation. Onions ordered by members will be shipped on April 27th. There will be a garlic mustard pull at Maribel Caves on May 19, 5-6:30 p.m. by the Wild Ones but anyone may come to help. There also will be another pull on May 30 at 1:00 p.m. Also on June 27th at 1:00 p.m. Woodland Dunes is looking for volunteers to help with cutting buckthorn.
- 6) Rosie stated that members working in the plant clinic will now also be receiving questions via email.
- 7) Judy Vogel will be having a Garden Walk meeting for committee members and garden hosts on Tuesday, March 31st at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension offices.
- 8) There will be a Brown Bag on March 27th on the topic of growing vegetables.
- 9) Rosie commented that we should consider getting a laptop computer for presentations, etc. The county may go half on the cost for this. She will be checking further and advise us later.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Tisler  
Secretary

Manitowoc County Master Gardeners  
Manitowoc County UW-Extension  
4319 Expo Drive, Po Box 1150  
Manitowoc WI 54220

Gertrude Jekyll

“But the lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives....For love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies, but always grows and grows to an enduring and ever-increasing source of happiness... Each new step becomes a little surer, and each new grasp a little firmer, until, little by little, comes the power of intelligent combination, the nearest thing we know to the mighty force of creation.”