

Advanced Master Gardener Training

A continuing education opportunity for Master Gardener Volunteers

Arboriculture: In September 2006, this educator implemented a year-long series of monthly lectures for Master Gardener Volunteer-level participants to address various issues facing woody plants in our landscapes and urban forests. The goals of this program were to familiarize participants to the benefits of trees and the major issues of trees in our landscapes and promote the proper management practices to ensure tree health.

Program topics included, but not limited to:

- The benefits of trees
- Selection, planting and pruning
- Insects, diseases and disorders
- Propagation and nursery production
- Identification of common groups of trees

The program consisted of a mix of in-class lecture, hands-on activities, and field trips to regional arboreta. In August, 2007, sixteen individuals completed the 36 hours of training.



Participants practice tree identification at the UW-Arboretum.

As a result of participating in this program, participants became savvier with their tree care practices and in their related decisions.

Comments from participants:

"The tree class was extremely helpful to me in that I learned hands-on pruning information that I didn't know before the class. I learned I can prune harder than I thought and that the practice is very important in the health of the trees and shrubs. I have shared this training with people who ask questions at K&W where I work part time. I also shared the information about tree planting where the trees are planted with more attention to root structure to minimize the possibility of strangulating roots and using mulch and staking. The comparison photo you showed of the 2 trees planted nearly side-by-side and the differences in their health based on the new planting practice was so impressive I have shared the information many times. And the staking information changed my attitude about that practice because I used to think it wasn't necessary. To have the rationale explained made the difference so I now understand why it helps the tree to be staked.

I also enjoyed your teaching! Your love and knowledge of the subject really made the class worthwhile. Thanks for the effort you put in and the time you spent developing the subject (and not taking yourself too seriously; your attitude helps make the subject be not so intimidating)".—MGV. Mandy.

"I'm much more cautious when pruning anything. All tools have been sterilized and there's a container of Clorox on my cart. Also, I look at trees much more critically – noticing bad pruning, stupid pruning, lack of pruning, and damage. And I'm now able to identify some trees without asking you!"—MGV Peggy.

"I found the tree care class to be very informative, now if I could only remember half of everything we talked about. You provided us with plenty of handouts to look back on and help us answer our own questions. As expected a couple of the classes were rather boring, but necessary to understand the tree and all of its problems. The fieldtrips were all well worth the time spent and opened up many more minds as to the variability of trees and shrubs in the landscape".—MGV Jody.

"I being a lawn care and landscape business owner have found you and the master gardener training to be an invaluable tool for my business. I fully plan to send my wife and some of my employees through the program in the future. The programs I took were very well planned and executed courses."—MGV John.

"I loved the tree class. I now just need to practice with the tree identification book. My favorite part of the class was the Saturday we did the pruning, I am always looking at tree and wondering where I could be making cuts. Thanks for offering the class."—MGV Sue.

"Before I hired a company for tree stump removal, I felt confident in asking some major questions concerning critical root zone (before they brought equipment onto my property).

When I asked the representative about a declining Norway Maple in my backyard, I was able to decide on whether or not this company "knew what they were talking about." I listened for key words such as root girdling and tree distress and/or disease.

I identified tree disease and "bad planting" of a neighbors young weeping willow tree. Because of this, they are removing the tree and planting another tree the correct way.

I am helping a neighbor identify some trees in her back yard." –MGV Janet

"What I like most about this class was the more in-depth information that we were able to get. I really enjoyed our trips to the arboretums and nurseries, for a more upclose look at the trees. I especially liked being introduced to new varieties of trees that I had never heard of before. That gives me so many ideas of trees to plant that are hardier and better suited for our area. Since this class I have already changed the way in which I will evaluate and prune my trees, this summer I have been marking my oak trees and will prune them in early spring. In the past I would not have consider the time of year and the impact this might have on my oak trees, I would have just removed the branches at my convenience. Now I know the proper way to prune, with the 1-2-3 cut, as well as why to prune in the dormant season" . –MGV Julie



Roy Klehm of Beaver Creek Nursery shows the class a rootball of containerized stock.

Participants

- 2 male
- 14 female

Training

- One evening per month, September 2006 through August 2007, and select dates.
- 24 hours lecture
- 12 hours arboreta (tree ID)
- 3 hours field work (pruning)

Syllabus

- **TREEmendous:** the environmental, physiological, social, and economic benefits of trees.
- **Tree Anatomy:** overview of the basic tree structure and function
- **Selecting and Planting:** Research demonstrates the importance of proper tree planting and how the right tree for the right place can lead to healthy trees in the long term.
- **Pruning:** Proper pruning can improve the aesthetic appeal of a tree as well as increase the longevity of a tree in our urban areas and reduce associated risks.
- **Evaluation and Inspection:** (multi-session class) Many tree problems are better prevented than cured; frequent tree inspections are the way to avoid many woody ornamental problems before they become severe. (species-specific look at the insects, diseases and abiotic disorders of woody ornamentals)
- **Mature Tree Care:** Utilizing information presented in the class, participants will turn their attention to the needs and requirements of the mature trees in urban landscape; including maintenance pruning, construction damage, and high-risk trees.
- **Nursery Production:** Field trip to Beaver Creek Nursery
- **Tree Identification:** (multi-session class) A look at the common woody ornamentals in the urban landscape and their associated disorders and the use of a dichotomous key. Field trips to Rotary Botanical Gardens, Klehm Arboretum, and UW-Arboretum.

Plant Propagation: In March 2007, this educator implemented a day-long hands-on workshop in conjunction with the DC-Smith Greenhouse on the UW-Madison campus. Utilizing state of the art facilities and a wide array of plant materials, 20 MGV participants (10 male, 10 female) were instructed on the principals and techniques of vegetative plant propagation.

As a result of this program, participants were better able to understand the processes utilized to generate the cultivars available at the garden center as well as to successfully propagate specimens from their own gardens.

Fourth Annual MG Symposium

March 31, 2007 (100 participants)

- "The Moulding of Man"
Kristin Krokowski, Waukesha Co. UW-Extension
- "Ornamental Plant Breeding"
Bill Martin, PhD., PanAmerican Seed Co
- "Kitchen Culture"
Carol Stiff, PhD, Kitchen Culture Kits, Inc.
- "Multi-Dimensional Plants"
Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Gardens



20 MGV participants met at UW-Madison's DC Smith Greenhouse for a day-long hands-on plant propagation workshop in March, 2007.

Additional Training

2007 Summer Lecture Series at Rotary Botanical Gardens

- June 28, 7:00pm, Aquatic Plant Seminar presented by The Water's Edge
- July 19, 7:00pm, Rock County's Bird Box presented by Tanya Zastrow, Welty Environmental Center
- August 9, 7:00pm, Caring for Your Vegetable Garden presented by Karen Delahaut, UW-Extension Fresh Market Vegetable Specialist
- August 16, 7:00pm, Caring for Decorative Water Garden Fish Seminar presented by The Water's Edge
- September 6, 7:00pm, Pond Maintenance Seminar presented by The Water's Edge
- September 13, 7:00pm, Easy Home Composting presented by Joan Laurion, owner of Compostbasics
- September 20, 7:00pm, Native Plantings presented by Todd Polacek & Charlie Halbleib from Taylor Creek Nursery/Applied

Pest and Plant Update, Janesville, WI, November 15, 2007 (43 participants)

- "Emerald Ash Borer Update, Japanese beetle, Gypsy moth", with Dr. Chris Williamson, UW-Extension Specialist
- "Drought Stress and Insect Pests of Trees", Phil Pellitteri, UW-Extension Specialist
- Offered in conjunction with Walworth County UW-Extension

Guest Lecturer / Instructor

- Wisconsin Golfcourse and Greenscape Expo, Madison, WI, January 10, 2007
"Stressed Out: Plant Health Care for Woody Ornamentals"® (40 participants)
- Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison, WI, February 20, 2007
"Plant Propagation for Master Gardeners"® (887 participants)
- Spring into Gardening, Kenosha, WI, March 10, 2007
"Pruning Shrubs in Your Yard"® (45 participants)
"Caring for the Perennial Garden"® (120 participants)
- Klehm Arboretum, Rockford, IL, April 7, 2007
"Plant Propagation"® (10 participants)
- Southern Wisconsin Activity Professionals Association, Madison, WI, April 12, 2007
"Adaptive Gardening"® (60 participants)
- 7th Annual Get Ready... Get Set... GARDEN!, Baraboo, WI, April 14, 2007
"Stressed Out: Plant Health Care for Woody Ornamentals"® (40 participants)
- Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Oshkosh, WI, May 15, 2007
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals"® (50 participants)
- Dane County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison, WI, June 6, 2007
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals"® (35 participants)
- Dane County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison, WI, June 12, 2007
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals"® (30 participants)
- Wisconsin Garden Club Federation, Janesville, WI, July 18, 2007
"Plant Health Care"® (25 participants)
- Sauk County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Baraboo, WI, September 5, 2007
"Botany for Master Gardener Volunteers"® (30 participants)
- Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville, WI, September 12, 2007
"Contemporary Issues with Woody Ornamentals"® (15 participants)
- 2007 Annual Conference, Wisconsin Association for Home & Community Education, Reedsburg, WI, September 17, 2007
"The Benefits of Trees"® (44 participants)
- Sauk County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Baraboo, WI, September 19, 2007
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals"® (30 participants)
- Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer Specialized Training, Madison, WI, September 25, 2007
"The Benefits of Trees"® (158 participants)
- Specialized Propagation Techniques for Gardeners, Madison, WI, October 2, 2007
"Perennial Propagation: division, layering, and bulb propagation"® (22 participants)
- Wisconsin Master Gardener Volunteer Specialized Training, Madison, WI, October 2, 2007
"Mature Tree Care"® (158 participants)
- Sauk County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Baraboo, WI, October 3, 2007
"Introduction to Plant Pathology" (30 participants)
- Dane County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison, WI, October 8, 2007
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals"® (35 participants)
- 2007 Agriculture and Natural Resource Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI, October 23 through 25, 2007
"Therapeutic Horticulture to Teach Life Skills to Alternative Audiences"® (12 participants)
Co-presented with Dr. Patti Nagai, Racine County UW-Extension
"Distance Diagnosis: Collecting and disseminating digital images"® (30 participants)
Co-presented with Dr. John Stier, UW-Madison, Dr. Jed Colqhoun, UW-Madison
- Dane County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison, WI, October 31, 2007
"Assessing Risk Trees"® (25 participants)
- Sauk County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Baraboo, WI, November 7, 2007
"Plant Health Care"® (30 participants)