

Advanced Master Gardener Training

A continuing education opportunity for Master Gardener Volunteers

Arboriculture: In September 2007, 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, 2008, 15 individuals completed the 36 hours of training.

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

Comments from participants:

"I was able to help my kids with their leaf collection!" MGV Julie

"I can't look at a tree in the same way" MGV Gene

Participants

- 5 male
- 10 female

Training

- One evening per month, September 2007 through August 2008, 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.
- **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, Morton Arboretum, and UW-Arboretum.



MGV Students practice tree identification at the Morton Arboretum.

Plant Propagation: In March 2008, 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.

Fifth Annual MG Symposium

March 29, 2008 (100 participants)

- “Gardening Green”
Liza Lightfoot, Avant Gardening and Landscape
- “Ecology of Urban Tree Selection”
Les Werner, PhD., UW-Stevens Point
- “New Research with Tree Planting”
Don Hendricks, consulting arborist
- “Sensational Shrubbery”
Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Gardens

Additional Educational Programs

- April 3, Container Gardening, Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens
- April 22, Stuck in the Middle: The Missed Mid-Level Landscape, Ed Lyon, Executive Director, Rotary Botanical Gardens
- May 1, Minimal Maintenance, Mike Maddox, Horticulture Educator, Rock Co. UW-Extension
- May 15, Ornamental Grasses, Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture, Rotary Botanical Gardens
- May 29, Developing and Designing a Successful Shade Garden, Ed Lyon, Executive Director, Rotary Botanical Gardens
- June 5, Gazing globes, not crystal balls: 2008 Possible Pest review, Mike Maddox, Horticulture Educator, Rock Co. UW-Extension
- June 19, Clutter, Chaos or Class: Using Creativity Effectively in Garden Design, Ed Lyon, Executive Director, Rotary Botanical Gardens
- July 24, Twilight Tour, Rotary Botanical Gardens

Additional Outreach

- WPR ‘Garden Talk’:
 - August 22, 2008
 - May 2, 2008
 - October 24, 2008

Training and Professional Development

- ‘Agriculture and Food Vulnerability Assessment’ DHS sponsored program provided by the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, March 18-20, 2008
- ‘Volunteers in the 21st Century’ Recruitment and retention strategies that make a difference, January 30-31, 2008
- Wisconsin School for Fresh Market Growers, January 18-20, 2008, UW-Madison

Guest Lecturer / Instructor

- Sauk County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Baraboo WI, September 2, 2008
"Botany for Master Gardeners" ® (30 participants)
- Dane County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison WI, June 3, 2008
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals" ® (20 participants)
- New Agent and Master Gardener Training, Madison, WI, May 30, 2008
"Distance Diagnostics" (20 participants)
- New Agent and Master Gardener Training, Wausau, WI, May 29, 2008
"Distance Diagnostics" (80 participants)
- Dane County Master Gardener Volunteer Training, Madison WI, May 28, 2008
"The Care of Woody Ornamentals" ® (40 participants)
- Orfordville Library, Orfordville, WI, May 6, 2008
"Garden Q&A" (45 participants)
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI, May 6, 2008
"Plant Diagnostics" ® (30 participants)
- University of Northern Iowa, Botanical Center Dedication, Cedar Falls, IA, April 28, 2008
Guest speaker on behalf of UNI Alumni
- Village of Clinton Arbor Day Celebrations, Clinton WI, April 26, 2008
Guest speaker
- Boerner Botanical Gardens/UW-Extension, Milwaukee, WI, April 20, 2008
"Tree Selection" ® (20 participants)
"Identifying Trees by Bud and Bark" ® (15 participants)
- Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, WI, April 14, 2008
"Minimal Maintenance" ® (33 participants)
- Spring into Gardening, Kenosha, WI, March 8, 2008
"Minimal Maintenance" ® (80 participants)
- Gardening for Food and Fun, Rockford, IL, March 1, 2008
"Plant Propagation" ® (25 participants)
"Trees and Shrubs" ® (30 participants)
- Edgerton Public Library, Edgerton, WI, February 26, 2008
"Garden Q&A" (30 participants)
- Milton Garden Guild, Milton, WI, February 19, 2008
"Garden Q&A" (25 participants)
- Wisconsin Public Television, Garden Expo, Madison, WI, February 9, 2008
"Making Gardening Easy & Efficient" Demonstration, (50 participants)