



# CHIPPEWA VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

MAY 2006

## UPCOMING MEETING NOTICES

We will be holding our regular monthly meeting on **Monday, May 8, at 6 PM in Room 3** at the Chippewa County Courthouse. Sandy Zelm, president of the Wisconsin Regional Lily Society, will be giving a presentation on lilies.

We will be forming a decorations committee for the 2007 Annual WIMGA Conference. Our first meeting will be on Monday, May 1, at 6 PM in Room 16 at the Courthouse.

## PLANTS FOR PLANT SALE

When dividing your perennials and/or find that you have extra seedlings to transplant, please consider donating them to our upcoming plant sale. Preparations for getting your plants ready for the sale can be used as volunteer hours.

Our plant sale is set for Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 AM until Noon. We also need volunteers to help out set up at 8 and work at the sale.

If you have know what you have ahead of time, please let Jerry or Laura know so that we have an idea of the varieties of plants that we will have.

We have found a number of useful tips that have helped when selling plants. If you can include any of them from the following paragraph, we would be grateful!

Please label the plants (each pot) and if you have several, include a picture from a seed catalogue which tells things like sun, shade, dry or wet, short or tall, time of bloom, etc, if possible. You can get sticks (Popsicle size or tongue blades) at a drug store if you prefer not to reuse the white side of some labels that come from a nursery. Pieces from old blinds also work really well.

If you are dividing perennials, please try to pot them up at least a week in advance so

that they have time to acclimatize to being in a pot and not wilt at the sale.

Please try to drop your plants off between 8 and 8:30 AM on the day of the sale. If you cannot make it the day of the plant sale, you may drop your plants off the evening before in the enclosed area behind the Visitors' Center.

Your help is needed to make this plant sale a success! We need to raise funds to purchase computer equipment to use at our meetings and seminars.

## MONTHLY BROWN BAG

**May 19, 2006 (12:00 noon)  
Planning Hedge Plantings for the  
Landscape**

(contact your local UW County Extension Office for access)  
Hedges can be an attractive and functional part of a home landscape. Hedges may be used to mark boundaries, provide barriers, privacy, and screening, or serve as a windbreak. Herbaceous plants, grasses, trees and shrubs are well suited for hedges, but the selection of specific plant materials should be made by considering the particular purpose of the hedge, potential beauty and growing conditions at the desired site. Join Bob Tomesh, UW-Extension Specialist in a discussion of the different aspects of hedge plantings.

## NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you for the whimsical iron dragonfly lawn ornament. Although any work I did for the February 18<sup>th</sup> THINK SPRING event was simply part of my job, I am grateful for the kindness and generosity of your organization. As a gardening enthusiast myself, the dragonfly will be a wonderful addition to my tiny sanctuary of sanity!!

Becki Darrow



**CVMGA – APRIL 10, 2006 MONTHLY  
MEETING MINUTES**

The April meeting was held at the Chippewa Falls Courthouse, Conference Room 003 at 6:00 p.m.

Present were: Laura Franta, Darlene Brain, Jackie Guthrie, Paul Nicolai, Herbert Winter, John Fuchs, Joanne Ray, Laurie Hurt, Mary Jo Fleming, Cindy Schulz, Lee Sault, Mary Jo Buss, Sandy Zelm and Peggy Nelson.

President Laura Franta called the meeting to order.

The following announcements were made:

1. Help is needed at the CVMGA booth and doing clean-up on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for Earth Day from 9:00 to Noon.
2. Help is needed with the ongoing Blue Bird project.
3. 'Lunch with the Gardeners' at Fanny Hill is on April 29<sup>th</sup>.
4. A relief fund for Katrina victims has been set up and we should decide if we want to donate.
5. We are in the process of applying for a \$400.00 grant to help purchase laptop and projector equipment.
6. One day advanced Master Gardener training is being suggested with different sites as hosts.
7. Mary Jo Buss made an announcement about the Clean Boats/Clean Water project and that they are looking for volunteers. Contact Mary Jo for further details.
8. Lee Sault made an announcement that the orphanage in Africa he sponsors is looking for donations. Contact Lee for further details.

The treasurer's report from the 'Think Spring' Garden Seminar was read. It showed a profit from a very successful seminar.

Discussion was held on the upcoming plant sale scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to Noon. Outside plants are the most popular. Make sure the plants are potted well in advanced so they have a chance to adapt and make sure to label with the name of the plant. A picture is also nice, if possible.

January meeting minutes were approved.

A motion was made for the approval of applying for 501(c) (3) status (nonprofit organization). The motion was made by Joanne Ray and seconded by Lee Sault. The motion pass unanimously by all present.

Joanne Ray gave a presentation on gourds. They are members of the cucurbita family. Gourds come in many shapes, colors and designs and are usually in-edible. Varieties include ornamental, hard-shelled and luffa. Gourd types have either a yellow flower (Aladdin, Crown of Thorns, miniature, Turkish turban or warted) or a white flower (bottle, giant, dipper or birdhouse). Gourds can be started inside and then transplanted outside when there is no further threat of frost. Gourds do not like frost. Joanne then went on to tell how to dry gourds. Wash with soap and water and then 'treat' with rubbing alcohol to seal it and remove any mold. Make sure to leave a 3" stem. External drying can take anywhere from one month to six months. Internal drying time varies depending on the size of the gourd. Seeds can usually be heard inside when the gourd is shaken. When cutting gourds open make sure to wear a mask to protect against dust and residual mold. Joanne then finished up by giving a website for more information: amishgourds.com. Our thanks go to Joanne for the very interesting and informative presentation.

Laura made a final announcement that a new committee needs to be formed for decorations for the state conference to be held in Eau Claire in 2007. Anyone interested should come Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00 p.m. to the Extension Office in the courthouse.

Sandy Zelm also had pictures and information on lily bulbs for sale.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Nelson, Sec. Pro Term

## **CHIPPEWA FALLS HANGING BASKETS**

Chippewa Falls Main Street is looking for sponsors for the beautiful hanging baskets that line our Downtown streets. With Memorial Day coming soon, it is a lovely way to honor or remember someone special. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

## **OUR PROJECTS**

To familiarize our members with the various volunteer opportunities, we have been including introductory articles in our newsletters.

### ***Chippewa Falls Senior Center***

What a difference a few years can make. That is the length of time that we have helped with the flower bed at the Chippewa Falls Senior Center. In that time, a landscape plan was drawn up for the front of the building. The plants and the shrubs that were planted were mostly donated by our group. Some of the plants are a forsythia, spireas, coneflowers, Christmas Carol day-lilies, Stella D'Oro daylilies, lavender garden phlox and lilies of the valley. Last year we planted a couple of hibiscus. We are waiting to see if they made it through the winter.

The seniors have helped by planting some tulips, daffodils and crocus. For color they added marigolds and petunias in the front of the bed. And no matter how many times they are pulled out, there are some bachelor buttons that keep coming up every year.

Together, the seniors and our group have created a pleasing and restful garden area. But we aren't finished!! This year, Sharon Pribyl, the director of the Senior Center, would like to add a rose shrub and a hummingbird feeder.

----Submitted by Laurie Hurt and Darlene Brain

### ***River Source Family Center***

River Source Family Center is a new project for us. We are just beginning the planning stage this spring. The Center was contacted last fall to find out what ideas they had. The Center suggested a garden for the children to help with in the play area in the rear of the building. There also needs to be some plants and bushes planted in the fenced in

area. We will need to haul in black dirt before anything can be planted.

This will be a great opportunity to exercise the mind to come up with ideas for plantings in the various areas and to exercise the muscles when we spread the black dirt and create the different gardens.

----Submitted by Laurie Hurt and Darlene Brain

## **BEAVER CREEK NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Calling all gardeners and prairie enthusiasts! It's time for the annual Native Plant Sale at Beaver Creek Reserve. The sale will be held at Wise Nature Center (4 miles north of Fall Creek on County Road K) on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00am – 2:00pm. Come early for the best selection, and choose from a wide variety of hardy prairie flowers and grasses that are native to this area. They're perfect for a sunny yard or garden and, once established, will bring years of enjoyment and natural beauty. Mix them into your existing flower beds or start your own mini-prairie! All proceeds from the sale support greenhouse activities and other wildflower projects at the Reserve. For more information call Linda Bluem at Beaver Creek Reserve, 877-2212.

## **NOTE OF THANKS**

From Tri-County Master Gardeners:

Dear Contributor:

On behalf of the Tri-County Master Gardener's Association, we would like to thank you for your generosity.

Your donation helped to make the 2006 State Master Gardener's Conference a huge success.

Your contributions and the many volunteer hours donated annually by our Master Gardeners continue to benefit the cities and communities throughout the state.

Thank you again for your efforts with this event.

Sincerely,  
Tri-County Master Gardeners

*A big thank you goes to Jennifer Polnaszek for putting together the basket for our group to contribute.*

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

There are numerous volunteer opportunities available. More will be listed in the upcoming months.

**Bluebird Monitoring Project.** Although groups have already received a schedule of dates that they will monitor bluebird houses, individuals may still get in on this project to help fill in or join a group. At present we have about 35 houses which are monitored weekly during the nesting season. Volunteers take turns on weekends opening each nest box and making a count of eggs or young birds in the nest. Other species of birds will sometimes inhabit the nest as well. Volunteers will identify the differences in nests and eggs of other species of birds. It is exciting to open each nest box and observe the changes which take place with the eggs and young from week to week.

The bluebird houses are located near the bike trail by the county land. To get there, take Cty Tk I past the hospital and keep going until the road bends to the left. At the bend there is a road to the left, turn there. The driveway is to the immediate right of the turn. For more information on the Bluebird Project contact Gaylord Oppeward at [Gpoppegard@aol.com](mailto:Gpoppegard@aol.com) or telephone 723-4613.

**Chippewa Falls Senior Center.** The Chippewa Falls Senior Center flowerbed is an ongoing project. Continued help is needed. They have been kind enough to let us use their facilities for our garden seminar, so let's show our appreciation by providing plenty of help! Please contact Laurie Hurt at [info@cptooling.com](mailto:info@cptooling.com) or (715) 288-6487 to volunteer or to answer any questions.

**Chippewa Falls Visitors' Center.** Spring clean-up at the Chippewa Falls Visitors' Center will be on Saturday, April 29, at 8:30 AM. Please bring your garden tools and garbage bags to dispose of debris. Dead plant material will need to be removed, as well as any weeds. Darlene Brain will be leading the clean-up session. We will need volunteers to continue to help make it presentable through the growing season. Please contact Laura at 723-6711 or

[talloaks@charter.net](mailto:talloaks@charter.net) if you have any questions.

**Clean Boats Clean Water Program.** The Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association is implementing a Clean Boats Clean Water program on Lake Wissota after Eurasian water-milfoil was discovered in the lake last year. Volunteers will monitor boaters on weekends at three landings on the lake. They will be trained to inform boaters about invasive aquatic species and how to prevent their transfer from lake to lake. Volunteers are needed who will commit to a two-hour training session that can be set up at their convenience and at least two four-hour boat monitoring sessions during the summer. If you are interested in the program, contact Mary Jo Fleming 723-0822 or [bingnjo@charter.net](mailto:bingnjo@charter.net).

**Downtown Flower Beautification.** Men are needed to help hang the flower baskets downtown on June 2. The plan is to meet at 5:30 AM at Christensen's Greenhouse to load the baskets and to begin hanging them at about 6 AM. Please contact Chippewa Falls Main Street at 723-7858 if you have any questions or if you are able to help out.

Help is also needed to plant flowers along the bridge on Hwy 124 and Court Street at 9 AM on June 2. Please contact Chippewa Falls Main Street at 723-7858 if you have any questions or if you are able to help out.

Help is needed with early morning watering of the flower baskets after they are hung throughout the summer. You may volunteer for a week, weekend, or as often as you would like. Please contact Chippewa Falls Main Street at 723-7858 if you have any questions or if you are able to help out.

**Extension Office.** Assist in helping out at answering the phones at the Extension Office. It gets very busy during the growing season and it is helpful to be on hand to answer questions. A training program is in place in regards to responding to horticulture inquires on Monday, June 5, in Madison and Wednesday, June 7, in Wausau. You may choose either location. See our April newsletter for more details on training. To volunteer, contact Jerry.

**Garlic Mustard Monitoring Program.** Once introduced, garlic mustard is an aggressive invader that takes over a plant community. We need people to monitor in Irvine Park, our prairie demonstration area, and other areas in the community. Beaver Creek is having a workshop on May 6. See the article under "Educational Opportunities" for more details. Contact Laura at [talloaks@charter.net](mailto:talloaks@charter.net) or 723-6711 if you are able to help.

**Growing Gourds.** Donations of bottleneck, birdhouse, apple and bushel gourds are needed for our portion of preparations for the 2007 Annual WIMGA Conference. Time spent growing and drying these gourds counts as volunteer hours. Contact Laura at [talloaks@charter.net](mailto:talloaks@charter.net) or 723-6711 if you are able to help or if you have any questions.

**Invasive Species Month.** June is invasive species month. Volunteers are needed to help spread public awareness. This can be through posters, presentations, or monitoring invasive species. Contact Laura at [talloaks@charter.net](mailto:talloaks@charter.net) or 723-6711 if you are able to help.

**Newspaper Articles.** If you would like to write an article for the newspaper, please give them to Jerry to submit. It is preferable that they be submitted electronically, but hard copy will be accepted as well.

**Presentations.** From time to time Jerry receives requests for our group to give presentations. If you are willing to give presentations to the public and/or other groups, please contact Jerry.

**Purple Loosestrife.** Purple Loosestrife is an invasive species that can often be found in fields and along roadsides. A workshop is being held in Spooner on May 31 if you are interested in learning how you can help control this. See the article under "Educational Opportunities" for more details. The workshop is counted as educational hours, but the time that you spend implementing and monitoring after the workshop can be counted as volunteer hours.

**Raised Bed on Hwy 124 and High Street.** We have a raised bed just as the road bends where Hwy 124 turns into a one-way street and River Street meets High Street.

This is a small raised bed built up with boards. Volunteers are needed to help keep it weed free. An excellent clean-up day would be on Saturday, April 29 after working at the Chippewa Falls Visitors' Center bed. Routine maintenance is needed thereafter.

**River Source Family Center.** River Source Family Center is a new project that we will be beginning this year. There is much planning and preparations to be made before actual planting may begin. Please contact Laurie Hurt at [info@cptooling.com](mailto:info@cptooling.com) or (715) 288-6487 to volunteer or to answer any questions.

**Spring Plant Sale.** Help is needed with our annual plant sale on Saturday, May 20. Set-up begins at 8 AM. The plant sale runs from 9 AM to Noon with clean-up following. The sale will end early if we are sold out. Contact Laura at [talloaks@charter.net](mailto:talloaks@charter.net) or 723-6711 if you are able to help.

**Wissota Lakeside Home.** There is an on-going project at the former Wissota Lakeside near St. Joseph's Hospital. Cathleen Jeschke and Tracy Beachem have been tending this bed for three seasons now. It began as a simple flower bed and has evolved into a 10x36 bed.

I believe there is plenty of time for us to get a few more helping hands to really make this flowerbed something to marvel at. The residents that are able to get outside have a great appreciation for the garden. Tracy has been able to have many great conversations with many past gardeners and it is great to see a smile on their faces bringing back great memories for them.

There really isn't a schedule as of yet. This spot does need more help with watering. It is an East facing brick wall, holding lots of heat. We have a hard time in any dry weather keeping it looking nice. The only date that is planned is 4/22/06 a.m. to do spring clean up and analyze what the winter (and vermin) has done to the bed. Anyone who wants to join us is more than welcome.

Please contact Tracy Beachem at [beachem@centurytel.net](mailto:beachem@centurytel.net) if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The following workshops provide an excellent opportunity for beginning projects on controlling invasive species.

**Garlic Mustard Monitoring Project Workshop** on Saturday, May 6, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Beaver Creek Reserve. Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) poses a severe threat to native plants and animals in forest communities. Once introduced to an area, garlic mustard out-competes native plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. This plant is currently found in the Eau Claire area. Join Jeremy Solin, Wisconsin School Forest Education Specialist, as he trains participants on identification and control methods for garlic mustard. Participants will be asked to monitor for garlic mustard in their areas, document their observations on the Wisconsin Nature Mapping website, and take steps to control the plant. This workshop is intended for teachers but open to the general public as well. There is no cost for the program.

Bring your own bag lunch.

Pre-registration is required. To register, contact Lynn Barrie at 715-877-2212 or E-Mail [lynn@beavercreekreserve.org](mailto:lynn@beavercreekreserve.org).  
Address: Beaver Creek Reserve  
S1 County Road K  
Fall Creek, WI 54742

**Purple Loosestrife Wetland Field Trip** on May 31 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM in Spooner, hosted by, WDNR & UW-Extension.

The WDNR and UW Extension offer free public field trips in May and June to encourage everyone to visit a local wetland infested with purple loosestrife (PL), and recovering through biocontrol. Participants can learn about this invasive plant and how to distinguish it from a variety of native plants, see biocontrol beetles and/or the damage they do to PL, and ask questions about the biocontrol program. They may also be able to personally help to collect beetles for local PL biocontrol work! Citizens have been propagating tested, safe, and effective purple loosestrife biocontrol insects in Wisconsin

since 1997, with great results. All citizens are encouraged to join this effort to help protect their local wetlands from the scourge of this invasive. Participants should register by emailing [brock.woods@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:brock.woods@dnr.state.wi.us) or by calling 608-221-6349 and leaving name, trip date/place and email address or phone number. Any trip may be canceled or postponed due to severe weather, so participants should call ahead if in doubt.

To register, contact Brock Woods at 608-221-6349 or E-Mail [brock.woods@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:brock.woods@dnr.state.wi.us)  
Location: Spooner: WDNR Service Center, 810 W. Maple Street (Meet here)  
Preregistration Required: Yes  
What to Wear: Bring clothing and boots suitable for spring weather in wet habitats.

## **NORTHERN WISCONSIN STATE FAIR ENTRIES**

Registration for fair entries will begin earlier than in the past this year. For instance, registration has begun now for flowers and houseplants and ends on June 9. Fairbooks are now available and are available at the fair office and local businesses. Please contact the fair office with any questions that you may have.

## **FAIR ENTRIES**

Are you thinking about or planning to enter an exhibit in the "Flowers and House Plants" department of the fair? Then you may wish to think about attending the orientation workshop held in the outdoor building at the fairgrounds on Monday, May 8. The workshop will be held at two different times for your convenience. The first workshop will be held at 1 PM and the second will be held at 7 PM on the same day. Topics of the workshop include: (1) selecting and preparing plant material for exhibition, (2) keeping plant material fresh for the duration of the fair, (3) basic principles of floral design, (4) creating a theme design and suggestions for expression of themes, and (5) reviewing the requirements for each class.

These workshops are free and ALL exhibitors are invited to attend.

**CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER VOLUNTEER WATERCRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAM**

**History of Invaders.** Exotic species or non-native species have been hitchhiking their way into Wisconsin for decades. By water, boat, and land, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes, exotic organisms have been moving into inland waters. Some aquatic exotic species can become invasive, threatening the diversity and abundance of native species, altering ecosystems and affecting aquaculture and recreational activities. As we travel throughout Wisconsin, exotics tag along and create havoc in our water bodies. In today's world, exotics can move at "the speed of flight." With so many waterbodies and so few state resources, it only makes sense to encourage volunteers to monitor and educate boaters about invasive species.

**What can Volunteers Do?** Volunteer monitors have been an integral part of Wisconsin lakes since 1986 and are the core of the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership. Wisconsin is fortunate to have over 1000 volunteers who monitor water clarity, water chemistry, aquatic plants and invasive species. Volunteers can once again be a valuable tool in helping to prevent the movement of invasive species across the state.

Through the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program, volunteers are trained to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community. Adult and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies. By performing boat and trailer checks, distributing and informational brochures and collecting and reporting suspect specimens, volunteers can make a difference in helping to prevent the spread of invasive species.

**Training.** In order for a volunteer monitoring program to be successful, it is important to adequately train, support and guide volunteers along the way. No matter where boaters go across the state, the volunteer message will remain the same: "Clean Boats, Clean Waters."

Training sessions are scheduled at convenient locations across the state. During the training sessions, volunteers will get a gen-

eral overview of what current aquatic invasive species threaten Wisconsin waters. They are given instructions on how to set up a boat launch monitoring program, approach boaters, perform boat/trailer checks, record pertinent data, and report suspect specimens. In addition, they receive a volunteer handbook and resource tool kit to assist them in their monitoring efforts. Contact Mary Jo Fleming, the Clean Boats, Clean Waters Coordinator, at 723-0822 or [bingnjo@charter.net](mailto:bingnjo@charter.net) for the next scheduled workshop in your area.

**A DOG IN THE GARDEN - LANDSCAPING WITH YOUR PET IN MIND**

**May 21, 2006**

Sharing yard and garden space with dogs is challenging. Attend this class from noon to 4:30 p.m. and learn how to give your dogs an adventure while making your neighbors love you, all at a price you can afford. The first session lays the groundwork for having a durable and attractive yard by demonstrating solutions to pet-generated yard problems. The second session is hands-on design for every attendee, planning with actual plats or drawings. At the Eau Claire County Senior Center, 1616 Bellinger, Eau Claire. \$40, or 2 household members for \$65. All profits go to Eau Claire County Humane Society. For more information and to make a reservation contact [Lauren Evans](mailto:Lauren.Evans@eauhclaire.org) at (715) 839-4747, Ext.25.

**GOURD DECORATING CONTEST**

There will be a gourd decorating contest at the 2007 WIMGA Annual Conference in Eau Claire. There will be three categories: (1) For the Birds (gourds are decorated as birdhouses), (2) Functional (gourds designed to be used as bowls, baskets, ladles, etc.) and (3) Free-style (gourds may be decorated any way you want—animate, inanimate, decorative, etc.). Gourds must be grown and decorated by the participant. Entrant must be a Master Gardener in good standing. Entrants are allowed to enter one entry per category. Entries will become the property of the 2007 Annual Convention and sold in a Silent Auction.



# 2006 Flower Beautification Sponsor



## *Any contribution helps!*

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Contribution toward hanging basket and bedding plants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Contribution toward hanging basket and bedding plants.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 Sponsor a hanging basket.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$120 Sponsor two hanging baskets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Major contribution for the development of landscaping and flower beds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other. Contributions are also needed to help defray the expenses of hiring someone to water the baskets and gardens.

Contributions\* should be made payable to:  
**Chippewa Falls Main Street, Inc.**  
**Flower Beautification**  
**10 South Bridge Street**  
**Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

\*Financial contributions to Chippewa Falls Main Street, Inc., Flower Beautification are tax deductible as we are registered as a 501(c)(3) private non-profit corporation with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Contributions may also be dropped off in person at the Main Street office.

To volunteer to help with garden planting or maintenance or for further information, contact Executive Director Jim Schuh at the Main Street office at 723-6661.

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Contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor or Memory of (Please circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like a card sent to inform the person or the family of the designation, please give name and address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_