



CHIPPewa VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2006

AUGUST MEETING

Our monthly meeting will be held Monday, August 14, at 6 PM. This will be a combination potluck, meeting, and tour.

Your spouse or significant other is welcome to join us as we have our annual potluck. Please bring your own meat for grilling, your own beverage, and a dish to pass.

We will be touring Ralph Couey's apple orchard (formerly Connell's Orchard). To get there, go to Gordy's County market on Lake Wissota and head east on County X.....you are going to pass Bateman Tavern and continue on Cty X east to County Highway K SOUTH. Follow Cty K SOUTH to County Hwy OO then turn Right or WEST on OO for 1/2 mile. Orchard is on RIGHT or North side of road. The fire number is 19372 Cty Hwy OO.

JULY MEETING MINUTES

The July meeting was held at Darlene Brain's residence at Monday, July 10, at 6:00pm.

President Laura Franta called the meeting to order. She announced that help was needed at the MG fair booth. She also reminded everyone to let her know if they were interested in purchasing "Identifying Natural Enemies in Field Crops." The books are for sale for \$7.00 plus shipping and handling.

Badges were presented to the following members: Mary Jo Buss, Jackie Guthrie, Paul Nicolai, and Jennifer Polnaszek for attending six monthly CVMGA meetings within one year.

Copies of the By-laws were sent prior to the meeting showing changes to be voted on. A

motion was made by Darlene Brain to approve the changes as written. A second was made by Jennifer Polnaszek. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Darlene Brain and a second was made by Jennifer Polnaszek. Motion passed.

We were taken on tour of Darlene's many flower beds and the pond. We also watched the numerous finches and blue birds feeding as we sat the deck. Goodies were also served.

Members present were: Paul Nicolai, Darlene Brain, Laura Franta, Laurie Hurt, Mary Jo Buss, Jackie Guthrie, Jennifer Polnaszek and Nancy Heidtke.

CD'S FOR SALE

CVMGA members will have the special opportunity of purchasing the University of Wisconsin Garden Facts on CD at a special reduced cost. These normally sell for \$20 each. Our members will be able to order them for \$15 each plus shipping and handling. We will not know what S&H charges are until we receive the CDs.

The CD's currently compile all of our fact sheets (roughly 150 titles) that are available at the time of order. Fact sheets are provided in four formats, Word vs. PDF and full color vs. low color. The low color format retains all color pictures, but cuts back on other color formatting on the fact sheets, thus saving on ink costs.

If you are interested in ordering, please let Becki or Jerry know at the Extension Office. Orders must be placed by Monday, July 31.

UPCOMING WISCONSIN DNR WORKSHOP

This year's DNR Workshop will be on "Shrub Identification and Selection." Melinda Myers (former Milwaukee County Extension Horticulturist and WTMJ "Plant Doctor") will be teaching the one-day basic-level workshops this fall on Shrub Identification and Selection. The workshop closest to us will be on September 14 in Menomonie. Watch for more details in our next newsletter.

COMING UP ON THE WISCONSIN GARDENER

(please confirm times in your local listings)

**July 30, 2:00 PM/central
"The Goodness of Gardening"**

Host Shelley Ryan visits a healing garden in Baraboo, learns about a noxious but edible weed called garlic mustard, and discovers the history of garden pots. Also on the program, Mark Dwyer at Rotary Gardens gives a tour of great spring bloomers including some underused bulbs and shrubs. A special segment highlights the gardening accomplishments of Charlie Anderson, who is almost completely blind and still gardens independently in his large yard.

FALL SPECIALIZED TRAINING

This year's specialized Master Gardener Training is on Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants. This is still in the planning stages and an update will be sent as it is received. It is tentatively set up to be held at Chi-Hi upon confirmation.

MG class participants are required to have completed the General Master Gardener training prior to participating in this next level of training. The program will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning on September 19 for 12 weeks (Class will begin at 5:45 p.m. the first night for orientation). Participants will be encouraged to return 36 hours of volunteer service to their community (although only 24 hours will be necessary for recertification). The programs will be broadcast to the remote sites with "live" speakers who will be including PowerPoint, slides, overheads and video in their presentations. Sites will have opportunity for interaction (Q/A) with the speakers.

Contact Jerry Clark at 726-7950 or email JRClark@co.chippewa.wi.us if you are interested.

The tentative program includes:

Date	Topic	Speaker
Sept 19	Houseplant Care and Culture Container Selection, Potting, Procedures	
Sept 26	Garden Design	
Oct 3	Water Gardening	Bob Rieser (The Frog Bog)
Oct 10	Gardening with Native Plants and Wildflowers	Dr. Evelyn Howell
Oct 17	Gardening with Bulbs	
Oct 24	Diseases of Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants	Dr. Brian Hudelson
Oct 31	Indoor/Outdoor Insect Pests	
Nov 7	Hardy Shrub Roses for Wisconsin Container Gardening	
Nov 14	Gardening with Annuals Starting Seeds Handling Transplants Annuals in Review, New and Old	
Nov 21	TBA	
Nov 28	TBA	
Dec 5	TBA	

**The Specialized Training may count as Educational Hours.*

TWILIGHT GARDEN TOUR

Aug 22, 2006

[Spooner Ag Research Station](#), Spooner, WI

Stroll through the garden to see the various trials and plantings, listen to UW-Extension Hort Specialists and Master Gardeners from 5:00 p.m. to dusk. For more information contact the Spooner Agricultural Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801 at (715) 635-3735 or Fax (715) 635-6741.

JULY BROWN BAG

The monthly Brown Bag Program for Friday, July 28, is Reviewing Horticulture Field Day Events

Please contact Jerry or Becki if you plan to participate at the Extension Office.

Each year, UW-Extension Specialists and UW-Agriculture Research Station Assistants plan, organize and host several horticulture field events. Annually vegetable, fruit, ornamental, and flower cultivar trials as well as cultural and maintenance techniques are planned and initiated for performance evaluation and a series of State-wide Fall Horticulture Field Day programs. Preview the 2006 plans for evaluating the performance of selected vegetable and flower crops, home irrigation systems, and selected vegetables home cooking. Join Bob Tomesh, other UW Extension Specialists and ARS assistants in highlights for 2006 field days.

Dates and Locations of events:

Fruit, Vegetable and Flower Twilight Tour

August 14, 4:30 - 8:00 PM

<<mailto:hancock@calshp.cals.wisc.edu>>

Hancock Ag Research Station, N3909 County Hwy V, Hancock, WI 54943-7547 at (715) 249-5961.

West Madison Horticulture Field Day

August 19, 10:00 - 3:00 PM

<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/research/stations/research_stations03.html>

West Madison Ag Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Rd., Verona, WI 53593-9689 at (608) 262-2257.

Heirloom Tomato Festival

August 19, 1:00 - 5:00 PM.

<<http://www.rotarygardens.org/education.htm>>Rotary Gardens, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville, WI. On-going tours of the 100+ heirloom tomato collection, demos of canning and seed saving, salsa taste testing, children's activities. Free Admission. Horticulture Center at Rotary Gardens.

Twilight Garden Tour August 22, 5:00 dark
<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/research/stations/research_stations07.html> Spooner Ag Research Station, W6646 Highway 70, Spooner, WI 54801 at (715) 635-3735.

Twilight Garden Tour

August 23, 6:00 - 7:30

<http://www.cals.wisc.edu/research/stations/research_stations07.html> Marshfield Ag Research Station, 8396 Yellowstone, Marshfield, WI 54449 at (715) 387-2523.

BITTER PIT PROBLEMS IN APPLES

July 14 Wisconsin Horticultural Update

The dry weather is certainly going to set our apple crops up for bitter pit problems later in the season. That's a calcium-related disorder. It's not a problem of having insufficient calcium in the soil; it's a problem of getting enough calcium into the fruit because calcium moves in the water transpiration stream. More water goes through the leaves and more calcium goes through the leaves and to the fruit, so the best approach is to spray calcium on the trees. Calcium chloride is the least expensive material. It's caustic to sprayers so sprayers will need to be cleaned out very well after application. Recommended rates are three to six pounds of calcium per 100 gallons, not to exceed six to ten pounds of calcium per acre per application. Now in really dry weather like we're having now, if a grower has put on an application of calcium and it hasn't rained since the previous application, the second application or next application shouldn't go on until there's been some rain because calcium will potentially damage the leaves and you need the rain to sort of wash it off a little bit and then you can put another coat on. The predisposing factors are hot, dry weather, large fruit, and young trees. Those are all involved. (See article on *Bitter Pit & Cork Spot*.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous volunteer opportunities available. More will be listed as they become available.

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 or (715) 288-6487 to volunteer or to answer any questions.

Chippewa Falls Visitors' Center. Volunteers are needed to weed the flower bed at the Chippewa Falls Visitors' Center. You may go on your own or in a group. When weeding, please bring along a garbage bag to dispose of debris. Dead plant material will need to be removed, as well as any weeds. 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 if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

Chippewa Moraine Ice Age State Recreation Area. Volunteers are needed to help out with the grounds and other areas. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Brenda Rederer, the National Resource Educator/Manager at rederb@dnr.state.wi.us or call (715) 967-2800. Chippewa Moraine Ice Age State Recreation Area, 13394 County Highway M, New Auburn WI 54757 http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/parks/specific/chippewa_moraine/

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 boats 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. This is a busy time of

year and she would really appreciate your help!

Downtown Flower Beautification. Help is needed with early morning watering of the flower baskets 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 the Extension Office. It gets very busy during the growing season and it is helpful to be on hand to answer questions.

General Master Gardener Training. The General Master Gardener Training will be held Tuesday evenings beginning September 19 through December 5, the same dates as the Specialized Master Gardener Training. Classes will run from 6-9 PM. If you are able to help out, please contact Jerry at 726-7950 or email JRClark@co.chippewa.wi.us.

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.

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 and to water it.

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 or (715) 288-6487 to volunteer or if you have any questions.

"Think Spring" Garden Seminar. As garden centers are winding down, now is an

excellent opportunity to seek donations for our Silent Auction and for door prizes. Time spent seeking and obtaining items may be counted as support hours for volunteer time. Handcrafted items related to or with a gardening theme are welcome. Members have donated handmade items in the past with time spent making them for our seminar counting as their volunteer hours. Items must be completed and turned in to either Jerry or Laura on or before October 1.

Wissota Lakeside Home. There is an ongoing 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.

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 if you would like to volunteer or have any questions

WAAE Fall Conference
"The Great Lakes: Where Woods
Meets Waters"

October 26-28, 2006
Wisconsin Maritime Museum and
The Inn on Maritime Bay
Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Association for Environmental Education

Promoting responsible environmental action through education in the classroom and community, WAAE is your direct connection to **Environmental Education (EE)** in Wisconsin. Join teachers, naturalists, youth leaders, natural resource professionals and others dedicated to learning more and educating all persons about the natural and built environment. WAAE is a non-profit organization that sponsors conferences, work-

shops, and gatherings to promote professional growth and networking opportunities. Our organization also supports the work of its members through statewide initiatives, professional resources and recognition.

For more details and registration form, go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/waee/> and click on WAAE Fall Conference 2006.

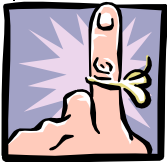
Early bird registration ends September 27.

BOTANY: CELEBRATING
WILDFLOWERS

On Monday, July 17, 2006, the new **Botany: Celebrating Wildflowers** web site will be viewable by the public. Every Region, Forest, Grassland and Prairie contributed to the content of this new site. This new web site is the gateway to an enormous amount of botanical information.

A number of other modules such as rare plants, native plant materials, ethnobotany, lichens, ferns and other botany subject areas are currently under development and will be posted to the web site as they become finalized. Many botanists, plant ecologists and other resource specialists, as well as others, contributed to the current content of this site. I invite you to visit this new Forest Service web site and enjoy the content. The URL is: <http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/>

Reminder: Volunteer Hour Sheets are due October 1. A minimum of 24 Volunteer Hours are needed. Master Gardeners recertifying also need 10 Educational Hours. Contact Laura if you need volunteer opportunities before too much time passes.



DROUGHT MONITOR
To view drought level conditions, check out the map at:
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html>

Bitter Pit and Cork Spot

Teryl Roper, UW-Madison, Department of Horticulture



An apple with symptoms of bitter pit.

Bitter pit and cork spot are common disorders of Wisconsin apples. These two disorders don't occur every year, but when weather conditions are just right (or just wrong, depending on your perspective) they can be major problems. This fact sheet describes the causes of the disorders and what can be done to reduce the severity of the problems.

The name bitter pit will be used for both cork spot and bitter pit since they are related disorders. Bitter pit shows as brownish spots in the fruit flesh. The spots actually occur in the outer layers of the fruit but are visible through the skin. Bitter pit may develop before or after harvest. Cork spot develops before harvest. The flesh layers underlying the skin collapse, become brown and take on a "corky" appearance. The exact

underlying cause of these disorders is not known, however, they are both known to be calcium related.

Two or three factors are associated with development of bitter pit.

- **High tree vigor.** *Trees that are invigorated by heavy pruning, light crops, or nitrogen applications beyond sufficient ranges have a higher incidence of bitter pit. Pruning is vegetatively invigorating and trees that are heavily pruned will also have light crops and substantial vegetative growth. High nitrogen fertilizer doses also lead to substantial vegetative growth. Vegetative growth competes with fruit for available calcium. If calcium is shunted to vegetative growth it is not available for fruit growth. Further, since calcium moves with water in the transpiration stream, greater leaf area will shunt more water (and calcium) to the leaves rather than fruit.*
- **Moisture stress.** *Trees that have received either too much or too little water are more prone to bitter pit. The typical situation is too little water. Related to moisture stress is high temperature. Hot days lead to greater evapotranspiration from leaves. Calcium moves in the xylem along with the water that "feeds" the transpiration needs and ends up in leaves rather than fruit. Once in the leaves, calcium is immobile and will not move back to fruit.*
- **Large fruit.** *Large fruit are more generally more susceptible to bitter pit than smaller fruit. A light crop will not only lead to vegetative vigor, but also to larger fruit and these fruit are more likely to show bitter pit.*



Three things can be done to reduce the incidence of bitter pit in apples.

- **Provide irrigation.** *I realize that most years irrigation is not critical in Wisconsin and that the cost can be high. During dry spells or drought years, however, it would be very valuable in maintaining soil moisture levels and reducing tree stress.*
- **Apply calcium sprays.** *Since calcium is immobile in plants once it has reached its destination, it is good practice to apply calcium to the tree so that some will land on the fruit and be absorbed through the cuticle. Both calcium nitrate and calcium chloride are acceptable, but calcium chloride is far cheaper. Besides, the calcium nitrate just aggravates the “too much vigor” problem. I recommend four pounds of calcium chloride per acre beginning with the first cover spray until late July. Then increase the calcium chloride rate to 6 lbs. per acre. For small orchards this is equivalent to about 6 oz. of calcium chloride per gallon. During prolonged dry weather, eliminate calcium chloride applications to prevent buildup on the foliage and fruit that may cause burning. Don’t make a second application unless it has rained since the previous application. There are different calcium chloride products. Research in several states has shown that all products are equally effective if applied at the same rate of calcium. (Go for the cheap one.)*
- **Include calcium in postharvest dip tanks or wash water.** *Michigan research has shown a 4% dip or drench of calcium chloride will reduce or delay the incidence of bitter pit in storage. Mix the solution as 33 pounds of calcium chloride per 100 gallons of water. After storage the fruit must again be washed to remove the calcium deposits on the fruit.*

Remember that calcium chloride is corrosive to metal so be sure to clean all equipment thoroughly after using calcium chloride. Painting and upkeep becomes even more important if calcium chloride is used.

I wish there were some “magic bullet” that would reduce the incidence and severity of bitter pit. Unfortunately, it is weather related and has several variables that determine its severity and incidence. So, in general, the techniques are keeping vigor under control and maintaining a reasonable crop load to keep competing calcium sinks from accumulating calcium that should go to fruit and then applying calcium in cover sprays and at post harvest will help reduce the problem. There are no easy solutions.

For more information on bitter pit and cork spot: Contact your county Extension agent.

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References to pesticide products in this publication are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over similar products. You are responsible for using pesticides according to the manufacturer’s current label directions. Follow directions exactly to protect the environment and people from pesticide exposure. Failure to do so violates the law.

A complete inventory of University of Wisconsin Garden Facts is available at the University of Wisconsin-Extension Horticulture website: wihort.uwex.edu.

ASH FLOWER GALL

Phil Pellitteri, UW Insect Diagnostic Lab

What is wrong with my ash tree? Galls are abnormal plant growth that can be caused by insects, mites or plant diseases. On ash trees, a tiny eriophyid mite causes male flowers to grow into round greenish, 1/2 to 1 inch diameter tumor-like structure. Sometimes the lumpy growths also cause leaf distortions. During the late summer the galls turn dark brown and woody, and can remain on the tree for more than one season. Ash flower gall mites are too small to be seen with the unaided eye. These worm-shaped mites spend the winter under the buds and begin feeding, and initiate gall growth early in spring. Once the gall starts growing, it is too late to treat the plant.



Ash flower galls.

the buds and begin feeding, and initiate gall growth early in spring. Once the gall starts growing, it is too late to treat the plant.

Will ash flower gall harm my tree?

Ash flower gall does not harm the health of a tree, but in some years will make a tree look unsightly. In rare situations the weight of the gall tissue can cause branches to be strained. Some trees seem to be more prone to this problem than others.

How do I control ash flower gall?

Timing is everything. The mites must be killed before galls begin to grow in the spring. Look for the first signs of green in the opening flower buds. An application of carbaryl (Sevin) in the spring when the first blossoms begin to form will reduce the number of galls.

However, larger trees are difficult to treat, and because ash flower gall is considered a cosmetic problem, treatment is rarely suggested. Young trees do differ in their susceptibility. Therefore, consider replacing highly susceptible trees.

For more information on ash flower gall: Contact your county Extension agent.

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Thanks to Karen Delahaut and Chris Williamson for reviewing this document.

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* A question regarding Ash Flower Gall was brought up at one of the sessions at the Chippewa Falls Public Library during the "Invasive Species Awareness Month" series.

Revised
Apr. 27, 2004