



# Continuing Education

**Saturday, March 18, 2006**

**GARDEN "U"**

**9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

The Valley House, 3 miles north of Hudson on Wisconsin Hwy 35

Sponsored by the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association. **"Growing Hardy Lilies In Zone 4" Dennis Drews**

**"FORK TO FORK - garden fork to table fork," David Cavagnaro, "The "Culture" in Arboriculture" Mark Stennes**

Registration fee:

\$25 payable to SCVMGA

Includes lunch on site

Mail to:

SCVMGA – Barrette

1358 County Rd V

St Joseph, WI 54082

Questions:

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**March 24-25, 2006**

**Annual WI MGA Conference**

**Appleton, WI**

Speakers and workshops on a variety of topics, as well as many opportunities to meet fellow MGs from around the state.

Registration forms were in the January WIMGA newsletter. Link to more information on the conference location, raffle / silent auction items, and more. Download the registration brochure.

**March 25, 2006**

**Winona MG Workshop, Winona MN**

Winona County Master Gardeners, Gardeners' Day

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Winona Middle School, 1570 Homer Road. Registration \$30.00 (Check or Money Order) Winona Community Education Lincoln Building – 105A, 654 Huff Street, Winona, MN 55987 Questions call 507-494-0900

**Monday, April 3, 2006**

**APPLE GRAFTING WORKSHOP 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

A whole orchard of fruit from one tree!? Well, probably not – but La Crosse County citizens can learn the basics of successful apple grafting at an apple grafting seminar offered in La Crosse on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006.

The grafting process can be used to introduce unique plant characteristics onto rooted plants. Several different procedures for successful grafting will be reviewed during the workshop according to Robert Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist, who will be conducting the workshop.

Each participant will receive three hardy apple rootstocks. Apple scionwood from different varieties will be available for grafting or participants can bring their own scionwood. Rootstocks for grafting pears, cherries and plums will also be available at the program. If individuals are interested in participating in the on-site grafting activities, please bring a pair of leather gloves and a sharp knife (utility or grafting knife).

The workshop is open to the general public. Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend. A \$10 Participant fee is charged to cover handouts, materials and presentation costs. Enrollment for the workshop is limited to the first 40 people who have pre-registered and paid (make checks payable to UW-Extension). **For registration and payment, contact the La Crosse County Extension Office at 608-785-9593 to RSVP by March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006.** Enrollments will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

**For those wishing to collect their own scion wood for grafting purposes:** The best time to collect scion wood for grafting is early spring (February and March) while trees are dormant. Scion wood is the twig or branch from last years growth containing buds which developed last growing season. Buds from one year old water sprouts about ¼ to 3/8 inch in diameter (pencil diameter in size) and found growing off the trunk and main branches. These have the best vigor. To keep the scions in a dormant condition after collecting and until needed, store them in moistened newspaper, wrapped in a plastic bag and stored in a refrigerator at 35 to 39 degrees. ♣

## March is the Time to Prune Shade Trees and Some Shrubs

Now is the 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” states Dr. Jull.

Pruning oaks and many other tree and shrub species before mid April can help prevent the spread of other diseases as well. Pruning trees now also means trees will begin healing the pruning cuts quickly.

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 a 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 mock-orange 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.



For more information on pruning trees and shrubs, see the UW-Extension Garden Fact Sheets website: (<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/wihort/GardenFacts.html>), in particular, look for XHT1075 (Oak Wilt), XHT1013 (How to properly prune evergreens), XHT1014 (How to properly prune deciduous trees), and XHT1015 (How to properly prune deciduous shrubs).

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Huntzicker".

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**Extension**  
La Crosse County