Plan ahead to beat the winter blahs! Register now for the third annual Winter Escape~Summer Dreams gardening conference scheduled for Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Reeve Memorial Union on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus. This public event, sponsored by the Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteer Association, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and include a continental breakfast and lunch.

The featured speaker will be the “Renegade Gardener,” Don Engebretson, a nationally known garden writer and speaker. His humorous, opinionated presentations entertain gardeners of all levels. He believes the joy of gardening comes from experimentation and that a passion for gardening comes only from failing, laughing, succeeding and learning. On February 4, he will speak on “Top 10 Gardening and Landscaping blunders—and How to Avoid Them” and “Really Cool Plants for Wisconsin Gardens.” The second speaker will be horticulturist Mark May who will speak on growing vegetables in the home garden. He is the owner of May Garden Center in Oconomowoc and is known as The Plant Doctor on WTKM 104.9. May is also a horticulture instructor at Madison Area Technical College in Watertown.

The conference will also feature a variety of garden oriented vendors and book signing with Engebretson. This is a great opportunity to focus on green and growing when it’s snowing and blowing. Early bird registration through January 20, 2012 is just $35 for the full day. For more information and a registration form go to www.winnebagomastergardeners.org or call (920) 231-5745.

The 16th Annual Toward Harmony with Nature Conference on Native Plants and Natural Landscapes will be held January 28, 2012 at the Oshkosh Convention Center, Oshkosh. This day-long event features Steve Apfelbaum, founder of Applied Ecological Services, Inc. and author of Nature’s Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm. This event is presented by Wild Ones–Fox Valley Area chapter. For more information, call 920 987-5587 or go to: www.toward-harmonywithnature.org.
Onions

Gladwyn Doughman will bring his catalog for the Texas onions to the February meeting. It is time to order for the coming season's garden. The more orders the less cost.

Dorothy recommends the Copras for our area for the best keepers. They have onions until the next planting time.

One pays Gladwyn on the arrival of the plants.

Contact Gladwyn or Dorothy for more information.

Submitted by Dorothy

Encyclopedias Worth Viewing

The Manitowoc Library has the new edition of "Dirr’s Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs" and "The Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers" both are worth viewing. Dirr’s book is one that is not allowed out of the Plant Clinic office.

Submitted by Rosie

Gardening Study Course

When: April 11-13, 2012

Location: Elwood H. May Environmental Park -- Maywood 3615 Mueller Rd, Sheboygan

Topics include: Classifying plants, Techniques for growing outdoor flowers, Factors that influence plant growth, Roses, Pruning techniques, and much more.

Registration is due by April 1, 2012

For more information, contact Rosie or Dorothy

To shovel or not shovel

Every winter, we hear stories about people who die while trying to shovel heavy snow after a storm. The truth is that shoveling snow is hard work which when combined with the strain from the cold, can cause a heart attack if you aren’t in shape for it. Don’t shovel snow if you don’t exercise regularly, especially if you have heart problems or are overweight. If you must shovel, DO IT PROPERLY: Take it slowly, and lift small amounts only. You’ll avoid back strain by keeping your back straight and lifting gently from the knees and hips. Finally, dress in layers so you can take off a layer if you get too warm. Finally, don’t forget to wear a hat! Fifty percent of your body heat is lost through your head.


Thank You

The group would like to thank Pat and Stan Hollen for hosting the Christmas Party. A fun evening was had by all that attended.

Submitted by Judy Tisler
Jan 14, 2012  Build a Shallow Dish Garden   Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI
Spend from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Reynebeau Floral in Little Chute as your instructor leads a demonstration and assists you as you walk the greenhouse to select house plants. Reynebeau Floral will provide soil and tools. You may purchase a container(s) along with your plants. However, you are welcome to bring your own tools and shallow planting container(s). Bring a garbage bag for each container to keep plants warm while transporting them home. $6 ($2 members). For more information contact Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920) 993-1900.

Jan 25, 2012  20 Minutes in the Life or Death of a Tree   Gardens of the Fox Cities, Appleton, WI
Improve your tree planting and establishment techniques by understanding how trees work in their natural environment. Learn common misconceptions and practices that occur during planting time which lead to premature decline and death of our urban and residential trees. Discover what a proper transplanting system is and how it will allow a tree to develop and thrive. Understand why the "20 minutes" is imperative to the LIFE or Death of our trees. Class from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. will meet in the Scheig Learning Center for lecture and tree dissection. $10 ($6 members). For more information contact Gardens of the Fox Cities, 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920) 993-1900.

Feb 2-23, 2012  Fruit Tree Growing for the Home Orchard   Green Bay, WI
Whether you are thinking of planting your first fruit tree, have existing trees in need of help or are looking to revitalize a long-neglected orchard this class is for you! Join Tony Dembski, co-owner of Maple Valley Orchards and Nursery, Gillett in this 4 part series which will cover everything you will need to successfully start or maintain an orchard in your yard. Topics are:
Part 1 – Feb 2: Cultivar and site selection along with proper planting techniques.
Part 2 – Feb 9:  Pruning basics, fertilizer and nutritional value, alternate bearing
Part 3 – Feb 16: Chemical applications including organic vs. non-organic treatments
Part 4 – Feb 23: Insect and disease control and wrap-up
Four Thursdays from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Ag & Extension Service Center, 1150 Bellvue Ave, Green Bay. $22.50 for four classes, preregistration required. For more information contact Deb Nitka at (920) 465-8512.

Feb 16, 2012  Wisconsin Nursery Association Winter Workshop   Waukesha, WI
The topics include a presentation by Dave Wanningter, who is now the Horticulturist in Charge at the Boerner Botanical Garden, of his five favorite woodyies, an update on the invasive species rule by two members of the SAG Committee, a presentation about Insects in the Nursery by UW entomologist Dr. Chris Williamson, and about Diseases in the Nursery by Dr. Brian Hudelson, the Director of the Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic, the popular election of the Plant of the Year (this time for the year 2014), a presentation about social media and marketing, and two new features—the Nursery Spotlight, in which Jason Jacobs of Northern Christmas Trees & Nursery will give the insider’s view of Wisconsin’s largest Christmas tree grower, and the Gadget/New Idea Spotlight, in which attendees will have the opportunity to share their favorite gadget or idea in exchange for extra raffle tickets. There’s also the free raffle at the end of the day. At the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. Special discounted fee for MGVs $30 by 1/31/12, includes continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments. For more information contact Jill Fennimore at (414) 529-4705.

Feb 28, 2012  Monthly Meeting   Manitowoc County Master Gardener Volunteer
Location:  Manitowoc Co. Office Complex
Time:  6:30 pm
Topic:  Thrifty Gardening with Paula Radl
Date: November 28, 2011  
Time: 6:30 p.m.  
Place: Manitowoc County Office Complex  
Attendance: 23  
Education: Two Buds Floral – Chrissy Bialek – ½ hr.

President Pat Hollen called the November meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The October minutes were approved as published in the newsletter. The treasurer’s report was given and accepted as read.

Old Business  
Facebook – Chelle provided the group with a demonstration on Facebook and answered questions about it. It is a social media and is a means of connecting with people. Pat stated that we should give this a try and see how it will work for us.

Scholarship Committee – No report was available.

Renegade Gardener – The contract has been signed and the first payment will be sent out. The committee will be meeting in January, and more information will be in the upcoming newsletters. Don Engebretson (the Renegade Gardener) will be speaking in Oshkosh on February 4th.

UW Center – Manitowoc Landscape Project – Linda reported that it was decided to start next spring and begin with the area around the sign out front and then move to other areas. They plan to get ideas from the West of the Lake Gardens. Pat expressed that this may lead to being able to work with the UW Center in other areas.

New Business  
A committee of two is needed to plan for the annual dinner in April. There were no volunteers.

Pat informed us that Julia Davis of the Kiel Public Library is looking for a speaker. The subject can be anything related to gardening and she is open to any day and any time.

Dorothy reported on a recent Eastern District Meeting. Doris will be taking over Ron’s place in assisting Byron. The “Brown Bag” program is on hold for the time being. There will be changes made to the MG classes as well. Possibly, MG members will no longer be able to facilitate the class and a professional will be required to do so. The basic class will consist of 30 – 40 minutes of lecture with the remainder of the time in a hands-on format. Anyone wishing to take the advanced classes will be required to retake the basic class. We will be informed as to if and when these changes will take place. There will be a Landscape Trees class at the Green Bay Extension beginning in February. Call there for further info.

Marilyn informed us about a Winter Level 2 training or Spring Level 2 program that is available online. Archives will also be available and you can download chapter 1 or 2.

Ann advised us that Silver Lake College might be offering a 4-class course on wetlands this summer, depending if there is enough interest to hold the class. Classes will be 3 – 3 ½ hrs. in length and will be field trips. Notify Ann Arbuckle if interested in the class.

Pat will be meeting with Ruth to discuss whether we will be able to continue to use the kitchen area for our meetings.

Dorothy stated we should start thinking about placing our onion orders for next year. Also she recognized those who received awards for their volunteer hours for the past year.

Our Christmas potluck party will be on December 5th at the Hollen’s. Our next regular meeting will be February 27th at the Extension offices. The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Tisler  
Secretary
Don't use salt or other forms of de-icers on stone patios and walkways

From the Renegade Gardener File:

Sorry, you're taking the easy way out—and down the road, you'll pay the price. If you are fortunate enough to have outdoor stone surfaces, shoveling the snow (plastic shovels preferred) is the only aesthetic and safety maintenance required. Scattering salt-based products on an icy patch of stone walkway will only lead to increased flaking and deterioration of the stone surface, while other forms of chemical ice-removers can permanently stain the stone.

When it snows, shovel your stone walks. One thing we get in the north is plenty of sunny days, all winter long. A little bit of ice or snow here and there should melt and completely evaporate in as little as one sunny day, regardless of outside temperature.

http://www.renegadegardener.com/