



Master Gardener News



May/June 2016

Volume 6, Issue 4

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Tour Cypress Greenhouse

On Tuesday, May 24th, 6:00 PM Robin Gabriel, owner of Cypress Greenhouse at 1560 Cypress Avenue will host a tour of her facilities. Refreshments will be served. Come see all the new and beautiful flower and vegetable plants for 2016

Plant a Flower for Mom

On Saturday, May 7th from 11AM - 1PM, Ace of Adams, along with the Adams County Master Gardeners will be helping young children "Plant a Flower for Mom". There will be flower pots, soil and a choice of flowers for the kids to select from.

This event will be held at the Ace Hardware Greenhouse and is free for all children. Each child will also receive a coupon which will be good for 10% off merchandise at Ace Hardware.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about this fantastic event, contact: Della Julseth at 608-339-0128.

Flowers at the Fairgrounds



Last year ACMG were asked to plant a flower box at the Adams County fairgrounds. We graciously agreed to do this. The Adams County Fair board provided the flower box, a water hook-up and a donation for the flowers. We also purchased flowers from the elementary school gardens. The rest of the summer we spent watering and caring for them.

If you drive west on Cty Rd J, past the fairgrounds, you will see this display.

Now, this year we will again be doing this, and we could use some help. After we finish planting at the Community Center, June 1 at 10:00AM we plan to go to the fairgrounds to plant for this year.

Hope to see you there.

PRESIDENT: Joanne Elliott

608-584-5216

VICE PRESIDENT: Della Julseth

608-339-0128

SECRETARY: Cynthia Snyder

608-403-1337

TREASURER: Roger Conrad

608-584-4419

BOARD MEMBERS

Betty Conrad

608-584-4419

Ron Dakter

608-254-6022

Carole Dziegielewski

608-339-2253

Donna Bruno

608-403-6603

Robyn Gabriel

608-403-1337

EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Chairman—Florence Johnson

Vice Chair—Vacant

Secretary—Robin Skala

Committee—Larry Borud

Committee—Dan Wysocki

NEWSLETTER COORDINATORS

Lynn Dolata—608-339-8284

Mary Anne Keul—608-339-0420

Della Julseth - 608-339-0128





Straw Bale Gardening

Straw Bale Gardening is a total gardening system. The bale itself serves as a raised bed and container. It is also the growing medium that you plant in. Not only is the bale the growing medium, it is also the fertilizer. It is a different style of gardening than what we usually think of. It is unique and has a quick return of production.

- There are many benefits of Straw Bale Gardening:
- Set up is easy. Set up bales end to end, secured with posts on each end. String wire at intervals above the straw to serve as a trellis.
- Productive—Vegetable yield is very high since they are growing in compost.
- No weeds! The hot compost sterilizes weed seeds.
- Economical—cost of straw bales is minor compared to building raised beds.
- Extends the growing season. The bales are warmer than the soil in your garden. You can plant earlier and harvest later, especially if you use a plastic sheet to tent your plants on cold days.
- Less work! No tilling, no bending. The only tool you need to plant is a hand trowel.
- Fewer pests. Insects are fooled because plants are not on the ground, and less diseases develop because you can easily see infected leaves and treat problems immediately.

To get started, locate your bales in a sunny spot, close to a water source. Set up your bales, with the cut side of the straw facing up. Then begin the conditioning process. This is a 12 day process in which the straw starts decomposing. The bacteria is activated to start digesting the straw and creating heat. Simply sprinkle lawn fertilizer and water on the bales daily according to a simple schedule, taking you only a few minutes every day.

After the bales are conditioned, you can plant transplants or seed. Add a 1-2 inch layer of potting mix on top of the bales, then plant seeds according to the package directions. When planting transplants, dig a hole in the bale, insert the plant, and heel in with potting mix. Plants grow rapidly because the soil reaches 85° and higher very quickly. Root water your plants.

Harvesting is a continuous process, since many vegetables grow very rapidly when straw bale gardening. Author and developer of this system, Joel Karsten says cucumbers can grow as much as 5 inches in a day! If you want more information on this method of gardening, check out his book, *Straw Bale Gardens* at your public library. The internet is also loaded with information on the topic.



News on Kid's Day Program by Della Julseth, Kids Day chairperson



Adams County Master Gardeners had a booth at the A-F High School for the annual "Kids Day" program on April 23.

This year, Griffith Nursery in WI Rapids donated 300 Red Pine, 5-6" trees for the kids and their family to plant. We provided the care and planting instructions. Florence Johnson was the contact person responsible for obtaining the trees. . .so THANK YOU Florence and Griffith Nursery!

We had information on what kind of vegetables families could grow in the garden and vegetable recipes. We additionally had literature on becoming a Master Gardener and provided information on joining our Master Gardeners group. All printed material was donated by the UW Extension office.

Members who helped with the Kid's Day Program were: Heather Grabarski, Cynthia Snyder, Joanne Elliott, Dennis and Della Julseth, Dana Diorio, and Florence Johnson.

Garden Tour

MIKE & SHARON HARTZ





We invite you to visit and tour our gardens on Tuesday, July 12 at 6PM, at 1652 County Rd Z. Our gardens are primarily shade and semi-shade gardens. We also have developed a number of flower gardens that display shade plants along Big Roche-a-Cri Creek.

Curious about straw bale gardening, using a home greenhouse/grow room to start your own plants, we have these features as well!




Feel free to bring a gardening friend, a lawn chair, and a dish to pass. A potluck dinner will be served. We look forward to seeing you!



MAY 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7  Plant a Flower for Mom - ACE 11 - 1PM |
| 8  Mother's Day | 9 | 10 Board Meeting, 9:30 AM | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24  Cypress Greenhouse Tour 6:00PM | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31  Plant Flowers MMHC 1 PM | | | | |

JUNE 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | |  Plant Flowers Community Ctr/ Fairgrounds 10AM | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Board Meeting, 9:30 AM | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19  Father's Day | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 |  No Mtg. or Tour | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

VOLUNTEER NEWS

Volunteers Make a Difference

Each year the ACMGAV publishes a list of volunteer opportunities. Some are on-going throughout the year, and others are one-time dates. All of these activities qualify for your volunteer hours. We will add to the list as opportunities become available. If you have any questions, wish to chair or be a co-chairperson for any events, want to volunteer, or need additional information, please contact the chairperson(s) listed after the event. Our volunteer activities will be starting soon. We always need volunteers, chairs and co-chairs. If you have a volunteer activity you wish to promote, please contact any officer or board member.



Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

- Moundview Memorial Hospital & Clinics, Betty Conrad 608-584-4419 - PLANTING MAY 31st, 1 PM!
- Community Center Plants, Betty Conrad 608-584-4419
- Villa Pines, Mike Boucher, 608-339-3361
- Adopt-A-Highway, Sharon Hartz 608-564-2430
- Elementary School Garden, Heather Grabarski, 608-339-0150, Carol Dziegielewski 608-339-2253
- Tree & Plant Sale, Cynthia Snyder 608-403-1337



1 or Limited Days Volunteer Opportunities

- Plant a Flower for Mom at ACE Hardware, May 7 (see front page)
- Brat Fry, A-F County Market, 8AM - 3:30 PM, Mary Anne Keul 608-339-0420, July 9
- Adams County Fairgrounds, planting & watering June 1st, after planting at Community Center Roger Conrad 608-584-4419

If you know of anyone who you think would like to speak at any of our General Meetings on a subject in horticulture, or sponsor a Garden Tour, please contact an officer or board member with information for consideration. You are always welcome to come to our board meetings and submit your ideas or suggestions. Board meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Community Center, 9:30AM. General meetings and Garden Tours are usually held the 4th Tuesday of the month, January through November.

"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own"

~Andy Warhol

GET YOUR GARDEN READY FOR THE SEASON

By Olbrich Botanical Gardens Newsletter

1. Survey & repair any damage from winter.
2. Clean-up and make way for the early birds. Clean up and make way for this years flowers and foliage.
3. Rake up any piles of leaves and other debris that have accumulated over the winter.
4. Cut back and clean up perennials and ornamental grasses.
5. Divide and relocate newly sprouting perennials can be divided and transplanted in your garden.
6. Mulch, mulch, and mulch. A 3-4 inch layer of fresh mulch.



Renew Your Membership

You can renew your ACMGA membership at any of our general meetings, board meetings, or garden tours. Dues are \$10.00/yr. per person. You can also send your dues to our treasurer, Roger Conrad at 671 Cty Rd A, Grand Marsh, WI 53936

Flag Pole Garden



The ACMGA volunteers will be tending to and weeding the plants and flowers in the flag pole garden at the Community Center after each monthly board meeting, starting May 10th. The board meetings start at 9:30AM and usually end about 10:30AM. You are welcome to come to our meetings, or just come and help afterwards. This will be done following each monthly board meeting which is the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except July 26th). If you have any questions call Joanne Elliott 608-584-5216 or Della Julseth 608-339-0128.

Community Center Planters



The Community Center Planters will be planted by some of the Board Members on June 1st at 10AM. We will be purchasing flowers and using some of own. There will be a canna in the center and a variety of plants and flowers in the five containers. These will be taken care of by the Lynn Dolata at the Adams County Extension office, and Betty Conrad during the growing season.

ODDS & ENDS



ANNUAL BRAT FRY

Saturday, July 9

We will be holding our annual Brat/Burger Fry at the A-F County Market from 8AM-3:30 PM. This is one of our important events to raise money for our Scholarship Fund. We need volunteers to help set up, cook and serve from 8-10:30, help cook & serve from 10:30-1PM and help cook, serve and clean-up from 1-3:30PM.

You can sign up at any of our upcoming Board or General Meetings and our Garden Tours or call Mary Anne 608-339-0420



BOTANICAL BUCKS

They are here!!

This \$10.00 coupon is good on any purchase at Twin Creeks Nursery on Cty N. Each ACMG paid member can have one coupon. You can get a coupon at the May Board meeting or at the April & May General meetings. Our next board meeting is on Tuesday, May 10th at the Community Center. Stop by and get a coupon. You are welcome to stay for the board meeting as well. Any questions call Betty Conrad at 608-608-584-4419



Adams County UW Extension

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Be the first to know. Join the Master Gardener Blog at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/acmga/>