

# Master Gardener News

Nov/Dec 2015

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## A Note from Our President

Hello to All!

The Annual Meeting was held on September 23rd, 2015. It was a beautiful day, the food was good, but the attendance was low. Our new Agriculture Agent, Ken Cleveland joined us and reminded everyone to get their volunteer hours in by October 1st. Hope you all did that. Mike Hartz set up his slide show for us to enjoy during dinner. Door prizes were awarded. We have some new officers and board members. Come to a meeting and say hello, and if you have some ideas for speakers you would like to hear from, or garden tours you would like to do, let a board member know. They are all listed in your newsletter.

I am writing this before we go on our Cranberry tour and I want to thank Florence Johnson for arranging the tour, and also for making all the cranberry treats! It should be a fun day.

Did you have a good garden this year? Did you plant anything new or different? I like artichokes so I tried them this year but without any luck. (I didn't do a soil test). I know of two others who tried them with more success, so next year I'll try them again but in huge pots on my deck so I can keep a better eye on them. I like to use them in my salad but there are many other ways to serve them. If you have a good recipe, why not jot it down and turn it in for a newsletter.

The cool days of autumn have arrived. There is always so much to do and never enough time to get it done. Gardens have to be cleaned up and maybe some produce to bring in, bulbs to be dug out or planted for next spring, leaves to be raked and tools to be sharpened and put away before the snow flies. We always need just one more day of nice weather.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. . .and I hope to have a new and exciting year of gardening tips and things to keep your interest.

Your President

*Joanne Elliott*



## A Message from Our Ag Agent

I know the Autumnal Equinox wasn't so long ago, harvest is almost complete and some people are wishing that winter wasn't right around the corner. Nonetheless, I love winter time, it's one of my favorite times of the year since I feel like it's a time of cleansing and renewal. I love taking the time to celebrate and enjoy my garden's bounty and reflect on my successes and failures of the season, and I hope that you do too. Successes can be quite uplifting but I find that my failures are where I learn the most because I am always striving to improve.

With that thought in mind I hope that everyone takes the time to appreciate what our Master Gardener organization has done . . . have you thought about how we are going to move confidently into the future? If you have, I would to ask, are there things that we could improve or change to reach and educate more people and further help our community. For instance, are there projects, ideas, or educational programs that you would like to put forward? If so, we would love to hear those ideas! Let the board members and I know, we would love to hear from you about how we can help our organization through helping our community!

As many of you may know I have only been on the job as Adams County Agricultural Agent since June. I am still familiarizing myself with this position, and I am confident that I am on my way. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with and help your wonderful organization. I believe it is important for a community to have a thriving Master Gardener group and you have shown me that your group is full of ideal people that I know have the motivation to help our community; which in turn excites me because I know that with the right educational focus and enthusiasm, the possibilities are endless!

This has led me to the decision of conducting a Master Gardener class this upcoming winter. The class will be a great opportunity to recruit more energetic people into the MG organization, but I will need your help to do this. Your help could include getting the word out about the upcoming class, coming to classes and representing what the MG's have meant to you, or spending time with students helping them learn. Every little bit helps because this is the time that is most crucial for recruitment. I would love for anyone wanting the opportunity to become more involved with our organization to get ahold of the board members or myself.

At this time exact dates and times are not set for the class however, they will tentatively start beginning February 2016 and will be held every week in the evenings for 3 months. The cost will be approximately \$90.00/person. Unfortunately because of my start date on the job, I was only able to acquire the last 15 Master Gardener manuals available, which means that I am only able to enroll 15 students. If you know of anyone interested in learning more about horticulture please direct them my way. If you are a current MG and still have all your old material and would like a refresher on some topics; again get a hold of me and we can discuss this possibility as I would love to have you and your horticultural experiences grace us.

Stay tuned for updates about class dates and don't hesitate to contact us at 608-339-4237 or email, Lynn Dolata at [UWEX.Receptionist@co.adams.wi.us](mailto:UWEX.Receptionist@co.adams.wi.us) or myself [ken.cleveland@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:ken.cleveland@ces.uwex.edu) .

Thank  
you...

To the Garden Tour Hosts &  
Sponsors for 2015

- Don Genrich - Pruning Class at Don's "Summer Retreat" - February 28th
- Craig Saxe, Juneau County Agricultural Agent- Costa Rica Trip - March 24th
- Ace Hardware - Kids Day booth at A-F High School - April 11th
- Kevin Beaver, MMH&C Physical Therapist - Get Your Body Ready for Gardening - April 28th
- Ace Hardware - Plant a Flower for Mom - May 9th
- Robyn Gabriel - Tour of Cypress Garden Greenhouse - May 26th
- Steve & Karen Stalker - Tour of Spears R Us - June 23rd
- Master Gardeners - Adams County Fair Booth - July 23 - 26th
- Austin Felts, Friendship DNR - Tree ID Diseases & Forest Management Techniques - July 28th
- Ron Dakter - AGMGA Representative WIGMA Conference in LaCrosse - July 31-Aug 1st
- Dennis & Della Julseth - Mushroom Garden Tour - Aug 25th
- Owen Rock Cranberry - Tour of Owen Rock Cranberry in Hancock, WI - October 27th

**ACMGA wants to thank anyone and everyone who helped with these events!**

Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the spring and ends in the fall is missing the best part of the whole year. For gardening begins in January with the dream. ~Josephine Nuese

# NOVEMBER 2015

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

# DECEMBER 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## Upcoming Events

- Nov 5 Women’s Night Out
- Nov 10 Board Meeting, Community Center, 4:30PM, members welcome!
- Nov 24 No General Meeting

*No Meetings in December. Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!*

- Jan 12 Board Meeting, 4:30PM, Community Center, members welcome
- Jan 26 General Meeting, 6:30PM, Community Center, “How to Build a Greenhouse”, presented by Mike Hartz, Certified Master Gardener Volunteer
- Feb 9 Board Meeting, 4:30PM, Community Center, members welcome
- Feb 12-14 Garden Expo, Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI
- Feb 23 General Meeting, 6:30PM, Community Center, “Protecting your Property from Wildfires”, presented by DNR
- Mar 8 Board Meeting, 4:30PM, Community Center, members welcome
- Mar 22 General Meeting, 4:30PM, Community Center, “Straw Bale Gardening”, presented by Sharon Hartz, Certified Master Gardener Volunteer

## 1 or Limited Days Volunteer Opportunities

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, 4:30PM. General meetings and garden tours are usually held the 4th Tuesday of the month, January through April or May and possibly 1 or 2 dates in the fall. We need speakers for general meetings or garden tour hosts for 2016.

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# VOLUNTEER NEWS

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## 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 are in winding down. 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.



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## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

- Library Plants, Betty Conrad, 608.584.4419
- Villa Pines, Mike Boucher, 608.339.3361



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## 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

You can renew your Adams County Master Gardener Association membership at any of our general meetings, board meetings, or garden tours. Dues are \$10.00 per person a year. You can also send your dues to our treasurer, Roger Conrad along with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address at:

671 County Road A  
Grand Marsh, WI 53936



## What are you Doing this Winter? By Ken Cleveland

I don't know about you but winter time is when I get the chance to catch up on all the things I seemed to have "forgotten" to do in my house while the weather was nice. I tend to have a problem tearing myself away from yardwork when the sun is shining and I need to take care of household chores like cleaning my basement; I figure I have all winter to do those things so why bother now? Sometimes I push it too far and my houseplants seem to suffer. However, I really baby them in the winter time because I find I enjoy the challenge of bringing them back from the brink of death as if I were their "plant doctor" (perhaps that's my plant pathology training shining through). Generally they don't get that bad but I like the idea that they need me for their care and well-being. However, I think we can also all agree that having plants in our house is a must, as they offer a place of solace and serenity at any time that we need them.

Anyways, another thing that I really enjoy during the winter time is catching up on my reading while I have the chance to sit on the couch and drink my soul warming coffee or cocoa. Much of what I read during the off season tend to be informational books on agriculture, gardening or the outdoors and I would like to share with you some of the books I think are good reads. I have them listed in no particular order and have paraphrased short descriptions that have come from each book. I do not promote any book that I have listed as any medical recommendation. I have listed them only because I find them to be interesting reading material and information.

### **A Practical Guide to Self-Sufficiency by Terry Bridge**

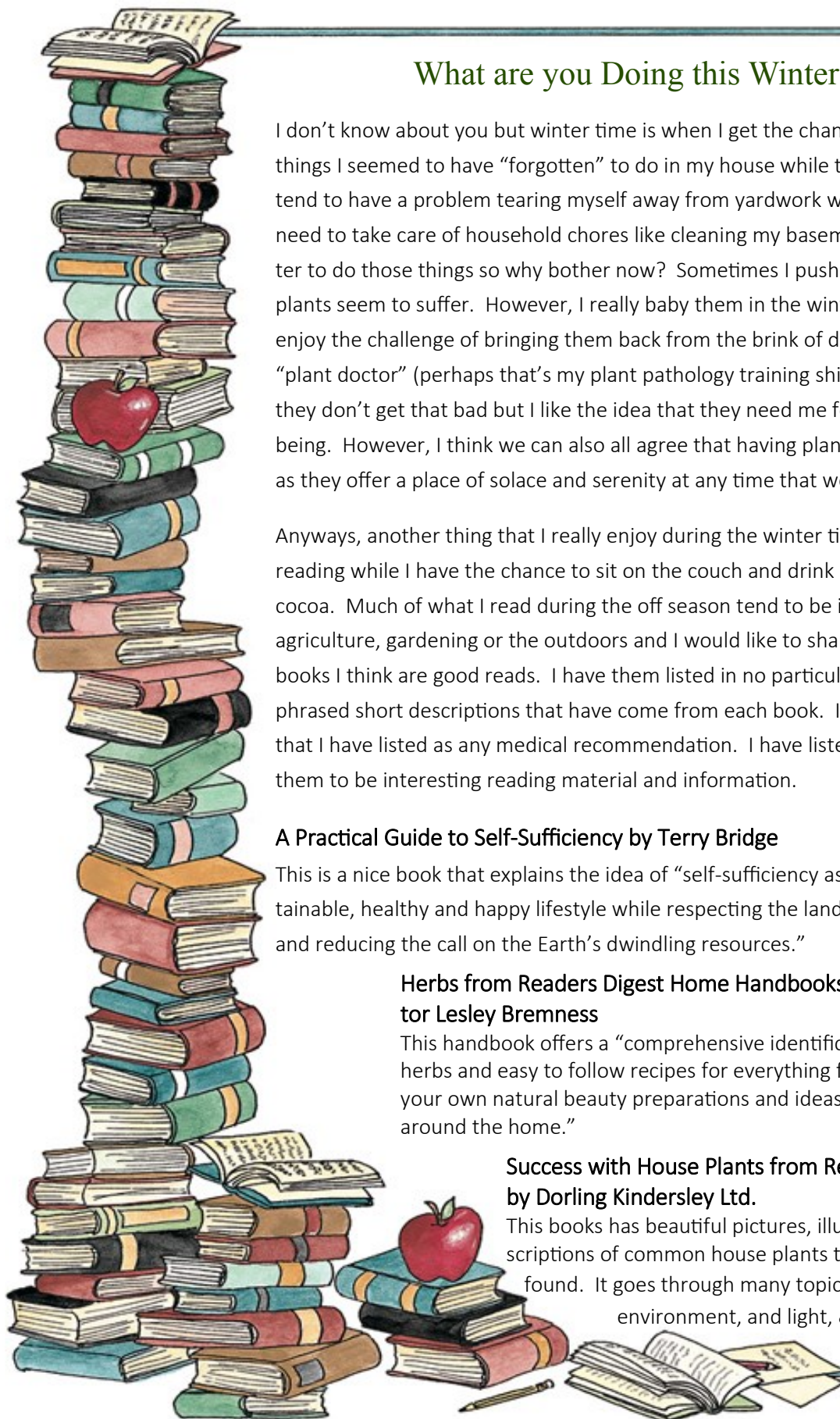
This is a nice book that explains the idea of "self-sufficiency as a way to achieve a sustainable, healthy and happy lifestyle while respecting the land, wasting next to nothing and reducing the call on the Earth's dwindling resources."

### **Herbs from Readers Digest Home Handbooks with Contributing Editor Lesley Bremness**

This handbook offers a "comprehensive identification guide to over 90 herbs and easy to follow recipes for everything from cooking, making your own natural beauty preparations and ideas for aromatic decorations around the home."

### **Success with House Plants from Readers Digest and Edited by Dorling Kindersley Ltd.**

This books has beautiful pictures, illustrations and thorough descriptions of common house plants that are generally easily found. It goes through many topics such as plant placement environment, and light, & correct potting



procedures & even matching contrasting plants for foliar textures in the home.

### **The Vegetable Gardener's Book of Building Projects by Kevin Ayer**

This book comes in handy for the do-it-yourselfer. It offers simple and straight forward plans for building projects for any gardener's needs. Such as raised garden beds, window box planters and garden benches.

### **Bees & Bee-Keeping by Derek Hall**

A well thought out book that goes through the evolution of bees, care and maintenance of the hive, materials needed and what products are made with your honey once you have harvested it and more. A nice easy read for anyone wanting to get in to apiculture.

### **50 Hikes In Wisconsin by John & Ellen Morgan**

"This guide has an at-a-glance information on 50 different trails that range from 1.5 miles to 6 miles. Each description includes directions to trailheads, topographic maps and a detailed account of the route."

### **Ortho's All About Greenhouses by Meredith Books**

"From orchids and blooming tropical to year-round vegetables and cut flowers, you'll discover a whole new world of gardening in a greenhouse." This books offers a "how to choose the greenhouse that's right for you, plans and instruction for 10 different greenhouses and complete growing techniques for professional-quality plants.

### **Botany in a Day: The Patterns Method of Plant Identification by Tomas J. Elpels**

"Instead of trying to identify plants one-at-a-time, Botany in a Day gives you a way to learn them by the hundreds, based on the principle that related plants have similar patterns for identification, and they often have similar uses."

### **Kombucha Rediscovered! A Guide to the Medicinal Benefits of an Ancient Healing Tea by Klaus Kaufmann**

"This is a chronicle of experiences and experiments. Thoroughly researched, it includes an assortment of advice, historical and personal anecdotes, and color photographs. Most important, it provides a thoughtful, practical guide to the preparation and healing benefits of this ancient and invigorating drink."

### **Herbal Recipes for Vibrant Health by Rosemary Gladstar's**

This book offers advice from the renowned herbalist author in which she "will guide you every step of the way from the growing and ecological harvesting to the basic preparations and dosage directions."

### **The Kingdom Fungi: The Biology of Mushrooms, Molds, and Lichens by Steven L. Stephenson**

"This text provides extensive information on the biology, general structure and morphological diversity of these very necessary organisms. It sheds light on their ecologically important roles in nature, their fascinating relationships with people, plants, and animals, and their practical applications in the manufacture of foods, beverages, drugs, and various biocontrol's."

### **Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World by Paul Stamets**

This book looks at the many uses of fungi and how they can help remediate (myco-remediation) the many detrimental effects that have been thrust upon this earth. For example, the author talks about the cleansing effects of oyster mushrooms growing in soil that had been contaminated with man-made petroleum byproducts. The book goes further through methods of growing mushrooms, running (growing) mycelium and transplanting these fungi into the environment. This book is a must read for anyone interested in the world of mycology.

I hope that you find something interesting and fun to read in this list, and if you do tell me and others what you thought about it. Also, please don't be afraid to write us your own article of gardening or related books that you might like to recommend to our organization. Happy reading everybody.

## Be a Leader, Not a Follower!



Don't be afraid to come out of the wood work and volunteer.

As many of you may have heard, our Cooperative Extension organization is going through a bit of a structural reorganization. This restructuring will only serve to make our organization more robust in serving all the needs of our communities. However, during this time I believe that it is very important that we as a Master Gardener organization stay strong, vibrant and continue our outreach into the community.

Master Gardeners are a part of Extension and it is a very important

resource for many in our rural areas. We need to make sure that those who need us are aware that we are here to help them now and in the future. We need to continue our vision to be a thriving, well-known and sought-out educational resource that reflects the rich diversity of the state and our local communities. As such, the MG program is an all-volunteer organization that started as an outreach component of Extension to community residents in educating people about horticulture and their environment. Thus it is important that our county have a strong, robust and active volunteer base to complete this mission.

So how can we accomplish this? A couple ideas come to mind. First, if you are a MG but haven't volunteered yet, that's okay we still want you! It is my call that we are going to need more people to step up, come out and volunteer. The more people we have the more we can help and accomplish; there is nothing we can't do! Second, if you have volunteered thank you very much and I hope you continue to do so. Your help is so appreciated and needed. However, keep up the good work and keep promoting our organization; let people know what we do and why we do it. Third, recruit people and let them know that I am offering a MG class this February and if they want to join they can contact me. Also, let me know if you would like to help with these classes as I would enjoy the chance to work with you. If there are other things you think that we need to do to build our organization please communicate these ideas with the board and I.

Another reason that I am writing this article is because this year (at the time of this article) only approximately 17 people reported volunteer hours and only 15 people were certified. However, I know that each newsletter is sent out to approximately 276 people. That means there are more of you out there just wanting and waiting for the chance to volunteer! Volunteering is easy and can be very important for communities.

I have written a list of reasons that I think are important for people to consider when it comes to volunteering:

It's good for others

- Volunteering can help make a difference in someone else's life
- It can help save local resources for other things
- Strengthens community



It's good for you

- You can make new connections, friends and build yourself in a community
- Getting active and being healthy
- It can be very fun and rewarding which will relieve stress
- You can gain self-confidence, self-esteem and a sense of meaning/purpose
- It can give you access to gaining new skills, abilities and experiences
- Can help in college or job applications and advancement in careers
- It will help you increase your overall happiness

Take some time to ponder these points and if the mood strikes you, let us know what you think. Remember, Franklin Roosevelt once said "it isn't sufficient just to want.....you've got to ask yourself what you are going to do to get the things you want."

Your Ag. Agent, Ken Cleveland

## JUST A LITTLE *Reminder*

*To those Master Gardeners who research a topic, write an educational article, and submit it to our news letter...those efforts qualify for volunteer hours.*

# ANNUAL MEETING 2015

The Adams County Master Gardener Annual Meeting was held September 22, 2015. Attendance was low, but it was an enjoyable evening for all who attended.

Donna Bruno prepared the main course, Italian Beef for the pot luck meal, thanks to all the contributing members, we had a huge variety of dishes!

Program packets were at each place setting, as well as the Master Gardener questionnaires that were filled out for the new and upcoming year. Those questionnaires were then used as door prize drawings, conducted by Donna Bruno.

Each committee chair gave their annual reports.

Many thanks to all for their help and efforts toward a wonderful evening. ACMGA provides a fun and educational past-time that many in our area enjoy. Have a safe and blessed winter; hope to see you all in the spring!

Dinah Short

MG Secretary



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