

2021

Dodge County Master Gardener Association
Monthly Educational Program Schedule

January 28—*Project Year in Review* by Dodge County Master Gardener Volunteers. A review of 2020 projects, complete with photos and discussion.

February 25—*Plant Trials* by Julie Dawson. Julie Dawson will explain the ins and outs of plant trials. She coordinates the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative (SKC) which connects farmers, gardeners, plant breeders and chefs in evaluating vegetable varieties for local WI markets. Varieties are evaluated for productivity, disease resistance, earliness and flavor. Learn about the results from previous years and how to get involved. Julie Dawson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture at UW-Madison. Her background is in organic plant breeding and participatory research.

March 25—*Beauty and Benefits of Rain Gardens* by Paul Skawinski. Rain gardens are the ultimate multi-function garden, boasting an ability to provide aesthetic improvement, privacy screening, wildlife habitat, and improvement to nearby water quality and clarity. Creating one of these gardens is not difficult, but a few helpful tips will get you on your way to a beautiful and functional rain garden. Learn what a rain garden is, and what it isn't, and get started with adding one to your landscape. Paul holds a B.S. in Soil Science and Waste Management, and an M.S. in Watershed Management. He is the author and photographer of the popular field guide *Aquatic Plants of the Upper Midwest*. In addition to his position at UW-Extension Lakes, Paul also teaches Aquatic Plant Taxonomy at UW-Stevens Point, and serves as President of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Wild Ones.

April 22—*Member only Annual Business Meeting*. Association business, including presentation of certification cards, updates on all projects and new this year: a meal will be provided as appreciation to our volunteers.

May 27—*Who Says Hoo in the Garden?* by Renee Wahlen. Nature's rodent control is at work in your garden. Birds of prey, hawks, owls and falcons, are hunting pests every day and night. Learn more about these raptors, specifically the awesome owls – how they hunt, how to identify each species by their vocalizations. Renee has been the executive director at Marsh Haven Nature Center since October 2011. She has a bachelor's degree in Communications and a Masters in Transpersonal Psychology. She is a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpreters, holds a permit through U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for educational raptors, and is a member of the Wisconsin Association of Environmental Educators.

June 24—*Managing Oak Woodlands and Forests for Restoration and Resilience* by Brad Hutnik. Wisconsin's native oak communities have undergone a number of changes since European settlement. What can land managers do to restore native oak communities and prepare for climate change? Brad graduated with a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from UW-Stevens Point and is currently working as a Forest Ecologist/Silviculturist with the WI DNR-Madison. He recently achieved certified silviculturist status with the USDA Forest Service.



July 22—*Tour of Ebert's Greenhouse Village* Attend a behind-the-scene tour of Ebert's Greenhouse Village. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the history of the business, visit the new greenhouse, and meet the staff. Come and enjoy the beautiful annual and perennial gardens. Time for some shopping will be included. **NOTE: The time of this meeting will be different from our regular meeting time. Please stay informed via our newsletter or our Facebook page for updates.**

August 26—*Taking a Lichen to Terrariums* by Janell Wehr. Starting with the Wardian Cases of the Victorian era, terrariums have long captured the imaginations of plant enthusiasts. Come and learn the basics of assembling and designing a terrarium. Topics include: choosing containers, growing medium, selecting plants, and having the proper tools and accessories. Discussion will also include insights on maintenance concerns such as watering, pruning, lighting, and replacing plants. By the completion of the program you will have the knowledge necessary to build successful terrariums. After receiving her BS in Natural Science and Geoscience, Janell worked as the green goods buyer and greenhouse manager at a retail garden center. In 2019, she started at UW-Extension in Wood County. Janell is currently the Marathon County Horticulture Educator.

September 23—*Garden Thugs—Perennials Not to Plant* by Lisa Johnson. Have you ever spent hours digging out the plant you paid good money for last year because it is not playing nice with its neighbors? That's a Garden Thug. Learn about general characteristics of what makes a potential thug, and meet some of the worst offenders in the garden. If you have a garden thug, bring along a photo to share and discuss. Lisa Johnson has a BS in Horticulture from the UW-Madison and a MS in Life Sciences Communication. She spent eight years working in the horticulture industry. She has been the Dane Co. UW-Extension Horticulture Educator since 2004.

October 28—*Rare Plant Monitoring* by Kevin Doyle. Kevin Doyle is a botanist with the DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation. He has many years of experience in plant conservation and academic research, and a deep knowledge of Wisconsin's flora. He also coordinates the Rare Plant Monitoring Program, a citizen science program aimed at training volunteers to search for and record data on rare plants. He will talk about the program, using examples to describe what it's like to participate, how the data are used, and how to get involved. Kevin received his bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology from UW-Madison and a master's in Plant Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied the effects of fire and deer herbivory on woody plant growth. He has worked for the DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation since 2008, first managing State Natural Areas and for the last 8 years as the program's botanist

November and December—*No meetings. Happy Holidays!!*

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, face-to-face meetings are temporarily suspended. All meetings until further notice will be held via Zoom meetings and are by invitation only.

Contact us at: askamastergardener@att.net or like us on Facebook.

