

2022

**Dodge County Master Gardener Association**  
**Monthly Educational Program Schedule**

**January 27—*Project Year in Review*** by Dodge County Master Gardeners. A review of 2021 projects, complete with photos and discussion.

**February 24—*Phenology: Nature's Calendar*** by Carol Shirk. Wisconsin is blessed with four distinct seasons. We see the trees bud and bloom in the spring, leaf out and grow in the summer, turn into blazes of color in the fall, and drop their leaves during the winter. We see geese return in the spring to lay their eggs and raise their chicks through the summer. When fall comes, they head south and we have a goose-less landscape for the winter. These changes give us a front-row seat to practice phenology: the study of seasonal changes and timing. This centuries-old science is of great benefit to gardeners as well as farmers, foresters, naturalists, hunters, birder watchers, and fishermen. Carol Shirk has been a Certified Master Gardener for over 25 years and enjoys learning more each year as well as teaching others about the joys of horticulture.

**March 24— *Planting and Growing a Cut Flower Garden*** by Michelle Ovan. Come and be inspired to plant your own cutting garden. Learn about the intensive planting technique which will guide you in spacing recommendations. Closely spaced plants require less water and less weeding giving the grower more time to cut and enjoy their flowers. Different tried-and-true cut flower varieties will be discussed in order to design a season's worth of flowers and foliage. Michelle is the owner of Ovans Peony Farm located in Beaver Dam, WI. She is a member of the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers and is both a graduate of the Floret Cut Flower Grower School and the UW Madison Wisconsin's Cut Flower Grower School.

**April 28—*Annual Business Meeting*** (members only). 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 26— *Growing Garlic*** by Cindy Hollenbeck. Growing your own garlic allows you to experience entirely new flavors from supermarket garlic, most of which is a single bland variety. Garlic varieties vary in flavor from mild and nutty to hot and spicy. Learn about the different varieties of garlic grown in Wisconsin. Topics include planting garlic tips – when and where to plant, harvesting, curing, and storing garlic. Cindy is from Keene Garlic, a family owned and operated garlic farm in Madison, Wisconsin.



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**June 23— *Diseases of Landscape Plants*** by Brian Hudelson. Learn about common diseases of your favorite outdoor plants (including herbaceous plants, woody trees, and shrubs) and their management. Hear first-hand what the prevalent diseases are this growing season. Brian is director of the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic located on the UW-Madison campus. The Clinic serves farmers, greenhouse owners, gardeners and homeowners from all over Wisconsin and helps track the ebb and flow of plant diseases across the state. He has a PhD in Plant Pathology from UW-Madison.

**July 28—*Tour of Ovans Peony Farm*** (members only) - Attend a behind-the-scene tour of Ovans Peony Farm with owner Michelle Ovans. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about the history and day-to-day operation of the business. Her farm has over 1,500 peonies with around 90 different peony varieties. Come and enjoy the beautiful peony and cut flower gardens. **NOTE: The time of this meeting may be different from our regular meeting time. Please stay informed via our newsletter or our Facebook page for updates.**

**August 25— *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.

**September 22— *Bats 'n Humans Need Each Other*** by Janet Raddatz. Without bats, grocery stores would look different. Swarms of insects would rule the night. Birds, bats daytime counterparts, could never keep up on bug control responsibilities. Bats are one of the best friend's we humans ever had! Unfortunately, more than half of our American bat species are in severe decline. Learn about the bats that reside in Wisconsin and how they are doing as White Nose Syndrome continues to impact populations. Janet Raddatz, Wisconsin Master Naturalist, will share her knowledge of these special creatures that affect the quality of our life.

**October 27— *Heirloom Biographies*** by Janell Wehr. Janell will share the back story of some favorite heirloom vegetables, including the famed Beaver Dam pepper. Learn all about what the terms heirloom, open pollinated, hybrid and GMO mean. 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 the UW Extension in Wood County. Janell is currently the Marathon County Horticulture Educator.

**Meetings held at 6:30 pm at The Watermark, 209 S. Center St., Beaver Dam, WI**

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

**Contact us at: [askamastergardener@att.net](mailto:askamastergardener@att.net) or like us on Facebook.**

