

2024

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

**Meetings held at Moraine Park Technical College
700 Gould Street, Beaver Dam**

January 25—*Project Year in Review* by Dodge County Master Gardeners. A review of 2023 projects, complete with photos and discussion.

February 22—*Spring Ephemerals* by Chris Jacobs. Although brief, ephemerals are our first glimpse of spring. Learn more about the characteristics of spring ephemerals, their importance, and some of the common spring ephemerals in Wisconsin. Chris Jacobs has been a Certified Master Gardener since 2008 and has been an active member, serving as a Board member, Gardening for Gold chair, newsletter and Facebook editor and coordinator for many committees. She enjoys learning more each year and teaching others about the joys of horticulture.

March 28—*Growing Dahlias* by Jeff and Monique Holden. The Holdens have been growing dahlias for 25 years in rural Mount Horeb. They are active in the Badger State Dahlia Society, the Midwest Dahlia Conference, and the American Dahlia Society. They will provide a brief overview of the forms and sizes of dahlias. They will also teach about starting, planting, summer care and digging and storing of these stunning flowers.

April 25—*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 23—*Out on a Limb-Forestry for Pollinators* by Tony Johnson. Forests are the unsung hero for many of Wisconsin's native pollinators. Landowners who manage property for a diverse variety of native tree, shrub, and understory species support pollinators with nectar, pollen, and year around habitat. Tony Johnson, forestry outreach specialist and maple syrup project manager with UW-Madison Division of Extension, leads this presentation about how forests support Wisconsin's native pollinators, and some simple recommendations to help woodland owners help pollinators.

June 27—*Tick Talks* by Olivia Kovacs. The inside scoop on ticks and other biting insects found in our woodlands. As gardeners, naturalists, and general Wisconsinites we spend a lot of time outside sharing the space with organisms large and small. This is an overview of some of the most common biting insects and arachnids found in Wisconsin, along with identification, bite prevention, and what to do if you've been bit. Olivia Kovacs is a UW-Madison Natural Resource Educator based out of Columbia County, WI. She works with Wisconsin landowners delivering educational content on an array of topics related to woodlands



July 25—*Tour of the West Madison Agricultural Research Display Gardens* by Janet Hedtcke. (The gardens are located at 8452 Mineral Point Rd, Verona.) Janet Hedtcke is the superintendent of the West Madison Ag Research Station where she manages 500 + acres of land on the urban fringe of Madison. The land is used by UW campus researchers, and is a training ground for undergraduate and graduate students, Master Gardener Volunteers and interns in the display gardens.

NOTE: The time of this meeting may be different from our regular meeting time.

August 22—*Frogs, Snakes, and Other Garden Friends* by Rori Paloski. You can help scientists monitor herp populations and protect them from threats like roads, predators and habitat loss. Wisconsin is home to 19 species of amphibians (frogs and salamanders) and 37 reptiles (snakes, turtles and lizards). Rori will explain how these creatures benefit gardeners and how we can get involved in helping them. She is a herpetologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Madison. Her previous work has included Blanchard's cricket frog monitoring, malformed frog surveys, researching the effects of urbanization on frog populations, salamander and ephemeral pond surveys, ornate box turtle monitoring, slender glass lizard detection probability research, garter snake genetic research, and eastern ribbon snake surveys.

September 26—*First Aid for Gardeners* by Marshfield Medical Staff. Is it heat exhaustion or more serious sun stroke? What to do when you have an insect bite? Gardeners work hard and get blisters, splinters, and aches. Find out what is needed for a gardener's first aid kit as well as instructions for treating minor cuts and abrasions and when to seek medical help for more serious injuries.

October 24—*Growing a Healthy Home Orchard* by Leslie Holland. Leslie will help us understand the biology and management of diseases so that we can keep our home orchards healthy. The focus of her research program is the diagnosis and management of fruit crop diseases. Her extension program translates research findings into practical solutions to improve the productivity and sustainability of fruit production in Wisconsin. We will get up-to-date information on current and emerging disease and the best method of control. She joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Plant Pathology and the UW Fruit Team in August 2020. Holland holds a Ph. D. in plant pathology from the University of California, Davis, and has over six years of experience studying fungal canker pathogens of perennial fruit crops.

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

Contact us at: dewimg@gmail.com or check out our website: <http://www.dodgecountymga.com/> or like us on Facebook.

