

Summer 2022

Issue 69



# Digging in Dodge

## Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*)

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- Also known as button snake-root, button eryngo, and beargrass
- Native perennial forb
- Member of the carrot family
- Hardy in zones 3—8
- Grow in full sun
- Drought tolerant
- Strong upright form, gets 2—5 feet tall
- The narrow, sword-shaped leaves grow up to 3 feet long, forming a dense clump 2 to 3 feet wide
- Each stiff leaf has parallel veins, bristly or spiny margins, and a pointed tip, similar to a yucca leaf
- The foliage dies back after the plant blooms: one or more offsets will develop at its base
- Blooms from mid to late summer
- Has dense flowerheads with a thistle-like appearance. The white flowers turn off-white in late summer to toast brown as the seed matures
- Has a deep taproot—it does not transplant well
- It has no significant insect or disease problems
- Not bothered by deer or rabbits
- Easily propagated from seed
- Aggressive self seeder—remove seed heads to keep plant in check
- Gaining popularity in the home garden
- Pollinator friendly—insects visit it for both pollen and nectar. It is a valuable plant for bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles and other insects
- Provides food for birds when it is in seed



To learn more about Rattlesnake Master check out these articles:  
<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/rattlesnake-master-eryngium-yuccifolium/> or <https://extension.psu.edu/rattlesnake-master-is-a-great-pollinator-plant>

## Upcoming Educational Programs/Meetings

Master Gardener Educational Programs are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Unless otherwise noted, the meetings are at The Watermark, 209 South Center Street, Beaver Dam. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**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.

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## Dodge County Master Gardener E-mail

[dcwimg@gmail.com](mailto:dcwimg@gmail.com)

## Master Gardener Websites

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/>

<https://www.wimga.org/>

<https://dodge.extension.wisc.edu/>



## 2022 Certified Master Gardeners



Linda Allen  
Gae Bergmann  
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Dawn Shillalies  
Carol Shirk  
Debra Steinich  
Cheryl Uttech  
Susan Uttech  
Kay Voelker  
Caryl Watterson  
Helen Weisensel  
Faith Zoellick

## Honored Master Gardener

Carol Shirk received the new HONORED level as a Master Gardener.

Individuals with at least 10 years or 1000 hours volunteer service in Wisconsin, plus the ability to list their significant accomplishments were eligible for this new level.

As part of this recognition, she has the freedom to continue to participate in the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program without the obligation of annual hour reporting, though her contributions are still welcome.





# DCMGA Scholarship Recipients



Loretta Klecker and Luis H. Avila Vette have each been awarded a 2022 Dodge County Master Gardener Association \$1,000 Scholarship.

she taught classes and gave fiber arts demonstrations at county events. She has been a 10 year member of the Swan City Skaters and works seasonally at Eberts Greenhouse Village.

Luis H. Avila Vette, a senior at Watertown High School, plans to attend UW Platteville and major in soil and crop science and agronomy. Vette has been an FFA and 4H member and officer throughout high school. He is in the Youth Apprenticeship Program and is a member of the National Technology Honor Society. Vette works on the family dairy farm and the vegetable garden. In summer he works at the family produce stand selling vegetables to the public and donating to the Watertown Food Pantry.

Klecker, a senior at Dodgeland High School, plans to attend Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan and major in horticulture. In high school Klecker was a member of FFA. She participated in Band and school musicals, Academic Decathlon, Mock Trial, and German Club. Outside of school Klecker participated in the Washington County 4H Wool Spinning Group where

## Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation - Grant

The Dodge County Master Gardener Association had to put all Dodge County Youth Master Gardener classes on hold in 2020 due to Covid. Some organizational changes took place and it took some time to reorganize and regroup. Thanks to a very generous grant from the Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation, we were able to build two raised beds for the youth to raise vegetables and start the gardening classes again in late May. We have 17 homeschool students enrolled and they have learned about planting, maintaining, harvesting, mulching, insect management, pollinators, and more using these raised beds.



We had a class on “planting in unusual containers” and thanks to the donation of some fireman boots from Kekoskee, we had some very unique containers to use!

In addition, we were given the opportunity to give back to the Village of Kekoskee, where we meet, and we planted lovely flowers in the town planters as we learned about planting in containers.



We are so very grateful to parents for enrolling their children, to The Beaver Dam Area Community Foundation for the grant that gave us the financial boost we needed to restart this program, and for the Village of Kekoskee for partnering with us and giving us a place to put the raised beds and a place to meet.

# Master Gardeners in Action



Mayville  
Downtown  
Containers



Dodge County  
Jail Kitchen Garden



Waupun Daybreak



Community Garden Event



Cut Flowers for Care Centers



# Master Gardeners in Action



Seeds for Kids



Beaver Dam Senior Expo



Juneau Library Container Garden Presentation



Dodge County Administration Building Educational Garden—Spring Pruning



Dodge County SPARK Butterfly presentation



# Quilt Raffle



The raffle is for a beautiful 72" x 96" hand quilted, machine-pieced quilt. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Tickets can be purchased at our monthly meetings. The drawing will be held on November 5, 2022 at our Gardening for Gold Fall Symposium. Need not be present to win.

# Gardening for Gold

We are so grateful to be back and ready to hold our 7<sup>th</sup> annual Gardening for Gold Fall Symposium, Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. We are still at our beautiful venue, the Horicon Marsh Educational Center.

Registration forms will be available at our monthly Educational Meetings or request one by emailing [dcwimg@gmail.com](mailto:dcwimg@gmail.com).

We need to limit participants to 75, so get your registration in soon. Feel free to share this information with your friends and family and bring along a car full of gardeners to a day of fun and education.

GARDENING for GOLD			
<b>Gardening for Wildlife</b> Create - Attract - Provide Liz Herzmann	<b>Sustainable Gardening</b> Manage - Support - Purpose Lisa Johnson	<b>Multi-Sensory Spaces</b> Engage - Nurture - Delight Janeil Wehr	<b>Edible Landscaping</b> Family - Community - Wildlife Meghan Anderson
Silent Auction	<b>DODGE COUNTY Master Gardener ASSOCIATION</b>	Quilt Raffle	
<b>November 5, 2022</b> 8:15 am - 3:30 pm		<b>Pre-Registration Required</b> (limited Seating) Deadline to register: October 14, 2022 Visit <a href="http://dodge.uwex.edu">http://dodge.uwex.edu</a> for a Brochure and Registration Form Questions? Email: <a href="mailto:dcwimg@gmail.com">dcwimg@gmail.com</a> <b>Public Welcome</b>	
<b>GOLD Sponsors</b>	<b>SILVER Sponsors</b>	<b>BRONZE Sponsors</b>	
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