

MORE CLASSES

Northeast Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America presents the 4th Annual

Northeast Wisconsin HerbFest.

Saturday, May 3, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Gardens of the Fox Cities - Appleton WI

1313 Witzke Blvd - Appleton WI 54911

920-993-1900 www.gardensfoxcities.org

Cost: \$3.00 for the whole day!!

Presentations include: Herbs 101, Aromatherapy, Designing Your Herb Garden, Herbs for Health, Nourishment and Fun, Cooking with Herbs and Natural Cleaning Products to Make for Your Home There will be on going demonstrations and vendors with herbal and garden products.

Also there will be a HUGE HERB PLANT SALE courtesy of Thistledown Greenhouse, Bonduel WI. Learn about herbs and all their uses with other herb enthusiasts

For more information contact: Jackie Johnson, 920-246-7377, scentedgardens@msn.com

Killing Catalog Clutter

Catalog Choice is a free service that lets you decline paper catalogs you no longer wish to receive. Reduce the amount of unsolicited mail in your mailbox, while helping to save trees! The web site: www.catalogchoice.org
<<http://www.catalogchoice.org>>.

Editor's corner:

Have you noticed the days are getting longer?! I have! And here is another reason to get out of bed in the morning: on Friday, Feb 1, one hour before sunrise, look to the southeast. You will see the planets Venus and Jupiter in a splendid pairing only 6 degrees apart. They will slowly drift apart in the following days of February. Also be sure to watch for the lunar eclipse one and a half hours after sunset on Feb 20th, in the eastern sky. Hopefully there will be no clouds to spoil the view! Better days are coming!

Linda Baeten



Bus Trip WPT Garden Expo

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Alliant Energy Center, Madison

Pick-up:

**6:30 a.m.-Outagamie Cty Ext. Office,
3365 W. Brewster, Appleton**

**7:00 a.m.-Coughlin Center, 625 E.
Cty. Rd. Y, Oshkosh**

**7:20 a.m.-Kohl's, Hwy. 41/23, Fond
du Lac**

Return:

6:30-7:00 p.m. (approximate)

Workshops! Seminars!

Vendors!

Cost: \$36 (includes expo ticket)

For more information, go to:

www.wpt.org/gardenexpo

**Bus trip sponsored by Winnebago County
Master**

**Gardener Association. Contact Audrey
Ruedinger:**

(920) 231-5745 or aud@vbe.com

Registration Form (copy as needed)

Tips from the book *1001 Gardening Secrets the Experts Never Tell You*

By Lawanda Jungwirth

When I was a beginning gardener I just loved gardening tip books. I would check them out of the library and read them cover to cover, making pages and pages of notes about anything that I was currently growing or ever thought I would grow. Since my preferred location for reading these books was my deck and it was pre-laptop computer days, my notes were all handwritten and therefore in the form of a long disorganized list. Most of the lists have never been referred to again, although I do still have all of them.

Recently I pulled out a book I was given as a gift, *1001 Gardening Secrets the Experts Never Tell You*, by the editors of FC&A Publishing. There is the usual disclaimer in the beginning of the book: "We advise readers to carefully review and understand the ideas and tips presented and to seek the advice of a qualified professional before attempting to use them. The publisher and editors disclaim all liability (including injuries, damages or losses) resulting from the use of the information in this book."

Yikes! I didn't know gardening was so dangerous! Anyway, here are a few tips I found just paging through the book that I don't think will hurt anybody.

- Resist the urge to "roll" your lawn in spring. Instead of evening out the turf, or pushing newly scattered seed into the ground, it will simply compact the soil beneath the lawn – and make it harder for water to get to the roots.
- Want to start working a patch of ground early in the spring? Cover it with dark plastic for two weeks. The ground will stay dry and weeds will suffocate. You'll be the first person to plant in the warm spring soil.
- Your index finger can tell you how deep to sow a seed. Just stick it in the soil. The depth as far down as your fingernail is right for radishes, lettuce and Spanish onions. At your first knuckle plant cabbage, carrots, beets, cucumbers and squash. Sow bush and pole beans and corn as deep as your second knuckle.
- Sweeten the air with flowers. Night blooming vines and bushes like nicotiana, moonflower and four o'clocks will give you sweet dreams if you plant them under your bedroom window.
- Waiting for stubborn plants to break down in your compost pile? Toss in some nettle or comfrey leaves. They'll heat up your heap in a hurry.
- If you have a pretty container you'd like to use as a planter but don't want to put soil directly in it, use a plastic flower pot that will fit inside. If the planter is taller than your plastic pot, place an empty upside-down flower pot or a brick below the filled one.
- Your watering practice could be what's causing tree roots to do damage, like breaking up your driveway or sidewalk. Water less often but more thoroughly and the roots will go deeper searching for a drink, leaving the surface unbroken.
- Mix about 20% radish seeds in with 80% carrot seeds. Radishes are quick to pop out of the ground and mark where the more tender and slow growing carrots are hiding. Since they are soon ready to harvest, you can have them out of the ground before the carrots need the space.
- Leggy indoor plants can be rather unattractive with long stems and small leaves. If this describes your plant, it is probably pleading for more light. Trim off any gangly leaves and move it to a south-facing window – or direct a grow light onto it for 12 hours a day. Its new growth should be more compact.
- If you have a shaded, weedy area of your yard that has poor soil, try sweet woodruff as a ground cover. It does well in less than ideal conditions and will choke out weeds.
- To keep aggressive herbs like mint, tarragon or marjoram from taking over your garden, plant the herb in a pot and bury the pot in the ground.

Watch for more details on:

- *Garlic mustard ID & pull (Easy) April 26 & May 3*
ljungwirth@new.rr.com
- *Wildflower walk – May 9*
Wautoma area
- *Invasive species ID field trip, September*
- *Weekend bus trip to view Minneapolis public gardens, June*

For more information contact:

Audrey Ruedinger, (920) 231-5745 *or* aud@vbe.com

FEBRUARY TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- When forced bulbs have bloomed, continue to water the plant and put in a sunny window, then plant in spring. It may take a year or two for forced bulbs to regain their vigor.
- **Week 1.** Inspect dahlia and begonia tubers and other stored fleshy rooted plants for rot or desiccation.
- **Week 2.** Start tuberous begonias in pots
- **Week 3.** Start seeds for impatiens, vinca, pansies and geraniums.
- **Week 4.** Start caladiums in pots.

Vegetables and Herbs

- **Week 2.** Start seeds for leeks and onions. Use a sterile soilless seed-starting medium to avoid damping-off disease.

Lawns, Trees and Shrubs.

- Prune dormant trees and summer-flowering shrubs.

Fruits and Berries

- If renovating old apple trees, prune no more than one-third of old growth each year. See UW Extension publication #A1959, "Training and Pruning Apple Trees," at learningstore.uwex.edu.
- Spray dormant oil to control scale and other overwintering pests. Spray on any day above 40 F, when forecast temperatures remain above freezing for 24 hours. This may be done until buds swell.
- Remove and destroy any mummified fruits, galls, or egg clusters on trees or shrubs.
- Check for fireblight cankers on susceptible varieties of apples and pears; remove by pruning 6 to 8 inches below the cankers. Disinfect pruners between cuts.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Hours spent at the General Membership meetings count!
Come and see how you can be involved.

☞ PAINE GARDENS

Contact Pat Behm or Bob Potter

☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Rob Robinson.

☞ PARK VIEW-MG LIASON

VACANT!

☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

The Vegetable Garden contact Susan Steinhilber
235-1031 or email steinsb@northnet.net

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS - Menasha

Contact Ruth Freye

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS – Oshkosh

Contact:

☞ PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Toby.

☞ TRIPS

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

☞ MENASHA NATURE'S WAY PROJECT

Contact Gale Davey

☞ LOOK FOR MORE PROJECTS TO COME!



FEBRUARY 2008

(THIS CALENDAR CAN BE A HANDY WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR HOURS)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
					1	2 GROUND HOG DAY!
3	4	5 6:00 MG BOARD MTG MARDI GRAS!	6 LENT BEGINS NEW MOON ●	7 CHINESE NEW YEAR	8	9 WPT GARDEN EXPO BUS TRIP - MADISON ALLIANT CENTER
10	11	12 6:15 MG BUSINESS MTG	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15	16
17	18 PRESIDENT'S DAY	19 FDL basic training:	20 LUNAR ECLIPSE FULL MOON ○	21	22	23 8-12 Class "Jewels in the Garden" by Anita Carpenter, also "Green Building Basics" by DNR
24	25	26 FDL basic training:	27 1-4pm "Compost and Natural Turf" workshop. Oshkosh Park Plaza Hotel & Conference Center	28	29 Brown Bag Program, noon @ the UWEX Extending the Raspberry Season .	