

North Country Gardeners

Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Co.

UW-Extension Cooperative Extension

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Greetings!

Jack Frost stopped by for a visit a few nights ago and reminded us that it's time to wind things down for the 2009 gardening season. There is nothing like a killing frost to spur gardeners into action to harvest and try and save what they can. The warm weather in September allowed us to enjoy our gardens a little bit longer and helped mature out some of our crops. The squash, melons and pumpkins could have used a bit more time, but we'll take what we've gotten, especially given our dry, cool season.

There continues to be a renewed interest in gardening and horticulture as of late. There are Farmer's Markets popping up in many communities, school and community gardens being planted or planned, garden tours, seminars and workshops being offered, and local communities organizing harvest fests or local food events. With all this interest comes additional opportunity for help and assistance.

No matter your age or year's of experience gardening we all have talents to help teach, foster and encourage others. Gardening is a life long skill that can be practiced and appreciated nearly anywhere.

We hope you find this newsletter informative. Most of the articles were submitted and written by local Master Gardener Volunteers. It is our hope that this newsletter and ongoing e-mail communications help keep Master Gardener Volunteers and other interested community members informed and connected. There are plenty of projects and opportunities to share our interest in gardening with others.

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming workshops or volunteer opportunities please give me or any of the North Country Master Gardener Association Committee Members a call or e-mail. As always we thank you for your continued interest and support of UW-Extension and the UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program.

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Russ Parker
President
North Country Master Gardeners Association

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Area Agricultural Agents Office
Spooners Ag Research Station
W6646 Highway 70
Spooners, Wisconsin 54801
(715) 635-3506 or
Toll Free 800-528-1914**

Don't forget about helping young and old with gardening projects. Consider working with 4-H, boys & girls clubs, church groups, or senior citizens. Share the bounty by planting an extra row of vegetables and donating it to a local food shelf or senior center. Once you've been certified, you need 24 hours of volunteer time per year plus 10 hours of continued education. You need not be a Master Gardener to volunteer!

Results of 2009 North Country Master Gardener Survey

Sue Reinardy

Master Gardener Volunteer

North Country Master Gardeners gave an overwhelming response to a survey sent out earlier this year. Over half of the certified Master Gardeners responded. The full survey results can be found on the Wisconsin Master Gardener website at: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/> by clicking on “Local Associations” and then “North Country Master Gardeners.”

The survey showed that Master Gardeners are very involved in our local communities by providing horticulture education, providing volunteers for gardening activities, and for youth programs.

You also ranked the top three things you want to see at the Spooner Research Station as: (1) fruits and vegetables, (2) Zone 3 plants, and (3) perennial flower displays. The details of those rankings have been used by the Spooner Research Garden Committee in developing long range plans for the gardens.

Your top three motivations as a Master Gardener were listed as:

- (1) Access to Continuing Education
- (2) Community Service
- (3) Access to other Master Gardeners

You identified almost 40 subjects to learn more about. The top three methods of learning were hands-on workshops, half day seminars, and field trips. The vast majority (82%) identified the Spooner Research Station as the preferred location with the next highest ranking to rotate sites (11%). The survey results will be used by the Education and Training Committee to plan more learning opportunities.

You also indicated that your participation in Master Gardener volunteering

would increase most by identifying project opportunities and receiving a list of contacts for other Master Gardeners. You may have already noticed e-mails with several opportunities and a Master Gardener Contact Directory has been sent to Master Gardeners who have completed their training and volunteer hours. Another way to participate is to work with one of the newly formed committees listed below. You will see their reports in this newsletter and in committee meeting minutes. The committees are: Spooner Research Garden, Education and Training, Plant Sale, Garden Tours, Grants, Membership, and Executive Committee.

Thank you to all who responded to the survey. Your interest in serving through North Country Master Gardener Committees or your local community projects is appreciated.

A Notebook for Your Gardens

Sue Reinardy

Master Gardener Volunteer

Do you have in various locations, pictures of your gardens, tags from the plants you bought this year, seed packets, catalog order sheets, garden layouts and to-do lists? And when you want to find something the search takes a while?

Well, gather all that stuff together this fall and pledge to organize it this winter. In one winter afternoon you will be able to create a garden notebook that will serve you well for many years to come.

You will need a three-ring notebook (get a big one), index or pocket divider tabs, sheet protectors (with the 3 holes already in them) and a three hole punch. If you can find the time now – take pictures of your garden areas. Now you will be ready when that lazy winter afternoon comes and you need your gardening fix.

Here's the step-by-step plan for your notebook:

1. Envision your outdoor spaces as separate garden areas or rooms – number and name them. They can go by names of locations or the types of plants you have in them or something whimsical. Create a notebook tab for each one.
2. Now separate all you have gathered: plant lists, tags, order forms, ideas and pictures to place in the appropriate tab.

Pocket tabs work great for storing this stuff until you have time or the inclination to place it into a sheet protector or punch three holes into the sheet. Plant tags can be placed into photo protectors or scan them to take less space.

3. When you get the chance, measure your gardens and make a rough layout to place in the notebook. This is an excellent reference when the snow is three feet deep and you are placing your spring seed order.
4. For vegetable gardens, section into three to four sections to allow for proper crop rotation. One example could be:

- a. Solanaceae: tomatoes, peppers, eggplants
- b. Fabaceae: green beans, peas
- c. Cucurbitaceae: melons, cucumbers, squash
- d. Remainder

Modify to your own garden needs while allowing for a different location every three to four years. Once you have the sections created – make several copies of a

blank garden layout so each year you can write in the plan for the rotation. It's a good idea to rotate your annual flowers as well to avoid diseases and pests.

5. Note each year for each garden what worked, what didn't, plans for the next year, maintenance and fertilizer schedules. These can then be transferred to a calendar.

Every year the notebook can be kept up-to-date by gathering the year's materials and setting aside time to update. A good time is when the spring catalogs start coming and before you place your seed orders.

You'll be amazed at how quickly your notebook will become an indispensable tool for your garden.

Bulbs: More than Tulips and Daffodils

Sue Reinardy
Master Gardener Volunteer

Many of us plant tulips and daffodils, but there is so much more that you can plant in the fall. These are generally referred to as bulbous plants. They have bulbs, tubers, rhizomes or corms that swell into a food storage organ enabling the plant to survive when it is dormant.

Some positive features of these plants:



- Low maintenance—just like other low maintenance plants, this does not mean “no maintenance.” With the spring blooming variety, you are planting in the fall rather than in the busy spring planting time. And once planted, many naturalize and you do not need to do anything special to keep them coming back year after year.
- Add structure — Most of these types of plants are narrow or spiked and add vertical structure to your mixed borders.
- Blooms — many bloom when other perennials are quiet. For example: (1) spring bulbs before anything else has emerged, (2) summer alliums fill in that gap between spring and the full bloom of summer, and (3) Lycoris in the dog days of summer when other perennials are fading.
- Variety — there is a huge variety of all types of bulbous plants. Many make good cut and dried flowers.
- Pest and disease resistant — yes, despite their reputation there are lots of choices that deer, rabbits, and squirrels don't like and will avoid.

The life cycle of spring flowering bulbs are very different than other types of plants. Once you know how they work, you can understand the process taking place underground. Fall is the time to plant when soil temperatures are below 50 degrees — usually in October in our zone 3. Water well and protect against squirrels digging them up. This is the time of year that bulbs, once planted, are sending out roots so they get a head start on shooting up in the spring. During the winter protect from thaw/freeze cycles and early, warm weather with mulch. This protects those tender new roots from breaking.

Spring is when we get to enjoy the show. Remove the mulch once the weather is warm enough and the plant is starting to send up shoots. Once the flowering is done, remove the spent flower stem, but keep the leaves so

Top Ten Reasons Gardening is Fun

From the Winter Greenhouse website

1. Does not require a remote control.
2. Has nothing to do with politics.
3. You can blame the weather for anything that goes wrong.
4. Looks enough like work to assure solitude.
5. Legal to exterminate your enemies.
6. Right to bare arms — and bare legs.
7. Allows you to turn your junk into art objects.
8. Does not require fluency in Latin.
9. You can bury your mistakes in the compost pile.
10. You won't be arrested for ignoring “the rules.”

the plant puts its energy into the bulb. Once the leaves brown in early summer, the plants are dormant. Bulbs can remain in place, be divided, or removed and stored in a dry, cool location until fall planting time.

Bulbous plants have a long season in this area – from April to September. So what to plant? Here is a list to get you started.

- Early Spring (April to June) Anemone, Daffodil, Tulip, Fritillaria, Muscari, Trillium, Scilla
- Summer (June-August) Allium, Lily, Lycoris
- Fall (September – October) Colchicum, Autumn Crocus

Have you not had much luck in getting bulbs to perennialize or naturalize in your garden? There are a number of factors that could be contributing, but there are a few common ones. The bulb may not be hardy in our zone which causes the bulb size after the first year to be reduced below the minimum required for flowering. Poor drainage can cause the bulb to rot; many like dry conditions in their dormant period. Bulbs need proper fertilization to maintain bulb size and their foliage needs to remain in place to allow for adequate photosynthesis to store energy for next year. The best time to fertilize is after the first hard frost, next best – early spring when leaves emerge with a low nitrogen fertilizer. Do not braid or remove the leaves until brown.

There is lots of information on bulbs. Some resources you might want to check out:

- North Central Regional Extension Publication No. 399 “Growing and Using Annuals and Bulbs”
- www.bulb.com (website of the International Bulb Centre)
- www.planttalk.org (Colorado State University)

Time to Check Soil pH

Sandy Hoechberl
Master Gardener Volunteer

pH is an acronym for potential hydrogen. pH is the measure of hydrogen ions present in the soil. All plants have an ideal pH range that is required for them to maximize the use of nutrients in the soil. In our area, lime needs to be added because the soil becomes depleted for a number of reasons. We need to apply nitrogen on a yearly basis and nitrogen uses up the lime in the soil when it breaks down. We generally have a high rainfall which leeches basic or alkaline forming ions such as calcium and magnesium from the soil resulting in an acid soil condition. Moreover, the plant roots also excrete acid-forming ions to assist nutrient use.

pH is the single most important factor in whether a plant will grow well in a soil. At proper levels, plant roots can access necessary nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Even so, too much lime can damage the soil, so you don't want to add lime unless you know the garden needs it.

The best way to determine whether you have proper pH for your plants is to have your soil tested. Fall is a good time to test the soil. First, because you are likely to have faster service than you get in the spring. Second, if you do need to add lime to your soil, it is best to do it in the fall. The lime takes several months to change the soil. Hydrated lime may take effect in two or three months, but ground chalk or limestone may take up to six months. In some cases, the change in pH may take 1-2 years. The last time I had my soil tested, I was told to apply lime in early spring and fall for three years and then have the soil tested again.

A University of Wisconsin Soil and Plant Analysis Lab will not only tell you how much fertilizer should be applied to your soil but will also recommend applications of lime. Soil acidity is measured in pH units on a



scale of 1 to 14, with 7 being neutral. Plants that need acid like a pH less than 7; alkaline plants like a pH higher than 7 on the scale. Each number on the scale represents a ten-fold change in acidity. For example, a soil at pH 5 is ten times as acidic as one with pH of 6 and a pH of 4 is 100 times as acidic as a pH of 6.

If you apply manure in the fall, it is important to wait at least three weeks after applying the manure before adding the lime. If they are applied at the same time, neither element does its job effectively. It is important to work the lime into the soil.

Perennial beds can create some problems. It's always better to fit the plants to the soil rather than trying to change the soil to match the plants. However, many gardeners don't consider pH when they design their garden. Most gardens will do well in a range from 5.5 to 7.0. However, lilacs prefer the higher scale. Japanese iris can be killed with applications of lime. It helps to plant with similar needs in one area. Planting plants with different needs in close proximity will have one outperforming the other.

In general, soil with a pH reading of 6.0 to 7.5 works for most plants. Vegetables produce the best crops at soil pH between 6.0 and 7.0. Turf grasses prefer a pH between 5.5 and 7.0. Ornamental shrubs such as conifers, rhododendrons, azaleas, blueberries and roses need an acid soil of 4.5 to 6 to thrive.

Advanced Master Gardener Training in Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants Offered

Kevin Schoessow

Area Ag Development Agent

Burnett, Sawyer, and Washtburn Counties

Whether you are an active MGCV or not, anyone who has completed the general training, is welcome to participate in the Advanced Master Gardener training. These classes will be delivered through the ITV (Interactive T.V.) network and local school district community education programs.

I have made arrangement with Grantsburg, Northwood and Hayward Community Ed programs. Registration and class materials will be handled by community ed.

I realize this is too late for the September 29 session; however, there are weekly sessions through December 15. The best deal and preferred registration is to sign up for the entire course; however, there is the ala cart weekly registration option. If you choose the ala cart option, please let the site facilitator know in advance what sessions you plan to attend. This will help with making arrangements for handout.

Payment is made directly to the respective community ed programs. To register contact the following:

Grantsburg: Cindi Throngard (ctthro@grantsburg.k12.wi) 715-463-5165 Ext. 160

Northwood: Julie Hustvet (Hustvet@centurytel.net) 715-466-4692 Ext. 501

Hayward: Dawn Cox (DCox@hayward.k12.wi) 715-634-2619 Ext. 1666

Winter: Peggy Flaws (pflaws@centurytel.net) 715-266-6031

Fall 2009-Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants

Advanced Master Gardener Program Schedule

Classes are scheduled at Hayward High School, Northwood School and Grantsburg High School

Cost is \$110 for all twelve weeks or \$15 per session

All sessions (12) are on Tuesday evening beginning September 29th and continuing through December 15th from 5:45 – 9:00p.m.

Program format is 5:45 – 6:00 p.m., classroom orientation; 6:00 – 8:50 p.m.,

fiber-optics/compressed video presentation/Wisline/CD-power point.

The session topics are as follows:

October 6	Winning Combinations with Grasses	Mary Meyer (UMN)
	Planting under Trees	Mary Meyer (UMN)
October 13	Growing and Management of Cut Flowers	Johanna Oosterwyk
	Plant Propagation	Johanna Oosterwyk
October 20	Garden Design	Diana Alfuth
	Home Landscape Irrigation	Robert Tomesh
October 27	Container Gardening	Patti Nagai
November 3	Hardy Shrub Roses for Wisconsin	Jeff Epping
	Plants for Winter Landscape Interest	Jeff Epping
November 10	Rain Gardens	Suzanne Wade
November 17	Annuals and Large Tropical Plants	Mark Dwyer
November 24	Lilies and Daylilies	Jean Bawden (Earth Spirit Farm)
	Flowerbed Preparation	Robert Tomesh
December 1	Indoor/Outdoor Insect Pests	Phil Pellitteri
December 8	Diseases of Outdoor Flowers and Houseplants	Brian Hudelson
December 15	Houseplant Care and Culture	Lisa Johnson

“Got Dirt?” Gardening Initiative

Kevin Schoessow

Area Ag Development Agent

Burnett, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties

Nearly six years ago I received a phone call from Amy Mienen, Nutrition Coordinator with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, asking if I would be interested in being part of a state wide planning grant to help teachers and childcare providers start gardens at their facilities. The underlying reason for this grant was to help reduce childhood obesity.

Obesity is a growing problem in the U.S., especially among our youth. The Center for Disease Control has identified several strategies for fighting obesity, one being increased fruit and vegetable consumption.

The Got Dirt? Gardening Initiative trains teachers and childcare providers to start gardens at their own facilities. The class and related teaching aids give teachers and childcare providers the skills they need to establish and sustain successful garden programs, even with Wisconsin's short growing season.

By gardening, children gain more knowledge about vegetables, have increased exposure to vegetables, and are more willing to try unfamiliar vegetables if they have grown them themselves. In addition, gardens can be used as a tool to teach other subjects including math, English composition, environmental sciences, etc.

I gladly agreed and with the assistance of several area UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and willing community partners the “Got Dirt?” initiative was introduced. The initial planning grant included several training sessions across the state and a few target school gardening projects to “test” the feasibility of several gardening activities.



A “Got Dirt?” gardening training session was held in Hayward and I began working with Winter and Spooner Schools on ways to teach gardening to kids at the school. Gardening activities were already in place or being planned through the after school program which made it easy to introduce the “Got Dirt?” project.

With the help of UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteers and other key partners, the WinterGreen Community Garden adjacent to the Winter School K-12 school

and the Helping Hands Community Garden at the Spooner Elementary were organized and started. No small task! These outdoor raised bed gardens are wonderful; however, they have their limitations given our short growing season.

To address these limitations, other gardening techniques were tried. These included a hoop house, cold frames, container gardens and a microfarm gardening cart. Thanks to the “Got Dirt?” planning grant most of the costs of these gardening teaching aides was covered and it gave both schools a chance to “test” out these techniques.

Another part of this planning grant was to develop written resource for teachers and childcare providers.

As a result of this initial “Got Dirt?” planning grant, we were able to document the impact this initiative had on increasing children's knowledge of vegetables and their

willingness to try new vegetables. Armed with this data and the success stories, a larger state-wide “Got Dirt?” garden grant was received and this initiative is now being promoted state-wide to K-12 teachers, childcare providers, head start teachers, and other youth gardening advocates.

I see tremendous opportunity for continued success with the “Got Dirt?” Gardening Initiative. While school gardens and many of the gardening techniques promoted in the “Got Dirt?” project are not new, I see the resources and information extremely useful to encourage more youth gardening activities.



UW-Extension Master Gardener Volunteer, Chris Weyh (center) explains the program to area teachers.

There will be ongoing “Got Dirt?” trainings sessions planned throughout the state in the next six months. There was one held recently at the Spooner Elementary School, and there are more being planned in the area.

For local information on the “Got Dirt?” gardening Initiative feel free to give me a call at 1-715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914 or visit www.gotdirtwisconsin.org. The state-wide contact is Bill Wright, Brown County UW-Extension. Key partners are UW-Extension, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Garden Tour Committee Reports

*Amber Anderson
Ag Research Station Gardener
Master Gardener Volunteer*

The rain didn't stop gardeners from enjoying the tour in Duluth and Superior. Tuesday, July 21st, NCMGVs hosted a bus tour to Edelweis Nursery in Duluth and Pedersons Nursery in Superior.

It was raining pretty good when we arrived at Edelweis, but that didn't stop us from browsing around. Josep and Debbie Braeu were very accommodating to our group of offering us pastries and coffee to keep us warm. People enjoyed walking around looking at the beautiful trees, perennials and even a gift shop with antiques. Many people took advantage of the great selection of plants they offer. When we were finished we headed to Canal Park in Duluth for a Lake Walk to see the roses and browse the shops there.

There were several restaurants in the area that we all had lunch at. From there we took a short trip to Pederson's Garden and Landscapes in Superior. When we arrived there they had lemonade, coffee and ice cream for us. There is a nice sitting area that we sat at and enjoyed our desserts overlooking the many gardens they have there for demonstration. They gave us a guided tour of the demonstration gardens and talked about the history of Pederson's. The gardens were abso-

lutely stunning with walking paths and benches to sit down and rest.

With the bus loaded down with plants we left and headed south back to Spooner. We all had a great time and plan to arrange for a similar tour next year, we will keep you posted. A Special thanks to Edelweis, Pederson's, our bus driver and all who attended!

How Does Your Garden Grow?

*Dennis Schraufnagel
Master Gardener Volunteer*

When Ray and Rose of Shell Lake, Wisconsin decided it was time to try gardening for the very first time, they needed to consult with someone about getting started. A friend suggested contacting Kevin Schoessow, UW-Extension Area Ag Agent at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Kevin gathered information and called on the North Country Master Gardener Volunteers, who discussed the potential for a program that would provide both a teaching, as well as a learning experience for the new gardeners.

After a few days, North Country volunteers Dennis Schraufnagel and Barb Boatman had donations in hand and were ready for Ray and Rose to begin planting. Since the new gardeners were inexperienced, instructions as well as

hands on assistance were provided. Kevin made a visit bringing several tomato and pepper plants, providing planting and after care instructions. Each week Dennis or Barb visited the garden to advice and answer the usual garden questions.

This was a late garden, so produce is now just beginning to be harvested. Green beans, cucumbers and tomatoes will be ready in the next one or two weeks. The jury is still out on the vertical, tier, raised potato bin. If all goes well that harvest should occur in about 30 days.

The new gardeners continue to be enthusiastic and surprised that through their own efforts, they were able to grow some of their own fresh vegetables. Rose said she would like to double the number of raised beds next year. While this was a modest project, it was rewording for the NCMGVs, but more important, it was a fun and exciting learning experience for Ray and Rose.



Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

Location:	Project	Contact	Phone
Hayward	Ready-Set-Grow	Lisa Wydra	715-634-4839
Hayward	School Garden Committee	Tom Blumenberg	715-462-4821
Hayward	Library Landscaping	Carol Alcoe	715-462-3213
Burnett Med. Center/Continuing Care	Patient Gardens	Linnea Seume	715-463-5452
Spooner Ag Research Station	Demo Garden	Kevin Schoessow	715-635-3506
Webster	Fort Folle Avoine Garden	Helen Steffen	715-866-4430
Winter	School/Community Garden	Peggy Flaws	715-266-6031
Spooner	Spooner Elementary Helping Hands	Diann Parker	715-635-9582

Project Profile:

Ready, Set, Grow Program

Sue Reinardy

Master Gardener Volunteer

Ready, Set, Grow is a gardening and nutrition program at the Northwest Connections Family Resources in Hayward. It is sponsored by the NW Family Resources and the Sawyer County/LCO Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program, University of Wisconsin Extension with gardening assistance this year by Master Garden Volunteers Tom Blumenberg and Sue Reinardy. The program has been in existence for many years.

Each year kids ages 3-8 and their parents come together on Wednesday mornings for six weeks to enjoy a summer series on garden foods. The kids grow their own container garden and taste garden foods with the help of the Master Garden Volunteers and the UW Nutritionists.

This year radishes, lettuce, and beans were grown in the container gardens. While waiting for the plants to sprout, the kids have fun and learn more about gardening with other activities. One of the most popular activities this year was making compost. And many of the parents learned how to do it as well. The nutritionists teach good hygiene and introduce the kids to a variety of foods through activities, stories and snacks.

Some lessons learned in setting up this program:

1. There are many resources to draw upon when setting up programs for children.

There is a tub of materials maintained at the Spooner Area UW-Extension office and another tub maintained at the Sawyer/LCO Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program (or contact your county's Nutrition Education Program.)

2. Very young children need to use their large muscles to stay interested and you can keep their interest for about a minute for every year of age. This was learned from several teacher friends. Throwing materials into a compost bin and watering are more engaging to a young child than sitting and listening to a lecture.



3. Have an alternative plan for a rainy day. We saved building a scarecrow for a rainy day since it could be done either outside or inside.

4. Have multiple activities if possible. Kids have different interests and while some might not want to find plant colors they may want to hunt for worms, build a trellis for the pole beans, or dig in a pot to find new potatoes.

Most of all – have fun!

Calendar of Events

October 2-3, 2009 WIMGA State Conference, Wisconsin Dells.

October 22, 2009 NCMG Meeting – 6:00 p.m. – Spooner Ag Research Station.

October 23, 2009 Brown Bag Wisline - Raspberry Selection and Management. Cultivar selection and plant management will be the topic of discussion.

November 13, 2009 Brown Bag Wisline - Landscaping to Attract Wildlife. Join us as we address landscape approaches to improve wildlife habitat.

December 18, 2009 Brown Bag Wisline - Fruit Crop Pest Management Tactics. Reduced fruit quality is often the result of poor pest management during the growing season. Join us for a review of the problems and tactics to improve the situations.

Contact your local UW-Extension Office to join in on the Brown Bag Wislines.

Useful Websites

Deadheading

<http://www.gardengatemagazine.com/extras/pdf/58deadheading.pdf>

Dividing

<http://www.gardengatemagazine.com/extras/pdf/60dividing.pdf>

Guide to all the farmer's markets in Wisconsin with a handy search tool

<http://www.savorwisconsin.com>

New Sign for the Spooner Ag Research Station

Mary Burnham

Master Gardener Volunteer

Victoria Zalatoris is a woman with shoulder length straight hair and a wide engaging smile. When I asked about her art background, she laughingly told me the story of having to turn down her “dream job” in New York because they offered her \$80 per week, when she needed \$100 to survive!

This was directly after graduating from college with a degree in textiles and other related arts. She desperately wanted to work in fashion, and so she did. She went to work at McCalls, in the pattern company, as a copywriter and then editor. She also did some freelance work, designing boxes, home craft kits, needlepoint and crewel work patterns.

She worked for fifteen years at Adam York, an executive gift catalog company. Victoria was a liaison between the creative designers and the merchandisers.

She worked for a home décor catalog company, Casual Living, until she had a mid-life crisis, sold her home and all of her belongings, and moved (with her husband) to become ski-bums in Utah!

Two years later, bored, she took an adult watercolor class. EUREKA! She had at last found her true passion. She began by painting anything people wanted. . . A Volkswagen, a garden shed, rocks, fantasy children’s rooms-anything!



In January, when the North Country master gardeners were making plans to honor the Spooner Agricultural Research station on their 100th anniversary, Victoria spoke up and volunteered her time and talents to design and create a sign worthy of this monumental occasion.

The sign is located at the station, facing Highway 70.

Victoria also does stained glass work and pet portraits. If you would like to see samples of her work, go to her web site at www.phluffwerks.com.

The North Country Master Garden Association would like to sincerely thank this multi-talented lady for her generosity in volunteering her time and sharing her talents in this important community project.



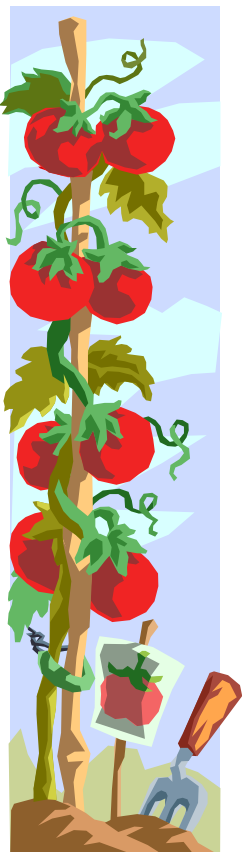
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Visit us on the web! You may find this newsletter and other useful information by visiting the website of the Spooner Ag Research Station.
<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/index.htm>



North Country Gardeners Newsletter

A publication for gardening enthusiasts from the
Tri-County area of Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn