

North Country Gardeners

UW-Extension Cooperative Extension

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University of Wisconsin-Extension

Area Agricultural Agents Office

Spooner Ag Research Station

W6646 Highway 70

Spooner, Wisconsin 54801

(715) 635-3506 or

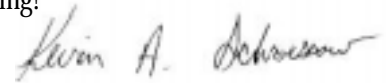
Toll Free 800-528-1914

Greetings!

Think spring! There is much to think about this time of year: When is the snow going to leave so I can begin my spring gardening? When should I start my transplant seeds? Is it too late to order more seeds? How am I going to deal with those pesky deer? I hope my perennials made it through the winter! Or perhaps you have a garden resolution list. This spring I am going to . . . do my spring pruning in March and April instead of May or June; be better organized; keep a garden journal; plant more vegetables; have my soil tested; plant only what I have space, and time for; help a friend, neighbor or child enjoy gardening.

There is much anticipation this time of year. I hope you find this newsletter helpful in meeting some of those horticulture thoughts. There is many learning and volunteering opportunities mentioned in the following pages. Make time to participate in those you can.

If you have any questions about any of the upcoming workshops or volunteer opportunities please give me a call or drop me an email. As always I welcome comments, suggestions or written contributions to this newsletter. Happy Gardening!



Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent

New Ventures Gardening Seminar continues for a 4th year

Julie Hustvet

Master Gardener

The fourth annual New Ventures Gardening Seminar hosted by Northwood Community Ed and the Spooner Garden Club will be on Saturday, March 20, at Northwood School. Registration will begin at 8:45 a.m., and the presentations will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is included in the \$10 fee. We'll have four presentations:

- 1) Kenn Skrupky, *Surprising Hostas*. He is a hosta hybridizer and collector.
- 2) Don Engebretson, two programs: *10 Top Landscaping Blunders* and *The Garden on Paper: Selected Readings from the World's Best Garden Writers*. He is a gardening author and scout for Better Homes and Gardens and has just published a book on stonescaping and has another one coming out shortly on perennials. Known as the "Renegade Gardener."
- 3) Linda Degner of Bashaw Valley Greenhouse, *Inside Scoop*. Northland gardening challenges, based on questions asked at the greenhouse, plus tips on growing blueberries.

Registration is by sending \$10 to Northwood Community Ed, N14463 Hwy. 53, Minong, WI 54859; questions can be directed to 466-4692, ext. 501.

New All-Americans available in 2004

Tom Syverud

Extension & Outreach Educator

Ashland Ag Research Station

Fresh Look Celosias— Two new cultivars offer season long color with little maintenance. Both the Yellow and Red celosia produce a large central plume of 8 to 9 inches, and an abundance of side shoots, which cover the plant in blooms. Grown in full sun, the plant attains a height and spread of 12 to 18 inches. Flowers can be cut for fresh or dried use. Plant in moist but well-drained, fertile soil in a sheltered position in full sun. Tip: These plants are forgiving; however water well in dry weather.

Gypsy Deep Rose Gypsophila is a small cushion or mounded form plant. This annual has dark rose-colored flowers about 3/8 of an inch. Grown in full sun, the plant reaches a height of 8 to 10 inches, with a spread of 12 inches. Tip: Gypsophilas don't like acid soils.

Queeny Purple Hollyhock is a shorter hollyhock; at only 20 to 30 inches tall it is perfect for smaller gardens. The 3 to 4 inch purple blooms are a "powder puff" type. Queeny Purple is an annual that flowers abundantly. Tip: As a newer cultivar, it is resistant to rust, however, in 2003 flea beetles were a major pest problem for this plant.

Sweet Beauty Watermelon is an "ice box" type melon, at approximately 5 to 7 pounds, it is good for one meal. It is a vigorous plant maturing in 80 days. Sweet Beauty is early, sweet and crisp. Tip: When we didn't harvest this melon on time, the rodent and soft rot damage was severe.

Amy Melon is a "canary" type melon, bright yellow smooth skin without netting. This early melon has a small seed cavity surrounded by sweet white flesh. This vig-

orous plant is ready in 80 days. Tip: Wait until the yellow color is fully developed to harvest.

Sunshine Winter Squash has bright orange flesh that is sweet, nutty and smooth when baked, steamed or microwaved. Use transplants to speed the harvest of this long-season squash. The 3 to 4 pound squash has a flattened orange-red skin. Harvest before frost so damage doesn't occur. Tip: Use clear plastic on heavy clay soils to speed up development of this crop.

Protect your garden from aster yellows

Tom Syverud

Extension & Outreach Educator

Ashland Ag Research Station

Aster yellows is one of the most serious garden diseases of northern Wisconsin. It is caused by a mycoplasma-like organism, a microorganism intermediate between bacteria and viruses. The organism is located in the phloem tissues of infected plant parts and causes a variety of disorders such as distortion, discoloration, stunting and tissue proliferation. Eventually it may kill the plant.

Aster yellows has a broad host range encompassing more than 200 dicot plant species. The disease is transmitted from plant to plant primarily by the aster leafhopper. The highest plant infection rates are thought to be a result of infected aster leafhoppers migrating from southern states. Transmission by native aster leafhoppers, acquiring the mycoplasma-like organism from local perennial or biennial plants, is thought to account for only a small percentage of aster yellows infections. Once an aster leafhopper feeds on and acquires the mycoplasma-like organism from an infected plant, 3 weeks will elapse before that leafhopper can transmit the disease to another plant. Generally, infectivity rates of the leafhopper population are less than one percent. In some years, infectivity rates may be four to five percent.

Aster yellows has a range of characteristic symptoms which vary with the strain of aster yellows organism, timing of infection, plant species, temperature, age and/or size of the plant. Because of these variables, each plant infected with aster yellows may not display the same symptoms. This symptom variability, along with the broad host range and the habits of the insect vector (leafhopper), makes control difficult.

Initial symptoms of aster yellows usually appear as vein clearing, which spreads until the entire leaf becomes chlorotic. As the plant develops, mature leaves generally do not change color, but new growth will be yellowish-green. Infection early in the growing season will almost always cause stunting, shortened internodes, and dwarfed, deformed or lopsided flower heads. With heavy infections, no flower production will occur. One indicative symptom of aster yellows is adventitious shoot proliferation, which appears as a mass of leaves with a bushy or witch's broom effect in place of normal flower production.

Adult aster leafhoppers are slender, wedge-shaped insects with wings held in a roof like manner over their abdomens. They are very skittish and fly away when approached. Aster leafhoppers have piercing, sucking mouthparts (stylets), which they use to suck plant juices from deep phloem tissues. They spread salivary secretions while feeding. It is through this saliva that aster yellows is transmitted. Aster leafhopper development is described as gradual or direct. They begin life in the egg stage. The nymphs, which emerge from the eggs, resemble the adult insects but lack wings. At maturity, nymphs shed their skin one more time, and pass directly to the adult stage. In general, development from egg to adult takes 21 to 35 days at temperatures from 68 – 82° F.

The variable nature of the disease and the sporadic way it spreads make control of aster yellows difficult. Control requires an integrated management approach. Monitor the flower crop. Rogue infected plants

and remove piles of infected plant material from the field. Control weeds in and around the field to prevent infection of an alternate host and over wintering of the disease. Avoid planting annuals near susceptible perennial or biennial plants in the field.

Here are a few of the common plants that Aster Yellows can infect;

Weeds and Crops – chicory, pigweed, milkweed, pineapple weed, mustard, mallow, plantain, purslane, nettles, clovers, oats and strawberry

Vegetables and Herbs – carrots, celery, parsnip, lettuce, salsify, cole crops, spinach, pumpkin, onion, potato, dill and coriander

Annuals – calendula, bachelor's button, cosmos, gaillardia, strawflower, marigolds, zinnias, statice, phlox, larkspur, petunia, salpiglossis, nasturtium and scabiosa

Perennials and Bulbs – painted daisy, coreopsis, rudbeckia, forget-me-not, dianthus, poppy, veronica and glads



March 25 - 7:30 p.m. - Melting Pot - NEW!
April 4 - 2:00 p.m. - On the Rocks
April 11 - 2:00 p.m. - Back to Basics
April 18 - 2:00 p.m. - Landscaping for Birds
April 22 - 7:30 p.m. - The Goodness of Gardening - NEW!
April 25 - 2:00 p.m. - Organic Gardening
April 25 - 5:30 p.m. - The Goodness of Gardening - NEW!
May 9 - 2:00 p.m. - Personal Spaces, Public Places

Spring Plant Sale May 15

Just a reminder that the North County Master Gardeners Association will be holding its annual spring plant sale on Saturday May 15 at the Spooner Ag Research Station. The sale will include a variety of perennial flowers, annual flowers, and heirloom tomatoes. This year's sale will start at 8:00 am and go until noon. If you would like to donate any plant materials or other garden related items for the sale please contact either Tony Webber at 469-3411 or Sharon Tarras at 635-3593. All proceeds from the sale go to support North County Master Gardener community projects. This year's proceeds will go to help install a new perennial flower garden in the education display garden at the Spooner Ag Research Station.

Cut flowers for home, gifts, and selling

Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

Cut flower gardens can be used to harvest a fresh bouquet of flowers for your home, for making gifts, or for selling.

Some gardeners raise cut flowers in an orderly fashion for the specific purpose of cutting. These plants are often grown in rows or beds similar to vegetables and sometimes grown in the vegetable garden itself. Since these flowers are grown to be cut, don't expect a picture perfect garden. A cutting garden often grows flowers which are more attractive in a bouquet than as a garden accent.

Consider the following tips in preparing a site for your cutting garden:

1. The site should receive at least 4-6 hours of full sun per day.
2. The site should be sheltered from winds. Good windbreaks include evergreen trees, fences, or buildings. This protection from the wind will prevent the long flower stems from breaking and will reduce water stress to the plants and flowers.
3. Plant your flowers so that the taller plants do not shade the shorter plants.

4. Choose a variety of plants to insure that flowers are available for cutting throughout the season. And,
5. Choose longer-stemmed varieties and ones that last a long time in water.

Both annuals and perennials are commonly planted in cut flower gardens. Some recommended annuals include aster, cornflower, cosmos, dianthus, gomphrena, marigold, scabiosa, and zinnia.

Recommended perennials include allium, Asiatic lily, baby's breath, dahlia, gayfeather, gladiolus, globe thistle, Shasta daisy, statice, and yarrow.

An overlooked but common addition to florist arrangements are flowers and branches from trees and shrubs. Good choices include bittersweet, crabapple, forsythia, lilac, redbud, redbud, dogwood, spirea, and willow.

Finally, some cut flowers can be easily dried. These flowers, called everlastings, can be used in making flowers arrangements that can last for months. Cut the flower stems before the blooms have fully opened, preferably after the dew of the morning has dried. Strip off the leaves and tie 3-5 stems together in bunches. Hang them upside down in a dry, ventilated area away from direct sunlight. Recommended flowers for drying include baby's breath, bells of Ireland, celosia, Chinese lantern, gomphrena, lunaria, salvia, starflower, statice, strawflower, and xeranthemum.

Understanding your garden soil

Tom Syverud

Extension & Outreach Educator

Ashland Ag Research Station

To achieve the best plant growth possible in your flower, fruit and vegetable garden, it all starts with the garden soil. Soils are made up of four components: mineral materials, organic materials, soil water and soil air. The mineral portion is composed of silicate clays, iron oxides and other distinct minerals, however more important is the particle sizes the mineral portion represents. Those are the coarse or sand size, fine or silt size, and the very fine or clay size. Soil texture is described as the relative amounts of the sand, silt and clay size particles in a soil. Loam, often considered the “best” soil, is not equal parts of sand, silt and clay size particles, it is rather where the three particle sizes have the same amount of influence on growing plants, and the soil air and water. Loam is 20% clay, 40% sand and 40% silt. The reason it is less clay particles is because they are much more reactive. For example, clay size particles hold nutrients, water and organic matter better than sand or even silt particles.

You can estimate your garden soil texture with a simple bottle test at home. Take a representative sample of your soil, let it dry a few days, break it up and remove any sticks or stones. Fill a clear jar 1/3 full with soil, add 1/2 cup of Calgon, mark the level, then fill with water and shake one minute. After one minute the sand will have settled, mark the level, after two hours the silt will have settled out, mark the level. Then after one or two days, mark the clay level, and the remaining floating material is your organic matter level. Now measure and estimate the % sand, silt and clay of your soil.

Soil organic matter represents an accumulation of plant material, manure, decomposing animal and insect parts and liv-

ing organisms. Another part of soil organic matter is humus. Humus is very resistant to breakdown, is dark in color and binds soil mineral particles together, provides nutrients and holds water as well. Although organic matter is usually only 3 to 6% in Wisconsin soils, its influence on soil properties and plant growth is much greater than its percent. Soil structure is how the different mineral and organic parts of the soil are grouped together. Ideally the soil is loose, soft and crumbly and well drained. Most of the soil’s structure is determined by nature, but we can improve our soils structure by organic matter additions and not working the soil when it is too wet.

Soil pH

The pH is a measurement of acidity or alkalinity in the soil. Your soil pH influences whether or not your plants can make the best use of the nutrients that are available in the soil. A pH of 6.5 – 7.5 is considered neutral, on the pH scale of 0 to 14. Readings with number value lower than 6.5 are considered acid, 6.0 – 6.5 is slightly acid and 5.0 to 6.0 is moderately acid. While soil pH doesn’t change very quickly, several factors can change the pH in your soil over a season. For instance, city water can have a pH of 8.0 – 8.5, gradually making your soil more alkaline. On the other hand, many soil amendments will acidify your soil as they break down. Since a soil with high pH can make nutrients in the soil unavailable, plants will look like they need fertilizing, the leaves will yellow in mid-season and then not respond to a fertilizer or manure tea addition. The vast majority of plants grow well with a pH from 6.0 to 7.0. When you find out a specific plant prefers a pH of 6.5, keep in mind that most plants are tolerant of a fairly wide range and the value of 6.5 represents the middle of the range. Only a few require a specific pH. Almost all garden plants prefer a slightly acid pH. If your pH is more acid, try growing azaleas, rhododendrons, foxglove, trillium, bleeding heart, bluebells and blueberries, potatoes, corn, raspberries and strawberries.

To change the soil pH, you need to take into consideration the type of soil and what you want to use to change the pH. Sandy soils are easier to acidify than clay soils. To make soil less acid, you must add an alkaline material such as lime. To make soil more acid, add materials such as peat moss, sulfur, iron sulfate or ammonium sulfate. Be careful though, overuse of aluminum sulfate is associated with damaged plant roots and heavy metal contamination of the soil.

Brown Bag Program offers recommendations for fruit crop cultivars

Tom Syverud

Extension & Outreach Educator

Ashland Ag Research Station

Dick Weidman, Superintendent Peninsular Agricultural Research Station reviewed the 2003 performance of several fruit crops, for a recent Brown Bag Program.

Boyne is an old favorite Raspberry from Canada, it is winter-hardy, however it does break dormancy easily during a warm period in winter. Then it will suffer injury, as it did in 2003.

Lauren and Encore are New York cultivars that produce high yields with little winter damage. Lauren is early mid-season and Encore is late mid-season. Canby, another popular older cultivar produces consistently, although it can have some winter-hardiness problems.

Gooseberries have gained in popularity the last several years. They prefer cool, moist locations and do not do well in hot dry places. Cultivars of note include Invicta (England), which has large sweet greenish-yellow fruit and Hinnonmaki Yellow (Finland), which has small very flavorful fruit. Use renewal pruning in dormant stage, removing all four year old canes to keep productivity high. For more information on these cultivars and others, try the website [berrycrops.net](http://www.berrycrops.net).

Montmorency has been a favorite tart cherry for 200 years or in the north Meteor or North Star. A good alternative cultivar is Balaton, with its high yield, dark juice good for wine and early ripening 7 days before Montmorency. Watch for the common fungus disease of Black Knot in all stone fruits.

Late winter is a good time to prune

Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

Late winter and early spring is the ideal time to prune most trees and shrubs. Pruning during March and April has several advantages. First, this time of year is the least stressful for the plants. They are dormant and have plenty of stored energy. There are no other competing stresses on the plant such as insects or disease, and the pruning wound will only be exposed for a short time before new growth begins the wound sealing process. This time of year is also less stressful for people as well. It is easier to make pruning decisions without leaves obscuring plant branch structure. The temperatures are cooler making it more enjoyable to be outside working, and it is often a more relaxed time of year before the hustle and bustle of the growing season.

There are several reasons why we should prune. One reason is to promote plant health by removing dead or dying branches injured by disease, insects, animals, storms or other adverse mechanical damage. Remove all branches that rub together. We also prune to maintain plants intended purpose in the landscape by encouraging flowering and fruit development, maintaining a dense hedge or desired tree form. Pruning also keeps a plant looking attractive by removing unwanted branches, waterspouts and suckers. Finally we may prune to protect people and property by pruning out weak or narrowed-angled tree

branches that could fall and we prune branches that obscure vision at intersections and interfere with workspace.

Trees and shrubs that bloom early in the growing season on last year's growth should be pruned immediately after they finish blooming. These would include such plants as azalea, lilac, chokeberry, forsythia or juneberry. Shrubs grown primarily for their foliage should be pruned in spring before growth begins such as, barberry, burning bush, dogwood, honeysuckle, ninebark and sumac.



To avoid tearing the bark and causing a large injury, it is also important to use the three cut system especially on larger diameter branches.

Make the first cut on the underside of the branch about 18 inches from the trunk. Make the second cut an inch further out on the branch; cut until the branch breaks free. The third and final cut is made just beyond the branch collar (the swollen area where the branch meets the trunk). Try not to leave a stub and yet don't cut too close to the trunk.

Spooner Garden Club meets 4th Thursday of every month. Merle Klug (715) 635-6239.

Hayward Garden Club meets 2nd Tuesday of each month. Carol Alcoe (715) 462-3213.

Burnett Garden Club meets 2nd Thursday of each month. Kris Henning (715) 463-5247.

North Country Master Gardeners meets 4th Tuesday of each month. Spooner DNR Fish Hatchery. Sue Donatell (715) 635-9676.

Calendar of Events

March 20, 2004 - 4th Annual New Ventures Gardening Seminar, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Northwoods School.

April 3, 2004 - Hands-on Apple Pruning Workshop, 1:30 p.m., Robert Hamblin Farm, Hayward.

April 3, 2004 - Barron County Garden Expo, Barron County Courthouse. Call 715-537-6250 for more information.

April 7, 2004 - Garden Recommendations with Tom Syverud, 6 p.m., Ashland Ag Research Station.

May 5, 2004 - Hands-on Apple Pruning Workshop, 5:30 p.m., Poquette Lake Orchard, Shell Lake.

June 29, 2004 - Garden Flowers, with Tom Syverud & Helen Harrison, 6 p.m., Ashland Ag Research Station.

June 30, 2004 - Garden Flowers, with Tom Syverud & Helen Harrison, 6 p.m., Spooner Ag Research Station.

July 20, 2004 - Garden Insect and Disease Identification and Control with Phil Pellitteri & Brian Huddelson, 6 p.m., Ashland Ag Research Station.

July 21, 2004 - Garden Insect and Disease Identification and Control with Phil Pellitteri & Brian Huddelson, 6 p.m., Spooner Ag Research Station.

July 24-26, 2004 - Tri-State Master Gardener Conference, St. Cloud, MN.

August 17, 2004 - Twilight Garden Meeting, 6 p.m., Ashland Ag Research Station.

August 18, 2004 - Twilight Garden Meeting, 6 p.m., Spooner Ag Research Station.

September 15, 2004 - All About Potatoes with Chuck Kostichka, 6 p.m., Ashland Ag Research Station.

Apple pruning workshops are coming soon

*Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

Do you have an apple tree in the backyard that needs pruning? If you do, how do you start? Just which branches and how much do you cut out? What kind of shape should you end up with? Why should you prune in the first place? To help answer these and other practical techniques on fruit tree pruning UW-Extension will be conducting an apple pruning demonstration. This outdoor workshop will be held snow/rain or shine at two locations this spring.

The first will be on Saturday April 3 from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m. at the Robert Hamblin Farm located at 13633W Peninsula Rd. in Hayward. The second workshop will be on May 5, from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m. at Smith's Poquette Lake Orchard in Shell Lake.

The Hamblin's operate a Dairy Farm one mile north of the LCO Casino on Peninsula Rd. The small family orchard consists of 10 apple trees of various ages and varieties. The trees are located 1/4 mile east of the dairy barn at fire number 13633. Like most home orchardists the Hamblin's apple trees are not aggressively pruned and will provide a good opportunity to demonstrate how homeowners should be pruning their trees. Steve Harrington, a local apple grower, and I will be conducting this hands-on pruning demonstration.

Poquette Lake Orchard operated by Bob and Lynn Smith is located on the corner of Oak Rd. and Poquette Lake Rd. ~ 10 miles west of Spooner. The Smith's commercial orchard consists of several hundred apple trees and many varieties and is pruned every year to enhance and maintain production. The Smith's have continuously been making improvements to their business.

The most recent changes have been rebuilding and replanting as a result of the 2001 tornado that severely damaged their orchard.

Dr. Bob Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist, will be leading this pruning demonstration with the assistance of Bob and Lynn Smith and I.

Both workshops will be held rain/snow or shine. Please come dressed appropriately.

Plant insects and diseases of home gardens are topics of upcoming workshops

*Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

For those who attended last year's Twilight Garden tour at Spooner, you had an opportunity to hear two of UW-Extensions foremost speakers on Plant Diseases and Plant Insects. It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that both Phil Pellitteri and Brian Huddelson will be back to discuss these topics on Tuesday July 20 at the Ashland Ag Research Station and on Wednesday July 21 at the Spooner Ag Research Station. Both workshops are scheduled from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at each Station's horticulture display gardens.

In this workshop Dr. Brian Huddelson, Director of the UW-Madison Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic, and Phil Pellitteri, UW-Extension Entomologist, will present information on plant diseases and insects of the home landscape. Both Brian and Phil will focus on the most common plant diseases and insect pests home gardeners encounter, as well as taking a look at any plant pest problems found in the display gardens.

It is far easier to control and prevent plant pest problems if you have a basic understanding of the problem to begin with. This workshop will help home gardeners do just that by taking a hands-on approach to recognizing symptoms and pests and then understanding what caused them.

There is no cost for these workshops; however, pre registration is welcome. For more information and to preregister for the Ashland workshop call Tom Syverud at 1-715-682-8393. For the Spooner workshop call the Spooner Area UW-Extension Office at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914. Both workshops are planned to be held outdoors at each station's horticulture display gardens. The general public is invited.

Horticulture workshops on using and growing annual flowers are offered

*Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties*

Flower gardening is perhaps the most popular of all gardening activities. In addition to perennial flowers many gardeners rely on annual flowers to provide a wide range of shapes, colors, and textures to their flower gardens. In addition to the many old time favorites there are many new annual flower varieties that have been introduced in recent years. Dr. Helen Harrison, UW-Madison Horticultural Specialist, will present information on the care and culture of annual flowers and will give an update on the latest annual flower introductions.

This information will be presented at two separate evening workshops on June 29 and June 30 from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.. On Tuesday June 29, Helen will speak at the Ashland Agriculture Research Station and on Wednesday June 30 at the Spooner Agriculture Research Station.

There is no cost, however, pre registration is welcome. For more information and to preregister for the Ashland workshop call Tom Syverud at 1-715-682-8393. For the Spooner workshop call the Spooner Area UW-Extension Office at 715-635-3506 or 1-800-528-1914. Both workshops are planned to be held outdoors at each station's horticulture display gardens. The general public is invited.

Congratulations to the new Master Gardeners!

Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

This past year, 16 people received their MG certificates. To become certified, Master Gardeners must complete the 36 hours of training, pass a written exam and volunteer a minimum of 36 hours in community service.

Those certified from the Winter Class include Brenda Adler, Bonnie Hofer, Diana Martin, Thomas Olson, Violet Olson, Zita Simono, Patricia Subera, and Carol Taylor. From the Minong class, Elaine Bullens, RaNae LaBelle, Wendy Little, Eileen-Marie Moore, Russ Parker, Helen Steffen, Marie Strom, and Susan Cargill received their certificates. Congratulations to these newly certified MGs as well as to those who recertified in 2003. In total over 1400 hours of volunteer service was provided in Burnett, Washburn, and Sawyer Counties.

Volunteer opportunities for Master Gardeners and others

Kevin Schoessow
Area Ag Development Agent
Burnett, Sawyer, & Washburn Counties

There never seems to be a shortage of volunteer opportunities for garden enthusiasts. Whether you are a UW-Extension Master Gardener looking for volunteer opportunities to meet certification requirements, or if you are an individual who enjoys getting involved and meeting new friends, helping out on community projects there is plenty of need for your talents. One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is helping people help others. Over the year's I have witnessed some very compelling examples of volunteering. I find it amazing what impact these volunteers have in their communities. It can also be said that every volunteer contributes to these impacts in their own special way.

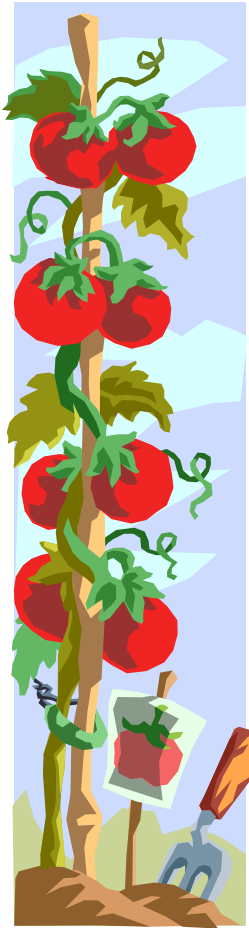
It is with this commitment to volunteerism that I do my part to help encourage and keep readers of this newsletter aware of volunteer opportunities. Below is a list of several projects or programs that I am aware of. I don't have the space to go into great detail, but if you want more information on any of the listed volunteer opportunities please call the contacts.



| Opportunities: | Project | Contact | Phone |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Spooner Ag Research Station | Demo Garden | Kevin Schoessow | 715-635-3506 |
| Spooner Fish Hatchery | Shoreline Restoration | Sheri Snowbank | 715-635-4131 |
| Webster | Fort Folle Avoine Garden | Kevin Klucas | 715-866-8890 |
| Winter | Community Beautification | Bonnie Hofer | 715-266-2501 |
| Grantsburg | Community Beautification | Kris Henning | 715-463-5247 |
| Sawyer County Fairgrounds | Planting Projects | Liz Metcalf | 715-462-4662 |
| Hayward | Hayward Farmers Market | Laura Berlage | 715-462-3453 |
| Siren | Burnett Co. Farmers Market | Cheryl Marek | 715-689-2415 |

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!

To learn more about other 4-H and Youth volunteer opportunities contact the 4-H and Youth Agents. Burnett - Doug Stubbe, Washburn - Annette Bjorkland, and Sawyer - Lori Labree.



North Country Gardeners Newsletter

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



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Spoooner Area Ag Agents Office
Spoooner Agricultural Research Station
W6646 Highway 70
Spoooner, WI 54801

We are online!

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, give us a call with your email address and we'll add you to our email list.

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/sars/index.htm>