

Master Gardener Update

November 2019

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Pollinator Project: Trees for Bees

Downy Serviceberry

Amalancier arborea



Quick Facts:

Hardiness Zone: 4 to 9
 Height: 15 – 30'
 Spread: variable, with a rounded crown
 Growth Habit: Single or multi-stemmed
 Bloom Time: March to April, about 2 weeks before dogwoods
 Bloom Color: White
 Sun: Full sun to part shade
 Water: Medium
 Maintenance: Low
 Flower: 2-4" fragrant racemes
 Leaf: Alternate, simple
 Fall Color: Yellow, orange and red
 Attracts: Birds, Butterflies, Bees
 Fruit: Edible ¼" to 1/3" berry-like pome ripens to purplish-black in June
 Winter interest: smooth grey bark

Websites

UW Extension Rock County:

rock.uwex.edu

MGV Hours Reporting:

wimastergardener.org/
report-your-hours/

RPMGA Blog:

rpmga.blogspot.com

RPMGA on Facebook:

Hit control/click on this link:

[RPMGA on Facebook](#)

Rotary Gardens:

rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Wisconsin Master Gardener Program:

wimastergardener.org

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA):

wimga.org

Serviceberry is a member of the rose family (*Rosaceae*). It's a common understory tree in southeastern forests of North America. Though usually fairly short, the tallest known tree of this species (in West Virginia) was entered on the American Forests Champion Tree list this year at 90 feet. Bloom time is short—only a week or two in March or April—but its showy, fragrant racemes appear at a critical time for many pollinators.

Culture: Balled-and-burlapped or container-grown plants should be transplanted into moist, well-drained, acidic soil. This tree is not tolerant of pollution and is unreliable when under stress.

Pests: Serviceberry may be bothered by cedar serviceberry rust, witches-broom caused by a fungus, fire blight, leaf blight, powdery mildew, leaf miners, pear leaf blister mite, pear slug sawfly, willow scurfy scale or borers.

Landscape Uses: All the serviceberries make good small landscape trees or multi-stemmed shrubs. Downy serviceberry is most effective when used in a naturalistic setting or with an evergreen background. Serviceberries have good fall color. The bark is ornamental in the winter landscape. It's primarily grey, but often has a reddish cast, and becomes ridged and furrowed as the tree ages.



Additional information: The name serviceberry comes from funeral or memorial service. Legend has it that when the serviceberry began flowering, it was finally warm enough to dig a grave and have a funeral service. Serviceberry is also known as sarvisberry. “Sarvis” is the Appalachian pronunciation of service.

The wood of serviceberry is among the heaviest in the U.S., though it would be more valuable if the trees grew larger. Native Americans used the tree’s straight wood to make arrow shafts. Cherokees used serviceberry tea to aid digestion.

Serviceberry’s fruit is used to make pies and sweet breads. It can also be dried like raisins. French Botanist Francois Michaux wrote of serviceberries being available in Philadelphia markets, but only children bought them. Michaux was so revered as a botanist that he served as the namesake for the Michaux State Forest in Pennsylvania. As a child he came to America with his father who botanized in North America for nearly a dozen years (1785–96) as royal collector for France.

Mary Kay Thompson



Did you notice? Pollinators in online training!

The state’s MGV program website (www.wimastergardener.org) is currently hosting a unit on pollinators. Click on the “Learn” tab in the red line and select “Level 2, Plants Plus” from the drop-down menu to access the information. Then watch the videos, read the supporting materials and take the short, easy quiz to get 2 hours of continuing education credits.

Additional “Plants Plus” units: Level 2 training is always available online for free, and always has 6 topics available, with older ones being retired as new topics are added. They’re all good for 2 hours of continuing education, and all include videos, reading materials and a short quiz. The other 5 topics currently online are:

- Fragrance in the Garden
- Cover Crops for the Home Garden
- Vine Crops
- Square Foot Gardening
- Container Design

Note: for a less detailed intro to a topic, you can choose from items under “Articles” on the same drop-down menu, under the “Learn” tab. Articles qualify for a half hour of continuing education credit.

RPMGA/Rotary Gardens MGV Event

Lifelong Gardening

Monday, November 11, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

On Monday, November 11, in conjunction with Rotary Botanical Gardens, Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association will host the Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners, who will present Lifelong Gardening - an award-winning presentation on how adaptive tools can make gardening as we age easier, more convenient and safer.

The Lifelong Gardening Committee of the Southeast Wisconsin MGA was recognized at the International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, Oregon in July, 2017 with their submission Gardening Through Life earning 1st place in the Special Needs Category. The MGVs have provided education on principles and methods that enable gardeners to enjoy gardening throughout their lifetime. The curriculum was developed into a clear and concise program that can be shared with other MG programs nation-wide.

The presentation will be held in the Parker Education Center, 1455 Palmer Drive, Janesville at 6:00 pm. This program is free and open to the public—so bring a friend!

This is an approved Master Gardener Continuing Education program. MGVs will earn one (1) Continuing Education Unit (CEU) per hour of participation.

Date: Monday, November 11, 2019

Time: 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Location: Rotary Gardens Parker Education Center

Cost: None. Free and open to the public



Adaptive tools can extend your years in the garden.

Please Join Us at the Annual Potluck

Thursday, December 5, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Premier Bank Community Room (downstairs)

All Rock County Master Gardener Volunteers are invited to bring a guest and a dish to pass, and join us at our annual Recognition Potluck.

Social time begins at 5:00, dinner at 5:30, with service awards and overall MGV program information presented by our Horticulture Outreach Specialist, Julie Hill. This past year has seen some big changes (notably, the roll out of online reporting) and we'll have more information available than ever before about what Rock County Master Gardener Volunteers have been up to.

We'll also spend some time talking about what kinds of programs and projects to do in the coming year. One of this year's most popular programs—the guided tour of Rotary Gardens—was suggested at last year's potluck by MGV Art Hilker. We're hoping for new suggestions that will be equally appealing. (If you have an idea or request, but can't make the potluck, please pass it along to Ruth Flescher at ya-fello2@gmail.com!)

As in the past, RPMGA will provide some type of hot sandwich (turkey, pork, or something similar), plus coffee and water, plates and utensils. There's always a bounty of excellent side dishes provided by the attendees. It's always an enjoyable evening. We hope you can come!

Note: we have a few people with food allergies. Please label your dish if it contains nuts, peppers, or black pepper. They'll appreciate it.



An Invitation to Join...Deadline Extended

If you are recertifying as a master gardener volunteer for 2020, you've made it through learning the new Online Reporting System and entering your hours. Congratulations! Now it's time to consider if you want to be part of an MGV association for the coming year. Locally, the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association provides education opportunities, sponsors projects you can volunteer for, helps develop shared resources, may help fund projects you want to pursue, and helps keep you informed. At the state level, the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association also sponsors education opportunities, helps keep you in touch with activities of other master gardener groups and has a grant program to help pay for local projects. Joining either group is optional, but your presence and participation makes us all stronger. We'd love to have you!



To join or renew your annual association membership(s), please print out this page, complete the information, and return with payment **by December 1, 2019.** (address below)

Name of 1st certified MGV in your household: _____

I want to join _____ RPMGA \$15 _____ WIMGA \$5

Additional certified MGV in household: _____

I want to join _____ RPMGA \$5 (reduced for 2nd MGV in household) _____ WIMGA (\$5)

Address: _____

Preferred phone number(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Make one check **payable to RPMGA**. If you are also joining WIMGA, include those dues in the same check and RPMGA's treasurer will forward your information and that portion of your payment to WIMGA.

Treasurer, Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association
521 N. Pearl Street
Janesville, WI 53548

Logo Wear Order Deadline Also Extended to December 1.

Lots of MGVs like to wear logo clothing in addition to their name tags when they volunteer. At the request of several MGVs, whose hoodies and shirts are getting a little ragged around the edges, we're getting ready to place an order for new clothing, so here's your chance to order some.

Due to changes in the MG program, though, and Extension's consolidation with the UW Madison, things will be a little different this time around. We'll still offer the same basic selection of items (caps, hoodies, T's and denim shirts), but the logo that's featured will no longer be the logo of the Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association. Instead, it will be a version of the Master Gardener Program logo shown below.



The cream-colored hat and the long-sleeved, woven, pale blue denim shirts will have the logo embroidered on them. The logo will be printed on the full-zip hoodies and the short-sleeve T's. T-shirts will also have the word "volunteer" printed on the back. (Note: One of the color options on the T-shirt is red, to celebrate our connection to the UW-Madison.)

The deadline to place an order is ~~November~~ December 1..

You can print the order form on the next page and fill it in. Return the form with payment to Deb Grams, the RPMGA treasurer. (Note: If you're also sending association dues, you can send both in the same envelope.)

Master Gardener Clothing Order

Deadline to order: December 1, 2019

Hat – cream color with logo embroidery \$10.75

Total _____

Full Zip Hoodie Black or Navy (circle color choice)

Circle Size S XL M L XL \$27.50

Add \$2.50 for 2XL / Add \$4.00 for 3XL

Total _____

Faded Blue Long Sleeve Denim Shirt /embroidery logo

Circle Size XS S M L XL \$22.95

Add \$1.50 for 2XL / Add \$4.00 for 3XL & 4XL

Total _____

T Shirt Pink, Red, Green (circle color choice)

Circle Size S M L XL \$14.95

Add \$2.00 for 2XL / Add \$3.00 for 3XL, 4 XL, 5XL

Total _____

Grand Total _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Make check payable to RPMGA and mail to Treasurer, RPMGA, 521 N. Pearl St, Janesville, WI 53548



Sales for this annual fall event have closed, but if you want to see if you can get in at the last minute, contact Laura Peterson at 608-314-8415.

Other Items of Interest

Help Recruit New MGVs Do you know of good places in your community to promote the upcoming Level 1 training for MGVs? Could you put some posters up in your area? Contact julie.hill@wisc.edu to get some posters or brochures. The Level 1 training classes are scheduled for next year, beginning February 6 and continuing through August 20, 2020. Sessions will meet on the first and third Thursday afternoons of the month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the courthouse in downtown Elkhorn.



Winter Workshops by Mark Dwyer at the UWW-Rock County Campus in Janesville. Three dates. Three topics per date. Three hours of CEUs per date. The price for each date is \$25 (or \$60 if you sign up for all three). Here's what Mark will cover:

Saturday, January 18: gardening as we age, the sensory garden and container gardening

Saturday, February 1: new introductions in annuals, perennials and woody plants (trees & shrubs)

Saturday, February 15: landscape design basics, color combinations, texture with maintenance in mind

Classes will be held in Hyatt Smith 120, and will run from 8:40 to noon each time. The campus is located at 2909 Kellogg Avenue in Janesville. Registration is required. Go to tinyurl.com/uwwgarden. If you have questions or need more information contact Molly Cook (cookmj24@uww.edu), (608) 758-6549 .

Earth Day Challenge The state MGV program office is challenging us all to come up with special projects for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which will take place next April. Let's brainstorm at our potluck on December 5! If you can't make the potluck and have some ideas or even just an inkling, please drop a note to Ruth Flescher (yafello2@gmail.com), Mary Kay Thompson (mastergardenermary@gmail.com) or Julie Hill (julie.hill@wisc.edu).

Janesville Woman's Club Building Wins Grant Several MGVs have been involved in helping the Woman's Club Association redesign and refresh their building's landscaping prior to its upcoming 100th anniversary in 2028. As part of the Woman's Club's long-term planning, the group participated in a national grant competition called "Vote Your Main Street" through the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Geographic Society. You may recall being asked to participate in the voting, which ran for a month, through October 29th.

Not only did the Woman's Club win their \$80,000 grant, they got more votes than any other group participating in the grant competition!

Volunteer Opportunities

Moving Day for MGVS Shed Tuesday, November 5, regardless of weather. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the UW Extension office. If you have an hour or two you can spare that morning, come help us clear our supplies (those that can take freezing weather, at any rate) from the office and shift them over to the new shed at the County Farm.

Volunteer Workday, Pawprint Park, Janesville Saturday, November 16, 9:00 a.m. to noon, weather permitting. Address: 2701 S. Oakhill Ave. Approved for MGVS volunteer hours. Help with clean-up and maintenance, and removing invasive brush from the woodlot for forest restoration. Stay as long or as short a time as you can. Bring your work gloves. Your dog is welcome, too! If you have questions, email pawprintparkpack@gmail.com.

November Education Calendar

For details on any of these education opportunities, search the web using the program title and/or organization name.

DCUWEX = Dane County UW Extension, Madison; OBG = Olbrich Botanical Garden, Madison; RPMGA = Rock Prairie Master Gardener Association, Janesville; RBG = Rotary Botanical Garden, Janesville; WHPS = WI Hardy Plant Society, Madison; UWA = UW Arboretum, Madison.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Master Composter Training, Pt. 2 DCUWEX	5	6 Clearing Invasive Brush* OBG/ Native Plants and Pollinators DCUWEX	7	8	9 Classic Conifers OBG
10	11 Lifelong Gardening RPMGA/RBG	12 Designing Attractive Native Gardens OBG	13 Controlling Invasives and Restoring Natives OBG/Perennial Perennials OBG/	14 Grow Plants with LED Lights OBG	15	16

			Organic Vegetable Garden Planning and Techniques DCUWEX			
17	18	19 Hydroponics 101 OBG	20 Gardening with Wildlife WHPS/ Vegetable Garden Insect Pests & Diseases DCUWEX	21	22	23
24 Winter Preparations Walk UWA	25	26	27	28	29	30

***Registration deadline has passed, but you may be able to call and register late: 608-245-3648.**

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Mailing Address: UW-Extension Rock County, 51 S. Main Street, Janesville, WI 53545

Physical Address: 3506 North Highway 51, Building A, Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: 608-757-5066 Fax: 608-757-5055