

## **GARDEN TALK WITH LARRY MEILLER**

Produced by Jim Packard

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Madison Environmental Group, Inc.

[www.madisonenvironmental.com](http://www.madisonenvironmental.com)

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Sisters, Dr. Astrid Newenhouse (Horticulturist and Assistant Scientist at the UW Department of Biological Systems Engineering) and Dr. Sonya Newenhouse (President of Madison Environmental Group and V.P. of Community Car) share garden gift ideas. Following are their suggestions. To order a copy of the show (\$15), call Wisconsin Public Radio at (800) 747-7444

In addition to this Gift List, see Green Gift Ideas publication on [www.enactwi.org](http://www.enactwi.org) for more ideas.

### **GREEN GARDEN GIFTS**

- Rain Barrels (Make one from a plastic barrel, a trash can or buy one) Learn how to make a rain barrel: <http://www.gardengatemagazine.com/tips/40tip11.html>
- Deluxe English Rain Barrels and more \$69.50-\$134.50 [www.composters.com](http://www.composters.com) (800) 233-8438
- Soil moisture meter, Rain gauges (make or buy), Snowfall gauge (make one or choose this ornate copper version \$59.95, Gardeners Supply)
- Flexible “noodle nozzles” sprinkler that bends to target water where you need it. \$20
- A hose timer or irrigation timer, hose quick connect couplers, soft-spray nozzles
- Aqua cones recycle your plastic bottles into drip irrigation systems, \$12.50 Gardeners Supply
- LED Holiday Lights (80% energy reductions, Walgreens)
- Bees wax candles
- Compost and worm bins [www.composters.com](http://www.composters.com) or [www.wormwoman.com](http://www.wormwoman.com)
- Organic cotton garden gloves, \$10, Maggie’s Functional Organics 800-609-8593 or [www.organicclothes.com](http://www.organicclothes.com)
- Push lawnmower
- Healthy Lawn signs to display that you don’t use pesticides [www.healthylawnteam.org](http://www.healthylawnteam.org)

### **HEALTHY GARDEN GIFTS -- TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER**

- Bionic Garden Glove, designed by a hand surgeon \$40 [www.handhelpers.com/docs/bionicgloves.htm](http://www.handhelpers.com/docs/bionicgloves.htm)
- Long handled diamond hoe, ~\$40, Glacier Valley Enterprises, Baraboo, WI 800-236-6670
- Milking stool that belts to your waist, ~\$30, local farm supply or Nasco (800) 558-9595
- Long handled trowels or other tools with arm support, [www.handhelpers.com](http://www.handhelpers.com)
- Stand-up lawn weeder such as “Grab It”, (Fiskars) or “Speedy Weedy” (local hardware store)
- Make a harvest cart to sit on while you work (get free plans at [bse.wisc.edu/hfhp/](http://bse.wisc.edu/hfhp/))
- Kneepads, or kneeler seat
- Big pots on wheels to use as raised beds to avoid bending
- Aroma Wrap filled with lavender, heat in microwave and wrap around neck to sooth muscles

### **GENERAL GARDEN GIFTS**

- Leaf bags that pop up and are lightweight, have grab handles, fold to store, look like a bushel basket
- Boot tray for messy boots
- Plant identification tags
- Single stem plant stakes, made from coated wire
- Sheep shears for pruning perennials
- Mud gloves, 100 % cotton, coated with texture latex rubber (hardware store, garden supply),
- Garden tool bucket or other carrying container especially for community gardeners
- Trellises of wood, twigs, wire, metal, or folding type
- Juice steamers, the Finnish “Mehu Lisa” a steam juice extractor
- Dehydrators, solar and or electric
- Indoor flowering bulbs such as amaryllis or paper white narcissus
- Bird netting to protect your fruit trees from the birds, \$15

## GIFTS OF SHARING

- Whatgoesaround.org is a website where you list what charities you would like to support. Then your friends go to that website and make a donation in your name.
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Heifer International, you give a donation towards a share of a livestock animal or bees to help a third world family become more self-sufficient. 800-422-0755 or [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)
- Buy a share in a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm
- Join the Friends of Dane County Farmers Market

## GIFTS YOU CAN MAKE

- Mason Bee Nesting Boxes for Pollination
- Soap – put pieces of glycerin soap (craft store) and a few drops of essential oil (or lavender or rosemary) into a small container and microwave until the glycerin melts. Stir, let cool, and remove from container.
- Wreaths and ornaments from grapevines, boughs, cones, and seed pods
- Echinacea tinctures for cold season, or scented lotions and lip balm (for how-to, see Healing Wise by Susun Weed, Ash Tree Publishing)
- Make a recipe book from your favorite garden harvest recipes; add pictures of your garden

## GIFT OF TIME, EXCURSIONS, or CLASSES

- WHA Garden Expo Feb. 6, 7 and 8 in Madison and has 300 exhibit booths and 80 educational seminars. Shelley Ryan, producer/host of The Wisconsin Gardener will be there.
- Coupon to help with garden work, pruning, landscape design, ID, or for delivery of compost
- Master Gardener or Master Composter Courses (contact your local University Extension office)
- Classes at L'Etoile Restaurant or join Odessa Piper for the Foragers Market Tour, Jan 17<sup>th</sup>  
[www.lettoile-restaurant.com](http://www.lettoile-restaurant.com)

## GARDEN RESOURCES

EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS (from County Extension Office or (877) 947-7827 (prices ~ \$3-\$7)

- Rain Garden publication, UW Extension Publication GWQ 034, free, nominal charge to other states, or <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/raingarden/gardens.pdf>
- Shoreline Plants and Landscaping (to reduce runoff pollution): UW-Ext. pub. GWQ014, free.
- Growing Salad Greens In WI (\$6) a guide for fresh market growers. Also Growing onions, garlic, leeks, and other alliums in WI From Garden To Table: The Art of Growing and Preserving (choose one) berries, vegetables, and apples. 3 packets of UW Extension Publications at \$15

## BOOKS

- Through the looking glass: A field Guide to Aquatic Plants, WI Lakes Partnership, (715) 346.2116
- Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest by Joan Severa, Trails Books, 1997, \$25
- Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls, By Noel Kingsburg and Nigel Dunnett, Timber Press \$29.95 May 2004
- Balcony and Roof Gardens: Creative Ideas for Small Scale Gardening by Jenny Hendy. Timelife Books 1997
- Vegetable Gardening in the Midwest by Voigt and Vandemark
- Backyard Berry Book, also Backyard Orchardist by Stella Otto
- New Organic Grower, also Four Season Harvest by Elliot Coleman
- Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, by Michael Dirr (photo directory also on CD)
- Garden Perennials, also Manual of Annuals, Biennials, and Half-Hardy Per. by Allan Armitage
- Enabling Garden by Gene Rothert, \$13.95, Taylor Publishing
- Book: The Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan (nonfiction history of plants and philosophy)
- The Orchard Mason Bee Book, Brian Griffin

## MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

- Hobby Greenhouse Association Magazine
- Northern Gardener Magazine (formerly) Minnesota Horticulturist
- Growing For Market (for market gardeners), Lawrence, KS (800) 307-8949
- National Gardening Association e magazine at [nationalgardening.com/magazine](http://nationalgardening.com/magazine)

## CATALOGS

- Charley's Greenhouse & Garden, Mt. Vernon, WA (800) 322-4707 [charleysgreenhouse.com](http://charleysgreenhouse.com)
- Gardeners Supply, Burlington, VT (800) 427-3363, [gardeners.com](http://gardeners.com)
- DripWorks, Willits, CA, (800) 522-3747, [dripworksusa.com](http://dripworksusa.com)
- Futuregarden, Farmingdale, NY, (888) 338-3305, [futuregarden.com](http://futuregarden.com)
- Alsto's Handy Helpers, Galesburg, IL (800) 447-0048 [alstos.com](http://alstos.com)
- A.M. Leonards, Piqua, OH (800) 543-8955 [amleonard.com](http://amleonard.com)
- Kinsman Co, Pipersville, PA (800) 733-4146, [kinsmangarden.com](http://kinsmangarden.com)
- Gardens Alive!, Lawrenceburg, IN (812) 537-8650 [gardensalive.com](http://gardensalive.com)
- Seed Savers, Decorah, IA (319) 382-5990, [seedsavers.org](http://seedsavers.org) (also a store in Madison)
- Fedco Seed Catalog, Water Vile, ME (207) 873-7333 [fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com)
- Pinetree Garden Seeds, New Gloucester, ME (207) 926-3400 [superseeds.com](http://superseeds.com)
- The Cooks Garden (seeds) Londonderry, VT (800) 457-9703 [cooksgarden.com](http://cooksgarden.com)
- Prairie Nursery P.O. Box 306, Westfield, WI 53964 (800) 476-9453 [prairienursery.com](http://prairienursery.com)
- Womens Work, [womenswork.com](http://womenswork.com) or (800) 639-2709
- Spectrum Technologies, [www.specmeters.com](http://www.specmeters.com) or (800) 248-8873
- Gardening with Kids [www.store.kidsgardening.com](http://www.store.kidsgardening.com) (800) 538-7476