

Winnebago County



Issue 5



April 2015

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Paine Clean Up	April 6
Board Meeting	April 7
Business Meeting	April 14
Parkview Flowers	April 20
	May 18
	June 29

Spring Clean-up Begins at the Paine

Spring clean-up of the Paine Gardens will begin the week of April 6th. The hours for volunteers are Monday through Friday, from 8 am through 2 pm. You can come at any time and stay as long as you want. Some tools are available but you may wish to bring your own (trowels, hoes, rakes, clippers, etc.) When you come, look around the gardens for Sheila or Kathy Gore (our own personal MG gal) for a work assignment.

The Paine Gardens are a Long-Term project so these hours are valuable. But beyond all that, working at the Paine is a wonderful experience. Being involved in such a beautiful garden gives us ownership in this community treasure.

So bring your gloves, energy, and enthusiasm and join us. There are lots, lots, and lots to be done before the tulips start to bloom!

Virginia Slattery, lead for the Paine



SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

The Octagon House

I became a Master Gardener in 2011 and one of my first projects was at the Octagon House. I helped plant perennials and weed. The initial garden design was in place along with the kitchen raised bed gardens that were growing vegetables, herbs and flowers. More has been added to the gardens and beds to make the Octagon House a special place to work and volunteer. This year I definitely plan on a visit to see the progress and how beautiful the gardens and surroundings have become.

To volunteer at the Octagon House contact Jerry Robak who is the lead for the project. I asked him to tell us about the project and how he got involved. He sent me the following.

By Jerry Robak

The project started in 2008 when the director of the Neenah Historical Society, David Dexter, asked the Master Gardeners to help design and install a garden around the Octagon House which was built in the mid 19th century. The request was that the garden design should be typical of the mid to late 19th century period.

I volunteered to lead this project as I knew Dave Dexter and loved the challenge. The initial committee was comprised of Jean Reed, Betty Kuen, Ken Friedman and Anne Quinn Ross. Anne took the lead in the initial garden design, which was based on our research at the time. It was comprised of the following design elements:

- 1) Kitchen Garden (vegetables, herbs and some flowers)
- 2) Parlor Garden (mostly flowers)
- 3) Rose Garden
- 4) Shrub Border (including trees)
- 5) Annual Flower Beds (Victorian style)

Other historical garden elements not incorporated were an orchard, berry patch and border fencing.

The soil was poor as the surrounding buildings and roads were demolished and rebuilt. The topsoil is only two inches of turf grass. Therefore the planting beds were built up with added topsoil and city compost.

This work started in 2009. The committee increased in size adding members Stan Meyer, Ivan Placko and Dave Thurow. Each year, some members move on to other projects and new members join. We always need new members to help with tasks like starting new beds, pruning, planting annuals, especially the vegetables, weeding and watering. Even though the trees and shrubs have already been planted, there is always some tweaking to improve the overall aesthetics.

This coming year, the Fox Cities Marathon will run past the Octagon House and we have been asked to add more plantings to improve the look around the garage. The Society has allocated some additional funds for this.

We will also need help to install some signage, which will be financed from the State Grant of \$400.



CUTS AND CLIPS

by Marge Bolding

April, the season of rebirth!

Source: 2008 WI Garden Journal

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- Week 1** Set out pansy plants when ground is workable.
Remove rose cones when the soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from rose bushes.
Prune the rose canes if not done in the fall.
- Week 2** Water garden beds if the winter was dry and rain has been scarce
Divide mums every one to two years; Coreopsis, gaillardia and yarrow every two to four years; Daisies and monarda every three to five.
- Week 3** Set out Lily of the Valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.
Start fast-growing annuals indoors.
- Week 4** Plant roses. Do not buy bushes that have broken dormancy.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Week 1** Test soil before adding nutrients. Mulch garden pathways to suppress weeds.
Plant rhubarb and asparagus once the ground can be worked.
When garlic plants begin growing green leaves, foliar feed with a combination of fish emulsion and powdered seaweed every two to three weeks until mid-June - when plants are done growing green leaves.
- Week 2** Plant cool weather crops [lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnips & onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips radishes, horseradish, peas and parsley] when soil temp is 40° F and night air temps are more than 45°F.
If the ground is too wet for planting, start peas indoors in peat pots or soil blocks. After a strong start, they can be placed in the garden a week or two.
When beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop. If one was not planted, top-dress the bed with compost or well-rotted manure.
- Week 3** Plant early potatoes and Jerusalem artichokes if not planted in fall.
Side-dress asparagus and rhubarb with a light application of well rotted manure or compost.

Lawns, Trees and Shrubs

- Week 1** Rake lawn.
Prune non-flowering shrubs
Plant trees and shrubs and water them regularly for the next two seasons. Select deciduous plants that are not leafed-out and evergreens that have not started growth. Cover with 2 inches of mulch to control erosion, moderate soil temperature and reduce water loss. DO NOT place mulch against trunk.
- Week 2** Begin annual pruning of all evergreens, with the exception of pines and spruce.
- Week 3** Fertilize ornamental shrubs.
- Week 4** Prune spring flowering shrubs after flowers have faded.
Plant grass seed from late April through May. {However, mid-August to mid-September is the best time to plant grass.}

Fruits and Berries

- Week 1** Fertilize fruit trees by the time the ground thaws but before they flower.
Plant and stake new fruit trees, fertilize lightly with nitrogen several weeks after planting - no more than 1 oz.
Mulch with several inches of wood bark or compost and water through the summer.
- Week 2** Take a break – editor's note/advice
- Week 3** Remove mulch from strawberries once leaves start to grow. Leave mulch near beds, in case there is a frost.
Control weeds around raspberries.
Graft apple trees once buds begin to swell.
- Week 4** Fertilize all bush fruits.



CUTS AND CLIPS- cont.

Mentoring Program

A special thanks to all of the members who have volunteered their services to help with mentoring newly graduated class members. So far 12 matches have been made. Hopefully, this will result in new friendships and easing new members into their chosen activities.

If you are a newly graduated member who does not have a mentor, and you would like one, please contact me and I will do my best to match you up!

The mentors and graduates matched up are: Diane Iott with Patricia Clark, Mary Shepard with Laurie Wagner, Stan Meyer with Lee Kronsforst, Sue Gremmer with Deby Voyles, Linda Baeten with Bonnie Smith and Wendy Wilber, Marge Bolding with Donna Jaeger, Pat Behm with Lisa Minew, Patty Schmitz with Carol Swannell and Ruth Retzlaff, and Valerie Stabenow and Roxee Malnory. In addition to these matches, new member Lynn Slat is my new special friend.

Virginia Slattery



The News Crew

Editors; Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Jennifer Tank-Footit, Mary Jo Maher

Contributors; Anne Murphy, Eric Kropp, Lawanda Jungwirth, Jane Kuhn, Marge Bolding, Lynne Slat and Linda Looker

Photographer; Nancy Karuhn



IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE

BY VIRGINIA SLATTERY

NANCY KARUHN



Life began, as I know it, in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Prior to the age of two my family moved to Oshkosh. At that time we were the only family members to leave the Ripon/Green Lake area. When we would visit the relatives, my uncle's dog, Flicka, would have a "deadly" reaction to the word "Oshkosh". Whenever someone would ask, "Would you rather live in Oshkosh or be dead?" The dog immediately flopped down and played dead! The poor dog spent most of our visits on its side playing dead. Even after Flicka's advice, we remained in Oshkosh. I moved to Neenah when I married my husband, Terry.

I received a Bachelor's Degree in fashion merchandizing from the University of Wisconsin/Stout. Later, I earned an Associate Degree in accounting from FVTC in Appleton. I work at J.J. Keller as a Credit Technician.

My interest with flowers began with a houseplant. When Terry and I bought our home in Neenah my interest turned to the outside. Each year the number and size of the gardens around our yard increased as my love of gardening grew. My experience in the beginning was the "do or die" method. If a plant didn't do well the first year I planted it, I moved it to another location. I continued to move the plant until I found a spot where it was happy or it died.

I received my MG certification in December. I volunteered at the Farmer's Market, the Oshkosh Animal Shelter Memory Garden, and buckthorn removal. This spring I am already sign up for the Neenah Library and Shattuck Park projects.

Recently I volunteered to become the photographer for the newsletter. I hope you will invite me to your gardens or your projects to take photos. I am available workdays after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends. Give me a call!

I am so excited to be a Master Gardener. I am discovering how much I have yet to learn and getting to know so many wonderful members who are willing to share their time and knowledge.



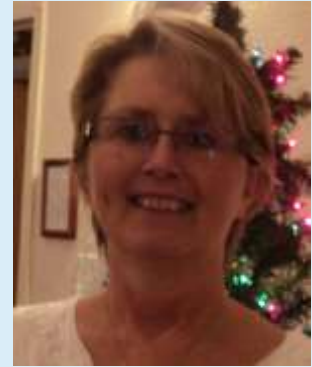
IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE-cont.

Lori Berndt

I was born in Nebraska but because my father was in the Air Force we moved around a lot. I've lived in Texas, England, California, and finally in Wisconsin. I have worked at Mercy Hospital for 34 years. I suppose I was always interested in gardens. I have memories of helping my Grandmother in her vegetable garden and picking raspberries with her. Maybe that is what led me to become a Master Gardener. I became certified in December. I've mostly worked at the Paine. Working there really inspires me for my own garden.

When my husband and I bought our house 15 years ago we hardly had any sun. We had 5 mature oaks and about 10 hickory trees plus lots of shrubs. We've lost the oaks and discovered that the shrubs were buckthorn! So my garden has turned from shade to lots of sun. We've added a potting shed and some other "artsy" additions around the yard. Over the years, as the children grew up, the gardens have expanded to surround the house. I'm always trying new things for new looks. During winter I grow about 300 plants in the basement (200 are geraniums). I love planting them in the yard and even giving some away. I can't wait to retire so I can play in the dirt all day.

During off gardening times I spend many hours creating quilts. Some of them are even inspired by gardening!



LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Perennial Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association has named *Geranium x cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo' the Perennial Plant of the Year for 2015. For starters, here is how it is pronounced: jer-AY-nee-um kan-tuh-brij-ee-EN-see bi-o-KO-vo.

Notice that this is a perennial plant, not the potted annual geraniums that you buy by the dozen. 'Biokovo' has many wonderful qualities, and when I was researching it, there were three that stuck out in my mind. First, it is a good plant for dry shade, and those are hard to come by. Second, deer and rabbits tend to avoid it entirely. Third, the foliage retains a lovely spicy, lemony scent for most of the year.

'Biokovo' derives its name from the Biokovo Mountains of the Dalmatia region of Croatia where the plants was discovered by Dr. Hans Simon.

It blooms in late spring with masses of ¾-inch five-petaled white flowers. The petal bases are tinged with pink and the flowers have long darker pink stamens that emit from their centers like fireworks. Some people comment that the plant itself is unattractive in spring and they are almost tempted to dig it up and chuck it, but then it blooms and is so wonderfully beautiful that it is worth the few early weeks of ugly.

Unlike other perennial geraniums that become wiry, half dead, unattractive messes after flowering, this plant remains a semi-evergreen, 6" – 10" tall mounded groundcover until autumn when the rounded, medium green leaves turn brilliant scarlet and orange.

The plant spreads slowly by above-ground rhizomes and each plant may grow to three feet across in time. It is easily kept in check if need be, by pulling or digging up the shallow-rooted rhizomes. It is just as easily divided or transplanted the same way. In spring, trim away any dead-looking or unsightly areas and new growth will spring forth.

'Biokovo' performs best in average, well-drained soil in part shade to full sun. It is a good groundcover plant, works in front of borders and thrives in rock gardens. It is often used on slopes to control erosion.

The Perennial Plant Association suggests planting 'Biokovo' next to Japanese painted fern or late spring blooming penstemons such as the clear purple flowered 'Prairie Dusk' or bright pink-flowered 'Pink Rock Candy'.

Have you been wondering how a plant gets elected Perennial Plant of the Year? Perennial Plant Association members vote each summer on the following year's plant. At that time, each member is allowed to nominate two plants for future consideration. Then a committee reviews the nominated plants, which may number 400, and narrows the field to three or four perennials to be placed on the ballot.

Plant nominees need to satisfy the following criteria: suitable for a wide range of climates, low-maintenance, relatively pest-free and disease resistant, multiple seasons of ornamental interest, and be readily available at garden centers the year it is elected.

It looks as though the PPA members have chosen another winner this year!

WANTED: Facebook Administrator

Did you know that Winnebago County Master Gardener Association has a Facebook page? Didn't think so! Our Facebook page has been in existence for several years, and our hope was that it would be a place for Master Gardeners and members of the public alike to share photos and gardening tips, ask and answer each other's questions, and as a place for our organization to promote our events and activities.

Unfortunately, our Facebook page hasn't been used as extensively as we envisioned.

Would you like to be the person who brings our Facebook page back to life? Take a peek at Outagamie County Master Gardeners' Facebook page to see what an active, well-managed account looks like and go from there!

If you (or you and an MG buddy) would like to take over as administrator(s) of our association's Facebook page, please contact Lawanda Jungwirth at ljungwirth@new.rr.com. The time you spend setting up and maintaining the page counts as volunteer hours.



Lawanda's Garden Path-cont.**Marigolds**

Marigolds have long held a place in flower beds, so much so that some might say they have been overused. Still, they are perfect for formal beds, as they know their bounds and are clean, neat and upright, never sprawling in an ungainly manner or becoming leggy and untidy. Beginning gardeners often turn to marigolds because they are so easy to grow both from nursery plants and seed. Marigolds are tough, low-maintenance annual flowers that bloom cheerfully throughout the summer and continue even after light autumn frosts.

Last summer, Master Gardener Mary Jo Maher designed the most beautiful garden with marigolds that I have ever seen. It was located in the flower bed inside the circle drive outside the entrance to the Neenah Library. Her design incorporated bright orange and darker colored marigolds interwoven in a chain-link fashion around the edge of the circle. It was spectacular!

Another place to enjoy some marigold magic every year is along South Oneida Street in Appleton near St. Elizabeth Hospital. The Mile of Marigolds planted along the curbs of homes and businesses is beautiful all summer.

Marigolds come in a variety of bright, sunny colors, including yellow, orange, gold, copper, brass, mahogany, crimson, maroon and ivory. Varieties range from 10" to 35" tall. The tallest may need staking to withstand strong winds.

Marigolds prefer a sunny spot in the ground or in containers. At the nursery, look for plants with many unopened buds rather than those already in full bloom. To grow from seed, scatter seeds atop the soil and lightly rake them in. Gently firm the soil with your hands or the flat end of a hoe and keep it moist until seeds germinate within just a few days. Thin plants to a few inches apart for shorter varieties to 18" apart for taller ones. Depending on the variety you have chosen, you may see flowers within several weeks.

Too much fertilizer will cause lush leaf growth at the expense of flowers. Marigolds won't need extra watering once established, unless it is exceedingly dry. In that case, try to direct the water at the roots, rather than from overhead.

Seeds can be saved from year to year. The flowers will turn brown and form inch-long tubular seed heads that hang downward and hold many long, thin seeds. Snap seed heads off and lay them to dry on newspaper or paper towels for a few days before storing them in a cool, dry place over winter.

Along with their cheerful beauty, marigolds have other attributes. Planted among vegetable crops, their distinctive scent repels animals and other insects and their roots repel underground creepy crawlies called nematodes. They are especially effective alongside beans, cabbage, cucumbers, strawberries and tomatoes.

Marigold flowers are edible and add a bright topping to summer salads. There is even a variety called 'Gem Series' bred specifically for eating. Hundreds of bite-sized flowers colored red, tangerine or lemon cover mounded 10" plants.

Take another look at marigolds this year!



SEED FOR THOUGHT

BY JENNIFER FOOTIT-TANK

Learning from your weeds

We have pulled them, sprayed them, dug them out, and cursed them but it never fails that they return and sometimes it seems with a vengeance. What is this scourge that is being referred to? ...WEEDS. But as with all things, when we learn more about what we dislike, we begin to see the purpose of their existence. We can no longer look at weeds as problem but as a messenger about our soil conditions and our land management practices.

According to Louise Riotte, author of *Carrots Love Tomatoes*, weeds “accumulate the nutrients in which a particular soil is deficient” by extending their taproots to the subsoil to bring up the nutrients which are lacking in the topsoil. When the soil imbalances are corrected, it promotes the growth of mycorrhizal fungi. According to Elaine Ingham of Soil Foodweb Inc, “the presence of the fungi serves as a signal that keeps annual weeds from germinating” because weeds grow where the fungi is not present. Mycorrhizal fungi is present in soils which are rich in organic matter i.e. compost. Another way to reintroduce these needed nutrients to your soil is to pull the weeds when they reach full growth, but before they seed, allow them to wilt for few days and then turn them under the soil you pulled them from or put in the compost pile, according to NW Farm and Food.

As we begin to start planning this year’s garden take some time to reflect on your weed pulling from last summer. What was the predominant weed and what was it telling you about your soil? Maybe the garden is due for a soil test. The University of Wisconsin-Madison offers this service at <http://uwlab.soils.wisc.edu/>.

Below is a list of soil types and common weeds that thrive in those conditions per **Gardening Know How** Jan 2015. Click on the name of the weed and you will be directed to more information about where it grows and how to eliminate it.



SEED FOR THOUGHT-cont

Wet/moist soil weeds

[Moss](#)
[Joe-pye weed](#)
[Spotted spurge](#)
[Knotweed](#)
[Chickweed](#)
[Crabgrass](#)
[Ground ivy](#)
[Violets](#)
[Sedge](#)

Heavy clay soil weeds

[Plantain](#)
[Nettle](#)
[Quack grass](#)

Hard compacted soil weeds

[Bluegrass](#)
[Chickweed](#)
[Goosegrass](#)
[Knotweed](#)
[Mustard](#)
[Morning glory](#)
[Dandelion](#)
[Nettle](#)
[Plantain](#)

Poor/low fertility soil weeds

[Yarrow](#)
[Oxeye daisy](#)
[Queen Anne's lace \(wild carrot\)](#)
[Mullein](#)
[Ragweed](#)
[Fennel](#)
[Thistle](#)
[Plantain](#)
[Mugwort](#)
[Dandelion](#)
[Crabgrass](#)
[Clover](#)

Fertile/well-drained, humus soil weeds

[Foxtail](#)
[Chicory](#)
[Horehound](#)
[Dandelion](#)
[Purlane](#)
[Lambs quarter](#)

Acidic (sour) soil weeds

[Oxeye daisy](#)
[Plantain](#)
[Knotweed](#)
[Sorrel](#)
[Moss](#)

Alkaline (sweet) soil weeds

[Queen Anne's lace \(wild carrot\)](#)
[Chickweed](#)
[Spotted spurge](#)
[Chicory](#)

If the problem weed you are looking for is not in the above list please use the link below.

Resources on Weeds:

Weed Science Society of America Photo Gallery of Weeds

<http://www.wssa.net/Weeds/ID/PhotoGallery.htm>



THE LATEST DIRT

Submit your items for the newsletter by the 15th of the month.

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Did you know that Winnebago County Master Gardener Association has a Facebook page? Didn't think so! Our Facebook page has been in existence for several years, and our hope was that it would be a place for Master Gardeners and members of the public alike to share photos and gardening tips, ask and answer each other's questions, and as a place for our organization to promote our events and activities. Unfortunately, our Facebook page hasn't been used as extensively as we envisioned.

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If you (or you and an MG buddy) would like to take over as administrator(s) of our Association's Facebook page, please contact Lawanda Jungwirth at ljungwirth@new.rr.com. The time you spend setting up and maintaining the page counts as volunteer hours.

Nancy Karuhn is the new photographer for the newsletter. If you prefer not to take pictures, but have plants you would like photographed, Nancy can take that picture for you.

Project leads; this is a great way to get your photos in the newsletter!

We would like to add a new item to the newsletter. If you have read a great gardening book or article and would like to share it with others, please submit it to Kathy Gore or Mary Jo Maher. We would like to add it to our "Good Reads" area. Please remember to add your sources.

What am I?

I am a small herbaceous plant found growing in rich woodlands of the North Temperate Zone from Minnesota to Maine with flowers that are a highlight in early spring. My flowers, which can be blue, lavender, pink or white, come up from the ground, each on its own stem, which are several inches tall and covered by long fine hairs, which help insulate from cool spring temperatures. What appear to be petals are technically the sepals and number from six to twenty. My older plants form clumps with 20 to 30 flowers. After about two weeks, my petals fall and new heart shaped leaves with three lobes emerge, at first bright green and then darker, remaining green over winter.

I can grow in a wide range of conditions from deep shade to full sun and in both sandy and clay-rich soil. Moist soil and winter snowfall are requirements but I am less tolerant of dry frost. I have the ability to self-pollinate and produce seeds without the aid of insects. I am perfect in a shady area that needs naturalization or in other shade gardens and am an excellent early spring bloomer that can brighten any corner. Two or three clumps offer a greater effect and will provide a fresh, delicate scent that promises that spring is just around the corner.

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS!



Submitted by Pat Behm



Submitted by Jerry Schaefer



Submitted by Lynne Slat



PHOTOS FROM THE MEMBERS

If you have photos you would like to submit, please submit them as a jpeg to Kathy Gore or Mary Jo Maher. If you have items to photograph for the newsletter, please contact Nancy Karuhn.

BUZZING AROUND

BY MARY JO MAHER



The fun thing about going on road trips is discovering new garden centers that quickly become your favorite. The excitement of discovering new favorite places makes the trip so worthwhile. These two garden centers are in the Madison and New Berlin area and were a great find.



Schönheit Gardens – Sun Prairie, WI

Have you ever gone somewhere and, in an instant, knew that it felt like home? That's what you'll experience at Schönheit Gardens in Sun Prairie, WI. Yes, we've got marvelous plants and a great selection, but our customers keep coming back because of the people and service. We treat you like family because that's what we want when we are a customer. We take the time to get to know our customers, their gardens, and their needs. Visit us a few times and we'll often greet you by name and take the time to catch up on the latest events in your life.

But before we really get to know you, many folks first visit us because they've heard about our wonderful plants. We have some nice accompanying goods for your convenience (pottery, soil blends, mulch, etc.), but we are a plant focused nursery and garden center. We strive to find the best suppliers of both standard and unusual trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. After acquiring the best of the best, our knowledgeable staff works hard to maintain a high quality. We achieve this by hand watering our entire stock, monitoring for and treating pests and disease, fertilizing, and meticulously maintaining the plants. Customers will often comment that our plants not only look better than the competition's, but perform better as well – they've tested it! If you aren't feeling particularly creative, we offer some outstanding pre-made annual containers and creative ready-made succulent planters. We'd be delighted to make something especially for you – just ask!

I'll take a moment to briefly touch on some interesting plants we'll be carrying this year. Get ready to Google and ogle some neat plants! As far as annuals, think *Acalypha* 'Jungle Cloak', *Begonia* 'Sparks Will Fly', *Digiplexis* 'Illumination Flame', *Petunia* 'Forest Fire Glow', and *Salvia* 'Wendy's Wish'. Become tempted with perennials such as *Andropogon* 'Indian Warrior', *Aralia* 'Sun King', *Hemerocallis* 'Primal Scream', *Heucherella* 'Leapfrog', many *Hostas*, *Monarda* 'Pardon My Pink', *Penstemon* 'Elfin Pink', and *Sedum* 'Lime Zinger'. As for trees and shrubs, we would love to highlight *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple), *Cladrastis kentuckea* (Yellowwood), tons of *Hydrangeas* (tree form, too), apple twist trees (see to believe!), and *Juniperus* 'Sky High'.

We are also proud to offer a great selection of high quality, organically grown herbs and vegetables. We have a wonderful partnership with a local grower who specializes in standard and heirloom plants. They really are top-notch!

Now, let's talk mulch. We are one of the only suppliers for outstanding double-shredded leaf mulch. This is the kind of mulch Olbrich Botanical Gardens uses in many of their display gardens, so you know it's good stuff! It's available in recyclable bags or in bulk. Ask us about delivery from one of our bio-diesel run dump trucks.

This year, we will also be having some great classes and events throughout the season. Join us for Annual Container Making, Yoga for Gardeners, a Summer Celebration and more!

We'd love for you to visit us and discover your new favorite nursery. Check out our website [<http://www.schoenheitgardens.com>] and Facebook page for more information.

Happy Gardening!



Buzzing Around-cont.



SHADY ACRES New Berlin, Wisconsin

Shady Acres is a family-owned business that has been serving the green industry for 57 years. Perennials are our specialty, and we are known for our outstanding selection of top-quality plants. Grown right here in our New Berlin, Wisconsin nursery, we offer over 1200 varieties! We invite you to stop in and browse our garden center, where all the plants we grow are displayed in an easy-to-find fashion. Discover perennials for sun or shade, grasses, groundcovers, native plants, hostas and fresh herbs.

Perennials are the perfect choice for enhancing your outdoor areas. A garden that changes through the seasons will bring many years of beauty and enjoyment. If your space is limited, perennials and herbs also work well in container gardens. You can use our on-site potting shed to “create-a-container” that is colorful, portable and easy to maintain.

Meander through our lovely display gardens to see mature perennials growing in a garden environment. Come often to observe how the foliage and blooms change throughout the season. Then, use your creativity to design a garden that reflects your own personal style. Add the finishing touch with a colorful birdbath, soothing wind chimes or a piece of charming garden décor from our unique selection.

Check out our popular calendar of events. We invite you to join us during the season for planting projects, feature days and special celebrations. Each event is designed to help make your gardening experience more enjoyable!

Our friendly staff welcomes your questions. Whether you are a beginning gardener or have years of “trowel and error”, we are here to help with plant selection, give advice on garden ideas, provide assistance with container plantings or share gardening stories.

Shady Acres Perennial Nursery is located at 5725 S. Martin Road, New Berlin, Wisconsin. We will open for the season on April 18, 2015. For more information, visit our website <http://www.ShadyAcresNursery.com>.



Food for Thought

APPLE CAKE WITH HOT CARAMEL SAUCE (reprint from March) Recipe offered by Shelly Ryan, submitted by Valerie Stabenow

2 large cooking apples, like Granny Smith or Northern Spy
(2 1/2 cups, chopped)
1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. grated/ground nutmeg
1 tbs apple brandy (optional)
1 C all-purpose flour
1/2 C finely chopped pecans
1/2 C finely chopped dates (optional)

whipped cream

CARAMEL SAUCE:

1/2 C butter or margarine
1 C brown sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 C evaporated milk

Cake: preheat oven to 350 F. Peel, core and chop apples to equal 2 1/2 cups. Use a food processor for this and chop the apples medium coarse. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream the butter. Add sugar and beat until fluffy. Add egg and beat until blended. Then, mix in baking soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add the apple brandy if desired. Add the flour and stir just until blended. Stir in apples, nuts and dates. Pour into an oiled 9 inch round cake pan and bake for 30 minutes or until the top springs back when touched lightly in the center. (Valerie's note: I used a Bundt pan and it needed about 50 minutes, perhaps a bit more)

Caramel sauce: In a saucepan, bring butter, brown sugar and salt to a boil, stirring with a whisk. Remove from heat and whisk in vanilla and ev. milk.

Serve individual cake slices with hot caramel sauce and whipped cream (or ice cream). The cake should be served warm or at room temperature.

Answer to "WHAT AM I"

I am hepatica. Order: Ranunculales. Family: Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family. Genus: Hepatica Mill. – hepatica. Species: Between one and ten species of Hepatica are recognized, with some of the taxa more often treated as varieties. Common names: hepatica, liverleaf, and liverwort. Hepatica is named from its leaves, which, like the human liver, have three lobes. Greek for liver is hepar. Hepatica was once used as a medicinal herb and thought to be an effective treatment for liver disorders. Although poisonous in large doses, the leaves and flowers may be used as an astringent and as a diuretic.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

Growing Pains

By Mary Jo Maher

Toxic Garden Hose Water: Drinking From Common Water Hoses Potentially Dangerous, Study Finds

Author Information

The Huffington Post | By Allie Compton

Article Byline Information

Garden hoses are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which monitors the nation's public drinking supply. The study's findings showed that levels of lead in water coming from garden hoses they tested exceeded legal safe levels 100 percent of the time.

But lead wasn't the only dangerous material found in the water. According to the study, the water also contained plastic additives including phthalates —or plasticizers — and bisphenol A (BPA) that were "found to migrate out of the hose material into water contained in the hose."

The Food and Drug Administration defines BPA as an industrial chemical used to make hard, clear plastic. According to the FDA website, the National Institutes of Health is concerned with the potential effects of BPA on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and young children.

The study found levels of BPA at 20 times higher than those of safe drinking water levels.

The study reported that 100 percent of the garden hoses sampled contained several plasticizers currently banned in children's products. According to Health Stuff, consumption of these hazardous plasticizers can disturb normal hormonal processes and are linked to birth defects, altered levels of reproductive hormones, increased breast cancer risk, and asthma.

Though you'd likely have to drink a fair amount of affected garden hose water to see health consequences, the Ecology Center warns that even low levels of lead may create health problems.

Garden hoses containing lead typically will have warnings on their packaging and others will indicate if they are lead-free.

GOOD READS

This month's good read is "The Brothers Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf

This is a book about eighteenth century naturalists that joined Britain and America together in the passion of horticultural and botanical expertise.

Tried and True

Plantain leaves can be made into a tea or tincture, and this is said to help with indigestion, heartburn and ulcers when taken internally. Externally, Plantain has been used for insect and snakebites, and as a remedy for rashes and cuts and bee stings.

Source:

wellnessmama.com

Tried and True

Submitted by Lynne Slat

"Nature's Alchemy," by Lotus Brands

Natural Insect Repellent Recipe

1. Fill an 8 oz. spray bottle 1/2 full with distilled or boiled water.
2. Add witch hazel to fill almost to the top.
3. (Optional) Add 2 tsp vegetable or carrier oil.
4. Add 10-25 drops of essential oils (the more oils you use the stronger the scent will be). A good rule of thumb is to mix the repellent so it's 5-10% essential oil.
5. The oils don't mix with water, so you'll need to vigorously shake the container before applying.

Spray the natural insect repellent onto skin or clothing (beware that the oils could stain clothing). Use care to avoid the sensitive eye area. You'll need to re-apply the natural product after about an hour or after swimming or exercise. Unused natural insect repellent may be stored in a dark bottle, away from heat or sunlight.

- Citronella Oil • Eucalyptus Oil • Cinnamon Oil • Rosemary Oil • Lemongrass Oil • Cedar Oil
- Peppermint Oil • Clove Oil • Orange Oil • Lavender • Tea Tree • Geranium Oil
- Possibly Oils from Verbena, Pine, Basil, Thyme

Business Meeting Minute for March

Kathy Schultz

March 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Treasurer's Report: Sue Egner presented the February report.

Secretary's Report: The board minutes are posted to the website, and the business meeting minutes are posted in the newsletter.

Speaker:

Darrell McCauley, Winnebago County Ag Agent presented Straw Bale Gardening. Darrell taught the basics of how to prepare the bales, what to plant, watering, location for the bales, and that straw bale gardeners need Patience!

NEW BUSINESS:

Projects:

Long Term Project Leads Long Term Project leads Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Janet Priebe, Synda Jones and Patty Schmitz invited members to join them at the Saturday Oshkosh Farmers Market where members can answer questions, sell books, work with children(on Kids days) and meet and work with other members. If you sign up for a Saturday, the times are 7:15 to 12:30, please bring a lawn chair, appropriate clothing (can be hot or cold), and enjoy.

Long Term Project Lead Jerry Robak presented the Gardens of the Octagon house. The master gardeners working on this project will continue to preserve and enhance the late 19th century garden style. March 30th will be the first meeting of the season.

Long Term Project Leads Lawanda Jungwirth, Audrey Ruedinger and Sue Egner spoke on the areas of eradication and control they are leading. Lawanda announced May 9th from 9am to noon will be the first session out on the Wiouwash Trail to work on the invasive garlic mustard weed. Please bring a bucket for collecting the weeds, a kneeler, a digger and wear appropriate footwear, as the trail area can be muddy.

Sue Egner continues to lead the battle with buckthorn in the North High Conservancy Park, and reported that progress is being made in clearing areas. Gardeners will pull and cut buckthorn, and apply a pesticide to cut plants. Sessions will be announced for May and then again in October. Please bring boots, loppers, pruners, good gloves and layer what you wear.

Long Term Project Plant Health Advisors will be starting again this spring. Training sessions are in Wausau May 27th and Elkhorn May 14th. Gardeners can work at the Extension or from home to answer questions and do detective work, and Tuesdays and Fridays are available for sign up. An organizational meeting will be on March 31st at 6pm at the extension office. Please bring your calendar and available dates to sign up for the summer season.

Education Committee: Roy Ann Moulton reported the Winter Dreams/Summer Escape event netted \$1400, with 160 attendees. Parking continues to be an issue, so we may look at LaSure's facility. Diana Dougherty reported the Silent Auction brought a \$2,194 profit, with 58 baskets up for auction. Members are asked to think about doing an auction again or go with vendors.

Marge Menacher reported the Madison Garden Expo bus trip netted a \$590 profit.

There are two trips planned for summer June 12, 13, an overnight bus trip will go to the Chicago Botanical Gardens, the Chicago Architectural boat tour, Lincoln Park Conservancy, Garfield Conservancy, Northwinds Perennial Farm (Roy Diblick) in Burlington, Wi. Estimate for cost is \$150 - \$200.

July 25th a bus trip is planned for Green Bay Botanical gardens, Rose Hill Gardens, May Flower Nursery and a possible home tour.

Budget: Members agreed by show of hands to continue with the basket auction for 2016.

Extension Update: Kimberly reported Level 2 training is available for sign up, and begins in Mid March. Cost is \$30.00 and must be completed by October of this year.

The newsletters "Susan's Scoops" and Mike's Musings will now be merged into one newsletter from the state entitled "Volunteer Vibe".

Group Project Monarchs: Mary will try to find a speaker on native Bees. Native plants will be ordered from Wild Ones for use in project gardens.

Meeting Speakers: the following will be the educational speakers at upcoming business meetings:

April – A presentation on Shoreline Restoration

May – Linda Werner will present Keukenhof Botanical Gardens, Amsterdam

June – Picnic!

Val Stabenow will have a garden walk mid to late June.

New Business: Virginia Slattery introduced the new photographer, Nancy Karuhn. Nancy will be available for photographing activities/projects on weekends and after 4:30 during the week. Nancy will also come to your garden to photograph if you request this.

The next business meeting will be April 14, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Schultz, Secretary



April 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Paine clean up	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Business Meeting	15	16	17	18
19	20 Parkview Flower arranging	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Oshkosh Violet Show
3 Oshkosh Violet Show	4	5 Board meeting	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Business meeting	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	31