

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

April 2017-Issue 29



Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

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2016 Rooms of Blooms at the Paine
Photo by Maria Talin

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Dates to Remember

Marinette/Outagamie Conference – April 1

Board Meeting – April 4

Paine project- April 3-7

Business Meeting – April 11

Park View Flower Arranging – April 17

Education Meeting – April 18

Garlic Mustard – May 6

Festival of Spring, Paine – May 20

Picnic – June 13

Winnebago Fair – Aug 2-6

The News Crew: Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Mary Jo Maher, Jane Kuhn, Lawanda Jungwirth, Renee Doner, Lynne Slat, Marge Bolding, Anne Murphy, Eric Kropp

The President's Pen

By Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker

First Snow Drop blooms March 3!!! Spring may finally be here. Well this is what the calendar says anyway! Hopefully all the teasing of winter is past and we can now move out into our yards and take note on the work at hand. And maybe our little four footed friends did not do much damage.....are they really our friends?!!

The Project Leads are now looking to the membership for spring clean up. There will be invitations in the newsletter and in our emails, so watch for them and choose your area of interest. It is always nice to attend more than one clean up if you are unsure of where you would like to focus your volunteer hours, and we do have a number of projects to choose from. Eric and Nancy, our co-vice presidents, held a meeting March 21 to guide all the leads in their endeavors. A few signup sheets were circulated at the March meeting; and we will again share the projects list at the April meeting. These projects are one of the backbones of our organization and we are very proud of our MG efforts in this county! Please let anyone on the board know if you have any questions or concerns.

Our speaker for April is Maureen Muldoon from UW-O, and her topic: "Hydrogeology of NE Wisconsin's Karst Region: Why Does Groundwater Sometimes Turn Brown?"

The Education Committee is busy planning new adventures for our members. In May, there will be a trip to the diagnostic lab in Madison. They will also travel to a garden or two. May 23 is set for a Horticulture Therapy workshop. We are also looking to partner with the Food Pantry in Oshkosh in education and support.

The Paine will be a busy project in May as well - the Festival of Spring will be May 20. We master gardeners can obtain hours by helping with the set-up of this affair and we will have a booth for the public to ask garden questions at the event. This would be a good time for our new MGs to obtain volunteer hours for support; and buddy up with certified MGs in the booth for community education hours! This is always a well attended affair....and with a plethora of plants for those interested! They will also be busy with tulip digs. We have only touched on a couple projects here, but again; check our list as it includes a variety of opportunities. And again, please do not hesitate to ask if not sure of something. We have our mentor program (New Member Liaison) with Ginny Slattery as the chair, and all new MGs will likely already know. We want to make sure everyone feels welcomed and become active participants. See you out in the community!

Kathy and Linda



Submitted by Linda Loker

Flower Show

Two old ladies were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. One leaned over and said, "Life is so darn boring. We never have any fun anymore. For \$5.00, I'd take my clothes off and streak through the flower show!"

"You're on!" said the other old lady, holding up a \$5.00 bill.

As fast as she could, the first little old lady fumbled out of her clothes and, completely naked, streaked through the front door of the flower show. Waiting outside, her friend heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by a loud applause. The naked lady burst through the door surrounded by a cheering crowd.

"What happened?" asked her waiting friend.

"I won first prize for Best Dried Arrangement."

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

As a child growing up on a farm and being in 4-H, I looked forward to the Winnebago County fair every summer. I was in many 4-H projects like showing my prize beef cow, sewing, and working at our church food stand. This was at the old fair grounds. I had lots of memories and was sad when they tore it all down. The new fair grounds has lots of opportunities and many uses. I am making new memories by working at the Master Gardener booth when I can.

Sue Bohn is the Project Lead for the Winnebago County Fair. She organizes the Master Gardener booth and sets up times and days that we can volunteer. I have asked her to explain the Project and important part we as Master Gardeners do to help the public.

WCMGA Winnebago County Fair Project and 4-H Youth Horticulture Awards

The WCMGA educational display at the Winnebago County fair provides a unique opportunity for MGs to interact with the public.

- MGs and MGs-in-training provide research-based horticultural education and outreach to attendees of the county fair. Fair-goers really appreciate the face-to-face assistance and the research-based advice they receive from MGs. For some questions, it means a connection to the Plant Health Advisors or other UW diagnostic resources, as well.
- The county fair provides an opportunity for new MGs working toward certification to be mentored by certified MGs so as to provide training in providing research-based outreach and education.
- The county fair provides an opportunity for MGs to gain volunteer hours to meet certification requirements.
- MGs are encouraged to showcase projects at the fair booth. A project showcase could include a display and talk.
- By supporting 4-H youth horticulture awards, WCMGA creates opportunities to show support for youth interest in horticulture education and the WCMGA.

The Winnebago County Fair will be held **August 2-6, 2017**. MGs should watch for an email announcement in July which will provide instructions for scheduling time to help at the booth. If you have a special project you want to showcase at the fair booth, please contact Sue Bohn at auntie@ntd.net.

Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Butterfly Weed is Perennial Plant of the Year

The Perennial Plant Association has chosen butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, as its 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year. You might wonder at the choice of a plant with “weed” in its name, but this beautiful plant is anything but weedy. It is a versatile plant that is at home in both formal landscapes and more casual prairie, meadow or rain gardens.

Bright orange flowers in umbels – umbrella-shaped clusters - are held atop stiff 2'-3' stems making butterfly weed good for bouquets. The unusual flowers are easy to recognize for their “five-up, five-down” arrangement. Each tiny flower has five petals curving upward and five petals hanging downward. Bloom time is late spring through mid-summer. Dark green lance-shaped leaves spiral up the stems. Clumps of butterfly weed produce up to 25 stems each and grow 1'-3' wide.

Butterfly weed is in the milkweed family. Like all milkweeds it is attractive to monarch butterflies. The flowers provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds and attract bees, ants and other pollinators. The leaves provide food for monarch caterpillars and those of other butterfly species.

Butterfly weed is native to most of North America. It prospers in areas with full sun and well drained soils. It is drought tolerant once established and doesn't suffer from serious insect or disease problems. Deer tend to leave butterfly weed alone although rabbits may eat them.

One pest that may be found on butterfly weed leaves is the bright yellow oleander aphid. Small populations won't do much damage, and larger numbers of them can be treated with insecticidal soap or sprayed off with a forceful stream from the hose.

Stems die back to the ground in winter, but it is best not to cut them back until the next spring. Young plants should be mulched over winter to prevent frost heaving. Be patient – butterfly weed is a slow starter each spring. Deadheading – snipping off spent blooms – will prevent reseeding and encourage re-flowering later in summer.

Butterfly weed is stunning grown alone or in masses. A flowerbed of intense bright colors can be created by combining butterfly weed with yellow coreopsis, purple coneflower, goldenrod, blazing star, black-eyed Susan, and grasses such as little bluestem or prairie dropseed. To make the orange really stand out, surround butterfly weed with the cooler blue or purple flowers of morning glory, globe thistle, or speedwells.

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. Each member is allowed to nominate two plants for consideration. 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 must be suitable for a wide range of climates, low-maintenance, relatively pest-free and disease resistant, have multiple seasons of ornamental interest, and be readily available at garden centers. It looks as though the PPA members have chosen another winner this year!

The Invasive Grapevine

While we all want easy care, pest free plants, consider this when buying plants for your landscape this spring, especially newly introduced ones: When a plant is advertised as pest free and disease free, it probably has its origins somewhere far from here. When it was brought here, whatever animals, insects or diseases that kept it in control in its native area did not come with it. This means that it can grow freely and without restraint, and with the right conditions, it has the potential to become invasive. Keep an eye on plants you put in your landscape that are new to you. Make sure they don't overstep their bounds and don't let them go to seed.

Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Cilantro and Coriander Named 2017 Herb of the Year

The International Herb Association has chosen cilantro and coriander as the 2017 Herb of the Year. It may seem as though they've chosen two herbs, but they've actually selected just one - coriander is the seed of the cilantro plant.

People tend to either love or hate the taste of cilantro. The taste has been described variously as lemony, peppery, soapy, musky and metallic. You'll find it in Mexican, Latin American, Caribbean and Asian dishes.

Cilantro looks like flat-leaf parsley and is easy to grow from seed. Seeds should be planted while the soil is still cool in late April or early May, in full sun, $\frac{1}{4}$ " - $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep and 6" apart. Keep soil evenly moist throughout the growing season until coriander seeds begin to form.

Cilantro is difficult to transplant because it has a long taproot, but in lieu of planting from seed, seedlings can be purchased from a nursery and planted in the garden. Cilantro works well in containers too, but provide afternoon shade.

Begin harvesting leaves from the outside of the plant when it reaches 6" tall. Growth will continue from the center of the plant. You can also cut the entire plant an inch from the soil line and it will regrow. Store leaves in the refrigerator up to a week.

Cilantro will bolt as soon as the weather gets hot, causing the flavor of the leaves to change to something most people find unpleasant. When it bolts, lacy, fern-like leaves form along stalks up to two feet tall topped by pretty light pink or white flowers that attract beneficial pollinating insects.

Soon after flowering, coriander seeds begin to form. At first the odor of the seeds is unpleasant and has been described as the scent of crushed bedbugs. In fact, the scientific name *Coriandrum* was derived from the Greek koris, which means bug or gnat. Thankfully, as the seeds ripen and dry, they take on a pleasant spicy, citrusy fragrance that matches the taste of the mature seed.

Harvest seeds when leaves and flowers turn brown, but before the seed pods burst open and scatter the seed. Cut the plant and hang it to dry inside a brown paper bag to catch seeds as they fall. You can also allow seeds to fall in the garden to produce a host of volunteer cilantro seedlings both in the current growing season and the next.

Remove seeds from their pods before culinary use. Rub them between your hands or place them on a paper towel and rub your hand over them. The outer sheath will separate revealing two seeds. Coriander seed can be used whole or ground in baked goods, breads, soups, casseroles, potato salad and fruit salads.

Roots of cilantro plants that have not yet gone to seed can be harvested and are often used in Thai food. The taste of the root is similar to that of the leaves, but with an added nutty flavor.

What Am I

BY JANE KUHN

I am an upright, clump-forming, woody-based, herbaceous perennial with rigid stems growing 2 to 4 feet tall and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide. My bushy clump of lemon-scented, glossy green leaves gives rise to spikes topped by racemes of fragrant, 5-petaled white or pink flowers (1 inch long) in late spring or early summer. My flowers give way to star-shaped seed heads which provide ornamental interest if left on the plant. I grow best in average, medium, well-drained soil in full sun in zones 3-8. I do best in northern climates where the nights are cool.

I can be grown from seed but may take several years (3-4) to flower. Although I am slow to establish, I will be a long-lived, low-maintenance plant. I am difficult to divide and best left undisturbed. I attract butterflies and am deer resistant. I am good as a cut flower, in borders or in a cottage garden.

It's A Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery



Anna Abraham

I was born in Waupun but have lived most of my life in Ripon where I graduated from high school. I've done quite a bit of traveling. I lived 3 years in Kalispell, Montana and have traveled to all but 3 states west of the Mississippi. I've also traveled to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Hawaii.

I've been married to my second husband, James, for two and a half years. We call it our second-time around. I am also a new grandmother as my son and his wife recently had a daughter, Megan.

I work at the Ripon Ace Hardware. I wear many hats there: sales associate, key holder, bookkeeping, accounts receivable, dept. head for electrical, and the greenhouse. In fact, while working in the greenhouse, I was asked lots of questions that I had no idea how to answer. I had always gardened by the trial and error method. This is what led me to enroll in the Master Gardeners course. I became certified just this past December.

I would say that along with my parents, my grandmother was the one who interested me into gardening. She canned everything imaginable. She was part Polish and in her day you didn't throw anything away. I had no idea what some of those canned goods were, and there was no way I would try them! I can remember her making duck blood soup—with real blood! That was enough for me.

So far I have worked on several of the projects. I have worked at the Paine (making my husband pick up a shovel, too), worked on the North Conservancy Park buckthorn project, at the Winchester Historical Society on the apple trees, and at the Farmer's Market. In November I was elected to be the new secretary for our group.

At home I do mostly container gardening. We put containers in what looks like a stair step arrangement. They are easy to maintain and weed and allow us to sit down while we pick our tomatoes. My biggest battle was with the chipmunks that kept stealing the tomatoes. We also had the chance to plant a large vegetable garden out in the country. We had good success mulching between the rows with straw. The hardest part was trying to break the habit of using the rototiller.

In my spare time I have a passion to create things with my hands. I love to paint animal portraits, paint Christmas village houses, sew, and do other crafts.

Answer to What Am I

By Jane Kuhn

I am white gas plant. Order: Sapindales. Family: Rutaceae – Rue family. Genus: Dictamnus L.- dictamnus. Species: Dictamnus albus L. – white gas plant. Other names: burning bush, dittany, gas plant, fraxinella. On hot, still days, old flowers or seed pods emit a flammable methane gas which can be ignited with a match resulting in a brief vapor burn. Foliage contains an oil that causes a skin rash in some individuals.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

2016 HOURS AWARDEES

The following Master Gardeners have volunteered for these milestones:

150 hours

Vickie Daniels, Kristine Martin, Kathy Schultz

250 hours

Renee Donner, Jo Helf, Bette Hoytink, Sally Lindo, Sandra Mathison, Jerry Schaefer, Val Stabenow, David Thurow,

500 hours

Sandy Gollhofer, Synda Jones, Anne Murphy

750 hours

Dorothy Bonnin, Donna Kudlas, Mary Jo Maher, Linda Petek

1,000 hours

Diana Dougherty, Sue Egner, Joni Pagel, Tom Weber

2,500 hours

Marge Menacher

Congratulations and many thank yous for all you do!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Renee Doner

Lemon Loaf---Copycat from Starbucks

- 3 eggs
- 1-cup sugar
- 1-cup buttermilk or sour cream
- 1/2-cup canola oil
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of lemon extract
- 1 1/2 cups of flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2-teaspoon salt
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice

Whisk together eggs, sugar and buttermilk, and oil and whisk.
Add Lemon extract and whisk with above
Add flour, baking powder, DO NOT OVERMIX
Pour mixture into 9x5 prepared pan, bake @ 350 for 45-50 minutes
Cool
Mix confectioners sugar and lemon juice, drizzle over top



WHO KNEW?

Submitted by Lynne Slat

Xeriscaping and Native plant

One important part of sustainable landscaping is plant selection. Most of what makes a landscape unsustainable is the amount of inputs required to grow a non-native plant on it. What this means is that a local plant, which has adapted to local climate conditions will require less work on the part of some other agent to flourish. For example, it does not make sense to grow tomatoes in Arizona because there is not enough natural rainfall for them to survive without constant watering. Instead, drought-tolerant plants like succulents and cacti are better suited to survive. Also, by choosing native plants, one can avoid certain problems with insects and pests because these plants will also be adapted to deal with any local invader. The bottom line is that by choosing the right kind of local plants, a great deal of money can be saved on amendment costs, pest control and watering.

Plants used as windbreaks can save up to 30% on heating costs in winter. They also help with shading a residence or commercial building in summer, create cool air through evapo-transpiration and can cool hardscape areas such as driveways and sidewalks.

A house surrounded by local trees or bushes enjoys multiple benefits. Plants release water vapor in the air through transpiration and water has the ability to reduce temperature extremes in the areas near it (as it boasts very high heat capacity). The larger and more leafy the plant, the most water vapor it produces. Additionally, the presence of trees is crucial in the creation of stable, healthy and productive ecosystems (such as forests). In fact this is an important principle of permaculture.

If the surrounding trees are chosen to produce edible fruit they can provide a sustainable food source for the occupants of the house. Even if some are fairly demanding (especially in the summer), irrigation is an excellent end-use option in greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting systems, and a composting toilet can cover (at least) some of the nutrient requirements. Research suggests that diluted human urine might be as effective as chemical fertilizers. Not all fruit trees are suitable for greywater irrigation, as reclaimed greywater is typically of high pH and acidophile plants don't do well in alkaline environments.

An intelligent choice for direct energy conservation would be the placement of broadleaf deciduous trees near the east, west and optionally north-facing walls of the house. Such selection provides shading in the summer while permitting large amounts of heat-carrying solar radiation to strike the house in the winter. The trees are to be placed as closely as possible to the house walls but no closer than 1 meter - otherwise the roots can cause substantial foundation damage. A sustainable house will most likely be equipped with south-facing (north-facing in the S. hemisphere) photovoltaic panels and a large, south-facing glazing as a result of passive solar heating design. As the efficiency of both systems is very sensitive to shading, experts suggest the complete absence of trees near the south side.

Another intelligent choice would be that of a dense vegetative fence composed of evergreens (e.g. conifers) near that side from which cold continental winds blow (usually north in the N. hemisphere) and also that side from which the prevailing winds blow (west in temperate regions of both hemispheres). Since north winds are most cold and westerlies blow most often, such choice creates an effective winter windbarrier that prevents very low temperatures outside the house and reduces air infiltration towards the inside. Calculations show that placing the windbreak at a distance twice the height of the trees can reduce the wind velocity by 75%. It then follows that, with some planning, both arrangements (deciduous and evergreen) can be applied simultaneously.

The above vegetative arrangements come with two disadvantages. Firstly, they minimize air circulation in summer (although in many climates heating is more important and costly than cooling) and, secondly, they may affect the efficiency of photovoltaic panels, thus prompting the need for a shading analysis. However, it has been estimated that if both arrangements are applied properly, they can reduce the overall house energy usage by up to 22%.

University of Minnesota: Sustainable Urban Landscape Information Series.

Buzzing Around

Submitted by Mary Jo Maher

I think one of the best surprises is finding a greenhouse when you are not really looking for one. I have found some of the greatest garden centers this way, just riding and scanning the area, and there it is! This is how I spotted The Flower Source in Germantown, located at W156N1124 Pilgrim Rd. It was one of the days in late winter that was gloomy and drab.

The Flower Source offers a nice break from those kinds of days. It is a greenhouse with a wide variety of lemon trees, succulents, annuals and perennials.



THE LATEST DIRT

Gardening Conferences

Marinette, Outagamie – April 1

Paine project

We are moving plants from the existing garden in preparation for the parking lot project the Week of April 3rd-7th.

Garlic Mustard Pull

Garlic Mustard Pull at Oshkosh North High Conservancy-Sat. May 6th.

Arrive at 9:00am at my home at 931 Park Ridge Ave.(behind North High School- 1100 Smith St). The areas are behind my home in the woods.

Bring a weed digger, pail to sit on and gloves if you want. We should be able to finish by noon or before.

Education Committee

Tuesday, April 18

5:30pm

Benvenutos

Annual WCMGA Picnic

The annual picnic for WCMGA is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 pm in the Great Room at Park View Health Center. Members and one guest each are invited to this event. Please bring your favorite dish to share with gardening friends. The entrée, beverages and place settings will be provided. Watch for the sign-up sheets at the next membership meetings. If you have any questions, ask one of the co-chairs – Diana Dougherty, Kathy Daniels or Jane Kuhn.

2017 Flower Arranging Schedule at Park View Health Center

Master Gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30 in the Great Room

April 17 th	flowers from Pick N Save
May	cancelled by Park View
June	cancelled by Park View
July 24 th Park View's fair	flowers from our gardens supplements from Pick N Save
August 21 st	flowers from our garden and supplements from Pick N Save
September	cancelled by Park View
October 16 th	flowers from Pick N Save
November	cancelled
December 12 th	cancelled

Apple Pruning Workshop

Sat., March 18, 2017

Winchester Historical Society

Cold day, but we showed up to learn and get 'er done! A really nice article was written in the Winneconne News.

Kimberly teaching us the correct way to use the loppers.



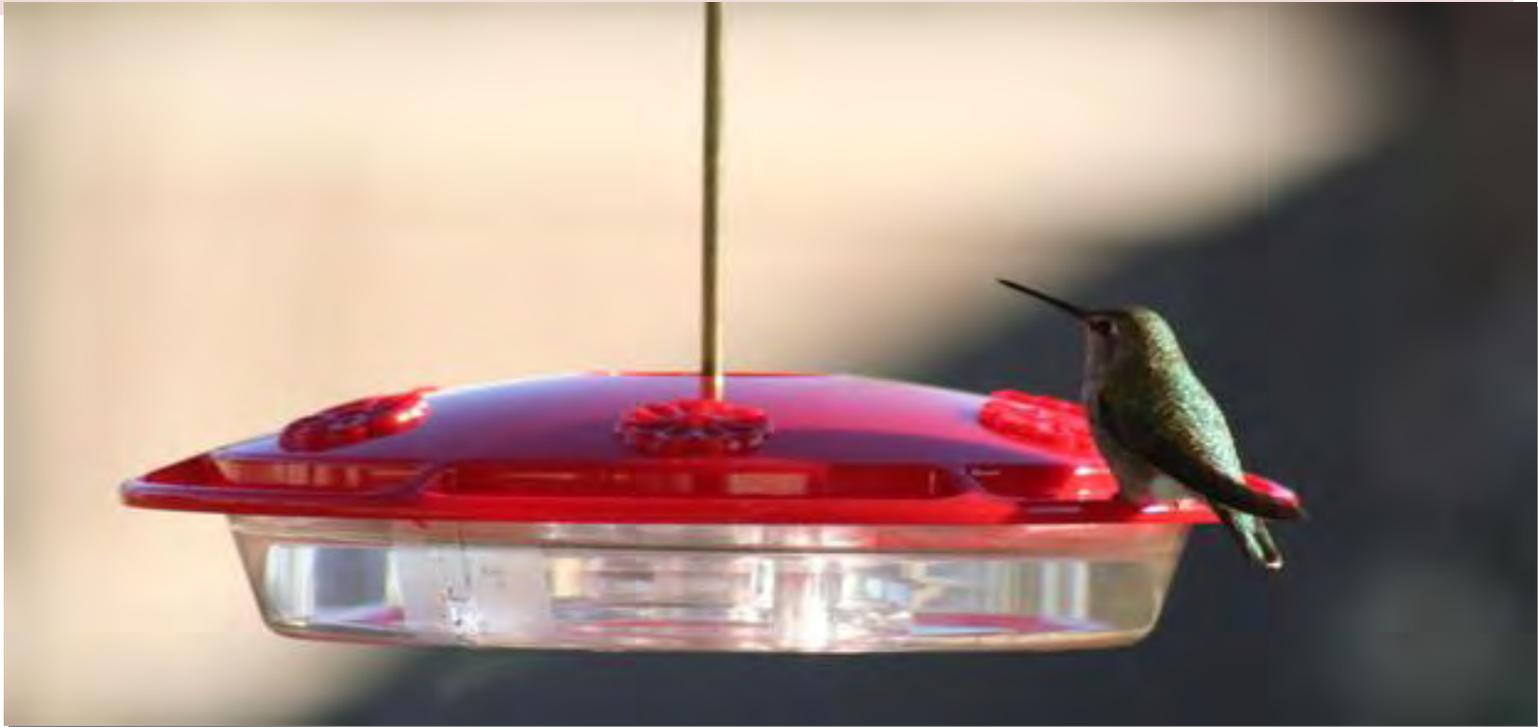
Mary finding another crossing branch to eliminate!



Sandy giving directions to the help!

Eric seeing the light through the many branches taken down, but not too many.

APRIL 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 MG Marinette/ Outagamie conference
2	3 Paine project 3-7	4 Board Meeting Paine project 3-7	5 Paine project 3-7	6 Paine project 3-7	7 Paine project 3-7	8
9	10	11 Business Meeting\Speaker Maureen Muldoon	12	13	14	15
16 Easter	17 Parkview Flower Arranging	18 Education Meeting	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Remember to get your information for the newsletter to Mary Jo Maher (mahermaryjo@yahoo.com) by the 15th of the month for submission in the next month's newsletter.