

# WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER AUGUST 2011 - NEWSLETTER

(click here to go directly to website) [www.winnebagomastergardeners.org](http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org)  
920-232-1986

## PRESIDENTS' LETTER

SUMMER IS HERE!! Hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful hot summer. As I am writing, the temperature is 90 and humid. This weather does a toll on our gardens. They need a lot more of TLC and water.

With August comes the Winnebago County Fair. If you need Education hours, you can volunteer to be at our booth at the Fair. It is a way of meeting fellow Master Gardeners and talk to people coming to the booth looking for gardening answers. If you want to help, contact Sue Bohn.

August 4th is the information meeting for the Master Gardener Training. It will be at the Coughlin Center 6pm. Classes start Tuesday, September 6 thru November 22. Tell your friends and neighbors about the program to become a Master Gardener.

HOURS SHEET must be in to Patty Schmitz by SEPTEMBER 1, 2011. Either mail or email your hours to her. If you have questions about filling it out, contact Patty, Nick, Mary, myself or any board member. We are always willing to help each other out. It is vital that the hours get to her on time. She must record them to the state also and she needs adequate time to get the report completed. Hope to see you at the next business meeting Tuesday, September 12.

Kathy & Mary

## WHERE IS IT?

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## Nick's Note:

**Fall Class Reminder:** Training will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm starting on September 6th and ending November 22nd at the James P. Coughlin Center, 625 E County Rd Y. If you are interested in becoming a Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteer, please contact the UW-Extension office at 232-1970, with their name, address, email, and phone number so we can send them registration material. Or, direct them to the Winnebago County UW-Extension horticulture webpage to download the forms at: <http://winnebago.uwex.edu/horticulture/>.

The class fee including first year membership will be \$150 per person with a price break for couples. The class will use a mixture of live presentations and webinar. Topics include general botany, soils and nutrition, ornamentals, entomology, plant pathology, turf, fruits, vegetables, wildlife and more. An introduction to the MG program will be held at the Coughlin Center on Thursday, August 4 at 6:00 pm. Registrations are due to Treasurer Alice Graf by August 15<sup>th</sup> at 2530 Havenwood Drive, Unit D. Oshkosh, WI 54904.

**Harvest Helpers:** The Oshkosh Harvest Helpers group is looking for volunteers to be ready to harvest fruit from fruit trees when the season arrives. Right now they are collecting names and contact information of people who are willing and able to climb ladders and pick fruit in the Oshkosh area. People who have excess or unwanted fruit can now have them harvested and donated to the Oshkosh Food Pantry. Volunteers don't need to take this on as a 'project' as it's already being coordinated by a group. Harvest Helpers is just looking for individual volunteers. Contact Catherine Neiswender, UW-Extension Community Development Educator at the Coughlin Center. 920-232-1970.  
[cneiswender@co.winnebago.wi.us](mailto:cneiswender@co.winnebago.wi.us)

**Rain Barrels for Sale:** 4-H Friends 4-H Club is now making a selling rain barrels. Food grade rain barrels store 55 gallons of rainwater from your roof that you can use when it's dry to give thirsty gardens, flowers and trees a drink. Rain barrels help keep excess water out of the sewer system when it rains. Place your order by either calling Amy Jo Domke at 920-232-5401 or emailing [domkes@new.rr.com](mailto:domkes@new.rr.com) with your purchase request. Rain barrels are \$45 each.

## We Say Good-bye to one on our own.



Burton J. Carpenter, age 85 of Oshkosh died at Century Oak on Sunday, July 17, 2011. He was born in Omro on March 2, 1926, a son of the late Lester and Emma Carpenter. Burton married Agnes Hodel in Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Oshkosh on March 25, 1967.

For 15 years Burton enjoyed working at his hobby farm in Waukau and selling flowers and vegetables at his Farmers Market. He was a Master Gardener for 25 years and in 2004 was honored with the Golden Trowel Award by the Master Gardener's. Burt was one of the original members who started our Winnebago County MG group. He brought much joy and wisdom with him to the Association.

Burt, we will miss you.

## Flower of the Month—August: Gladiola



Gladiola, the August birth flower, represents strength and moral integrity – not surprising when you consider that its name comes from the Latin word for sword, “gladius.” But while its sword-shaped stems may imply Roman gladiators, its romantic flowers are capable of piercing a heart with their beauty – explaining why infatuation is another one of its meanings as well.

## Save the Dates!

### Flower Arranging Dates:

(All are Mondays, 1:30@ PV)

**August 1**---Live flowers

**August 15**---Live flowers

**Sept. 12**---Live flowers

**Sept. 26**---Live flowers

**Oct. 10**---Floral flowers from Garden Gate

**Nov. 21**---Floral flowers from Garden Gate

**Dec. 5**---Christmas gift bag arrangements Aurora



## Potential Projects

### Medical Center Healing Garden

At Aurora Medical Center, 855 N Westhaven, in the center courtyard there is a beautiful healing garden. It was started by private donations as a quiet place where patients and families can rest and relax among plants and flowers. In the past the garden was maintained by a landscaping company but with budget cuts, it is in need of some TLC. John Nieman, Volunteer Services, is hoping that the garden could be taken over by some Master Gardeners. This would be an individual project for one or a group willing to help with this project. If interested, please call John at 456-7013.

### Senior Young At Heart

Monthly St. Jude Parish holds a pot lunch for seniors at Sacred Heart Church hall. Wednesday, January 11, 2012 they have asked the Master Gardeners to be the speaker. It would be a 30 to 45 minute program on any subject you would like to present. If interested please contact Barb Dutcheck at 920-573-1887. This is a good opportunity for education hours.

## What am I? by Jane Kuhn

I am a hardy, herbaceous perennial cultivated for my large, handsome, often fern-like foliage, and dense, feathery plumes of flowers. Blooming is summer, my plumes of flower clusters are born on large stalks above the foliage and come in shades of pink, white, red, peach, purple and lime. My plants range from 6-40 inches tall and 18-30 inches wide. I am widely recognized for my profuse blooms in full shade which are adapted to water-logged conditions and tolerant of clay soils. My plumes remain in flower for several weeks and continue to look good as they fade and dry on the plant.

I prefer a slightly rich, moist soil – the warmer the weather, the more moisture I need. A light application in spring and fall of a relatively high nitrogen fertilizer is helpful. Although I will bloom in shade, my plants prefer some sunlight to achieve their full size. My plant is commonly propagated by division of roots and benefits from being divided about every four years. I look best planted in groups as a border, in beds or in containers. I attract butterflies, am deer resistant and am bothered by few diseases or insects.

## Organic Gardening Tip of the Month

*From Lawanda Jungwirth*

- Fish emulsion is a smelly but effective organic fertilizer that gives a boost to annuals, perennials and vegetables. It is available at most garden centers. It comes as a thick brown liquid that you dilute and use to either water your plants or spray on the leaves as a foliar food. While it's a smelly job, the odor quickly dissipates from your garden.
- Water from your fish tank or pond is filled with nutrients that your plants will love. Just scoop it out and use it full strength to water plants.
- Algae scooped, lifted or pulled from your pond makes a nutritious addition to the compost pile, or sheets of it can be laid between rows or around plants in the vegetable garden as a mulch.

## Flower Arranging Update

Though it was 90 plus degrees 14 wonderful MG's made beautiful bouquets with the residents at Park View on July 18.



Lilies, bellflowers, hydrangeas, monardas, hostas, daisies and many other pretty flowers helped to bring delightful smiles to our dear friends. Special thanks to Bob Potter, Marge Menacher, Sandra Gollhofer, Kathy Lewandski, Donna Kudlas, Helen Parker, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Janet Priebe, Linda Petek, Jane Kuhn, Lillian Hansche, Dorothy Bonnin, and Arlene Kosonke (Bob, too) for braving the heat, bringing additional flowers and their joyous attitudes to enlighten the day.

Our next date is August 1st at 1:30. The staff wants that day to be the day we make the special bouquets to display for the week of Fair Celebrating activities. SO it would be great if everyone could gather extra posies from their garden and help us make exquisite bouquets for them. Feel welcome to join us.

Pat Behm, Park View Flower Arrangement Lead.  
Contact info - [tbehm1@new.rr.com](mailto:tbehm1@new.rr.com)  
or call 410-3290

## Happy August Birthdays



**Linda Christensen, Karen Frittitta, Bette Hoytnick, Dawn Kent**



## We Need Your Input

Here is your chance to have your dream of someday being published come true.

The Newsletter staff would like to invite any and all members wishing to share a story, some tips or information with us. You are all welcome to submit an article to the newsletter at any time. We do promise to print it as soon as we have the necessary space available. This contribution will count toward your community education hours.



## Beautiful Lantana

By Lawanda Jungwirth

About this time last year I took a lackadaisical trip through the leftovers in the garden center at Fleet Farm. No matter how good the care given these plants, it is almost impossible to keep a flower in a tiny plastic pot looking good into July. Everything was pretty sad-looking.

Then, the prettiest yellow flower I have ever seen caught my eye. It was actually a flat cluster of many tiny light yellow flowers with darker yellow centers, altogether measuring about 1 ½" across. The leaves were a healthy dark green with slightly toothed edges. It was by far the best looking plant in the place.

I picked it up and found that the soil in the container had completely dried out, which didn't bode well for its survival. Normally I wouldn't buy a plant in that condition, but it was deeply discounted and it was just so beautiful!

The tag said 'Lemon Cream' lantana. I loved the name too!

I took it home and submerged the entire flimsy plastic pot under water for a few hours. Then I planted it in a nice terra cotta pot and placed it in the sun. It flourished all summer long, producing two flowers for each one I cut off as they finished blooming. Butterflies and hummingbirds were as attracted to the flowers as I was.



When fall came, I moved it indoors to a sunny window. It did okay for a few months, but then lost all its leaves and looked like a dead multi-branched stick. In spring I decided to see what would happen if I re-potted it in fresh potting soil, cut it back a bit, and moved it back outdoors.

I was rewarded for my faith and efforts with lush new leaves and soon new buds will burst forth with flowers.

This year, I discovered lantana "Bandana Cherry Sunrise." The blooms on this plant are yellow, light pink, dark pink and deep purple, sometimes mixed within one flower cluster. It is gorgeous in a container with light purple trailing bacopa.



Lantana is a perennial plant, but is not hardy in our area, so in Wisconsin it is grown as an annual, or brought indoors over winter as I did. You won't find it in the inexpensive multi-packs of annuals, and you won't find it at all garden centers, but it is worth the search and the few dollars you will pay for individual plants.

Lantana needs full sun and does well in pots, but in the ground, given fertile soil and good drainage, it can grow to small shrub size in a single season. In the ground, give it a good watering once a week if rain doesn't do the job for you.

Little fertilizer is required. A light fertilizer in spring or a time-release fertilizer in the pot is all it needs.

Lantana cultivars vary in height and spread and there are a wide variety of colors, so read the label to make sure you are buying a plant that will fit the location you plan to put it.

## Answer: What Am I?

I am an astilbe. Order: Saxifragales. Family:



References: USDA Plants Database

Saxifragaceae.  
Genus: Astilbe.  
Astilbe is a genus of 18 species of plants. Some species are commonly known as False Goat's Beard and False Spirea. Astilbes are one of the easiest perennial

flowers to grow requiring little maintenance. No staking or deadheading is necessary and they are pest free. The flower heads will dry on the plant and remain attractive for many months, even adding interest to the winter garden.

## CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
Community Gardens	
Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Humane Society Memorial Garden	
Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	
Linda Christensen	233-0044
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Oshkosh Senior Center	
Paine Gardens	
Betty Kuen	722-9043
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Judy & Al Harms	688-5523
Park View Prairie Garden	
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Ann Gratton	231-3015
Rushford Town hall	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Carol Dorsch	589-5936
Shared Harvest	
Ken Friedman	235-6766
Habitat for Humanity Partnership	
David Leonard	379-5860
Washington & Webster Schools	
Marge Menacher	223-3467

### OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Ivan Placko (CO-VP)	721-9394
Jane Kuhn (CO-VP)	231-3993
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Carole Dorsch	589-5936
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

## COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
<b>Historian</b>	
Membership	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	
Sue Bohn	685-0427
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Ivan Placko	721-9394
Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	
Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	
Patty Schmitz	236-8887
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

**BOARD MEETING – August 2**

**No BUSINESS MEETING**

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:



**Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service & environmental stewardship for our Community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.**





2011

It's just *HOT!!!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 <b>Flower Arranging</b> 	2 <b>Board Meeting</b>	3	4	5	6 8- noon - Farmers Market
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 8- noon - Farmers Market
14	15 <b>Flower Arranging</b> 	16	17	18	19	20 8- noon - Farmers Market
21	22	23	24	25	26 12-1 p.m. MG Brown Bag Program	27 8- noon - Farmers Market
28	29	30	31			