

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

AUGUST 2017-Issue 33



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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Photo by Maria Talin

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Dates to Remember

August 1 – Board Meeting

August 8- Education Meeting at Benvenutos

August 8- Garden Walk Oshkosh Humane Society

August 15- Garden Walk- Neenah Library & Shattuck Park

September 1- Hours Due

September 12 – Business Meeting

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



"Fairest of the months!
Ripe summer's queen
the hey-day of the year
With robes that gleam with sunny sheen
Sweet August doth appear."
R. Combe Miller

Much can be said about the benefits of rain... but too much rain brings about a whole new discussion! Summer's cool beginnings, and persistent showers are giving us Midwest gardeners a few new challenges this year.

Despite the weather, we have been experiencing summer with our projects, our garden walks and our trips. The Rockford and Sheboygan bus trips were successful, showing us once again that MG members and the community look forward to these great opportunities. Thank you to everyone in our organization who contributed to bringing about this education and enjoyment! A special thanks to Marge Menacher for the many hours of planning the trips.

We have much more in store for August. There will be no business meeting in August (sorry board members...meeting will take place as usual Aug 1!), however this is a great time to visit our garden walks, featuring 3 of our projects. Check the article in the newsletter for more details.

And now - it is that time again. HOURS sheets are due by September 1. We hope that all of you have been making sure you are documenting all your sweat and toil on your forms!

DUES are to be in by September 1. Forms can be found on our website and the dues are \$30, which includes state and local fees. This is a good time to update any changes with your email, address and phone information. Linda Baeten is our member to contact if you have any questions. Thank you, Linda, for keeping us all current!

Business meetings will resume on Tuesday September 12 at 6:00 PM at the Coughlin Center. We have a line-up of speakers for fall so look forward to some great talks!

WCMGA new trainee meetings will begin in September also. These new trainees will be invited to the first hour of the business meetings during their training for the education hour. There will be two information sessions - Aug 15 at 6 PM and Aug 16 at 10 AM - for anyone interested in becoming a master gardener in Winnebago Co. If you know someone who might be interested, please let them know about these meetings

Enjoy your last days of summer!

Kathy and Linda

WHAT AM I?

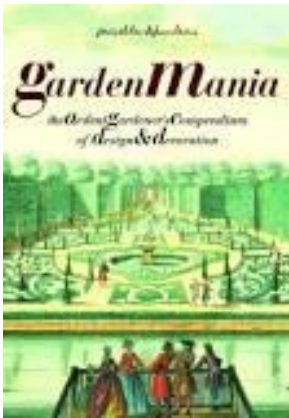
BY JANE KUHN

What Am I?

I am an old garden favorite with a long blooming season and am an herbaceous, short-lived perennial in zones 3-8. I prefer a warm, sunny location sheltered from the wind. I bloom from mid-summer to early fall with four inch double flowers borne on wand-like stems. My flowers may be blue, pink, red, white or yellow and start near the base of the stem, moving upward so that 1½-2 feet of each stem is covered with blooms throughout the season. My plants grow up to six feet in height with chartreuse, hairy leaves, 6-8 inches across and growing in clumps. I prefer rich, moist, well-drained soil

My plants may be grown from seeds started inside in spring. Once established in the garden I will often grow voluntarily from seeds dropped during the summer. Additionally my plants can be raised by selecting short side shoots from the base of the plant in fall and planting inside in pots. I am great in a cottage garden, as a background companion for shorter plants, or tucked in a corner of fencing or near a wall. I am drought resistant and low maintenance. I attract birds and butterflies.

GOOD READ



GARDEN MANIA, *The Ardent Gardener's Compendium of Design and Decoration*
BY PHILIP DE BAY AND JAMES BOLTON

This is a wonderful garden book describing the history of gardens from pavilions to pergolas, topiary to trowels, statuary to swings and slides, a very good book on the design and ornament of gardens. It has artist renderings of wonderful gardens that are landmarks of garden history. If you love English gardens, art and architecture, this book has it.

Available online at Barnes and Noble and Amazon. It is also available from the library.

The News Crew- Editors; Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Mary Jo Maher
Jane Kuhn, Lawanda Jungwirth, Renee Doner, Lynne Slat, Marge Bolding, Anne Murphy,
Eric Kropp and Maria Talin

LAWANDA'S GARDEN

BY LAWANDA JUNGWIRTH

Time to Take Stock, Plan and Refresh

Mid-summer is a good time to take a look around your yard and garden and decide what you like and what you don't. Go out to the street and approach your home from both directions, pretending to be a visitor. What do you notice first? Is there a plant that is too big, a container or display that is too small? Weeds in the flower beds? Something that needs to be moved or trimmed back?

If you are uncomfortable loitering out on the street in front of your own home, snap a few photos from various angles and study them later. Take your time and look closely to decide if changes are in order.

Mid-summer is also the time to observe which plants are successful in your garden and which are struggling. Perhaps as trees and shrubs have grown a plant that started its life in full sun now finds itself in the shade and needs to be moved. Maybe a new plant you introduced this year doesn't like the soil conditions where it is placed and would be more successful elsewhere in the yard, or even in your neighbor's yard. Possibly it is such a complete failure that the compost heap should be its new home. There's nothing wrong with making that decision!

To keep flowerbeds looking nice, deadhead annual and perennial flowers that have finished blooming. Deadheading means cutting off spent blooms. Cutting just above the leaf below the bloom usually results in a good look. Long gangly stems can be cut back even further. A kitchen scissors works fine. Along with making the flowerbed look tidy, deadheading often encourages plants to re-bloom.

In the vegetable garden, keep up with the harvesting and weeding. Spread compost between the rows if you have some available. Spread fresh mulch between the rows and around plants to help keep weeds down, regulate soil temperature, retain soil moisture and prevent diseases from splashing up from the soil. Good mulches are straw, pine needles, pulled weeds except those that have gone to seed, and even stems and leaves of plants that you've harvested. For example, use the large leaves of rhubarb, radishes or kohlrabi, spinach or greens that have bolted, and pea vines that have finished producing. Along with serving as mulch for a short time, they will compost in place and provide nutrition for the soil.

While you are working in the garden, note any pest or disease problems your plants are experiencing. If you are unable to determine what is causing a problem or to figure out how to take care of it, contact the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Plant Health Advisor hotline at 920-232-1986 or email plantadvice@co.winnebago.wi.us. We have a team of dedicated Master Gardeners eager to help!

Hopefully you will find some time between chores to relax in your garden this month and spend some quiet time dreaming of what you'd like to add or change for next year.

Consider Native Turtlehead

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The colors of the late summer garden are mostly brilliant purples, reds, oranges and yellows. Turtlehead is an easy-to-grow perennial plant native to our area whose late summer flowers provide a serene contrast to all that intensity with creamy white blooms.

The Latin name for turtlehead is *Chelone glabra*. "Chelone" is the Greek word for tortoise and it is so named because the 1-1 ½ inch flowers are shaped like the heads of turtles just poking out of their shells. The second word, "glabra," means smooth, and refers to the lack of hairs on the leaves and stems.

Turtlehead grows 1-3' tall and 1 ½'-2 ½' wide. Flowers are held in spikes on erect stems and bloom from July through September. Strappy dark green leaves are 3-6" long and edged with coarse teeth. The profile of the plant is roughly vase-shaped.

In their native habitat, turtleheads are found in wet, sunny areas, along streams and wetlands and in open woods. They are easily adaptable to the garden in rich, evenly moist soil in full sun or part shade. Mulching the plants will help to conserve moisture. As native plants, they are adapted to our climate and can tolerate short dry spells. They need no additional fertilizer.

Turtlehead can be divided in spring or in late fall after flowering. Dig the fleshy-rooted crowns and chop down the middle with a sharp spade before replanting. Plants spread slowly on their own but do not become invasive.

After blooming, attractive seed heads remain on the plants. You can propagate the plants by seed by sowing them outdoors as soon as they are ripe. Otherwise, harvest seed and sow them indoors. After sowing, place them in a refrigerator for six weeks before bringing them out to a bright location with an approximate temperature of 60°. They will germinate in two to three weeks. Even though turtlehead will survive our Wisconsin winters just fine, wait to transplant your new seedlings outdoors until after danger of spring frost is past.

Turtlehead suffers from no serious disease or insect problems but may be susceptible to mildew if the soil is too dry or air circulation around the plant is not good.

Being a native plant, turtlehead supports much wildlife, including the larvae of several butterflies, most notably the rare Baltimore Checkerspot. The nectar is a favorite of several butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

There are a few cultivars of turtlehead, with rose pink or red-violet flowers. While these plants may make a beautiful addition to your garden, be aware that the cultivars are not native plants and will not support the wildlife that the native turtlehead does.

Good landscape companion plants for turtlehead include asters, prairie phlox, Joe-pye weed, goldenrod, grasses, cardinal flower, ferns, obedient plant and great blue lobelia. Turtlehead will be as at home in a formal landscape as it is in a more natural landscape, bog garden or rain garden. They are particularly pretty at a pond's edge.

THE INVASIVE GRAPEVINE

BY LAWANDA JUNGWIRTH

(The Invasive Grapevine features a short and easy fact about invasive plant species each month)

Back in 2006, WCMGA participated in a project directed by the DNR to raise *Galerucella californiensis*, beetles that eat purple loosestrife and nothing else. The project was a success in that purple loosestrife in our area was significantly diminished. Then, the purple loosestrife population bounced back in the past several years. It was thought that the beetles ate themselves out of house and home and died for lack of food. However, loosestrife damage, beetles, eggs and larvae were spotted this year in July on the Butte des Morts Conservation Club's breakwall at Terrell's Island. Yay!!!

Here are some photos.



THE LATEST DIRT

August 8 – Oshkosh Area Humane Society Garden Walk, 5:00 – 7:00

August 8, September 18, October 17 – Education Committee meeting @ 5:30 at Benvenutos

August 15 – Shattuck Park and Neenah Library Garden Walk, 5:00 – 7:00

September 1 – Hours & Annual Dues are Due!

September 12 – Business Meeting 6 PM

August Garden Walks

Save the dates for our August garden walks. This month will feature 3 of our projects.

On August 8 (Tuesday), our Oshkosh Area Humane Society project will host a garden walk from 5 - 7 PM. Many volunteer hours have been spent over the past several years sprucing up the area. A peaceful and serene setting is the result. Outdoor memorials are now being held at the site. The address for this project is 1925 Shelter Ct Oshkosh 54901, and is located off Bowen St on the north side of Oshkosh.

On August 15 (Tuesday), our Shattuck Park and Neenah Library projects are hosting garden walks at both sites from 5-7 PM. These two projects are a short walking distance from one another and have been praised by the city of Neenah for their beauty. The address for these sites is 240 E Wisconsin Ave, Neenah 54956, and is in the downtown area of Neenah. See you there!

Project Members

If you have information about when and where you're meeting for projects and want that information posted on our Facebook page, please get the information to Anne Murphy, pakster0605@yahoo.com.

ANSWER TO "WHAT AM I?"

BY JANE JUHN

I am *Alcea rosea* L. – hollyhock. Order: Malvales. Family: Malvaceae – Mallow family. Genus: *Alcea* L. – hollyhock. Species: *Alcea rosea* L. – hollyhock. Hollyhocks were found in the grave of a Neanderthal man from more than 50,000 years ago. Tudors used hollyhock dried roots for additions to their wine to stave off blood clots and miscarriages. At his flowerbeds at Monticello, Thomas Jefferson bred a variety of hollyhock that was dark red in color.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS



Photos by Eric Kropp- Flowers at Ocatgon House (left and middle); Grass Pink– a native orchid that grows in bogs. Spruce Bog Lake at the Kettle Moraine (right)



Photos by Jane Kuhn- First monarch caterpillar of the season on the swamp milkweed at Parkview. Second photo- Master Gardener Donna showing the caterpillar to a resident of Parkview

August 2017



Octagon House - Photo by Eric Kropp

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Board Meeting</i>	2 Winnebago County Fair	3 Winnebago County Fair	4 Winnebago County Fair	5 Winnebago County Fair
6 Winnebago County Fair	7	8 <i>Education Meeting</i> <i>Garden Walk</i>	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 <i>Garden Walk</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Sept. 1! Hours and Dues are due!	

Reminder - Hours Due September 1