



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER DECEMBER 2009 - NEWSLETTER

(click here to go directly to website) www.winnebagomastergardeners.org 920-232-1986

NICK'S NOTE

Seventy feet and vining

One of the goals I set when starting work in Winnebago County back in January of 2008 was to care for the vining plant in my new office well enough that it will wrap all the way around the inside so the tips touch at the opposite wall. I think it's a vine variety of Philodendron, but as you know, houseplants and ornamentals aren't my strong subject. The tips are about four feet away from touching right now. There are four vines over 10 feet with the longest being nearly 20 feet. Add on three more four foot vines and I figure there is just shy of 70 feet in my office. So what is the secret to making an office more jungle-like you ask? My recipe is a healthy sized pinch of balanced fertilizer three times per year, a big coffee mug full of water on Monday morning and Friday afternoon and then whatever water is left in the bottom of my glass at the end of each workday. For better recommendations about caring for houseplants during winter, let's read what Ann Wied, Waukesha County UWEX, posted in the Master Gardener archives:

During winter, houseplants are exposed to lower humidity and warmer daytime and cooler nighttime temperatures. Winter is also when most houseplants are in their yearly resting or dormant period. Because of this, you may want to adjust your plant care routine during winter.

Temperature

Nearly all indoor plants will do just fine in rooms where daytime temperatures are as high as 75°F and evening temperatures are cool. There can be a problem though, when there is a sudden drop in temperature. This change may be fatal to houseplants. To avoid this problem, seal window cracks (to avoid drafts) and move plants off windowsills during sub-zero weather. Placing plants near a heating vent or heater may also harm a plant.

Watering

In winter, growth slows down and may even stop. Because of this, watering two to three times a month is usually sufficient. When you do water, use

room-temperature water, do not use water that has been softened with salt, and water thoroughly so all the soil is wet. During winter, many cacti and succulents go into semi-dormancy so water only to prevent the plants from shriveling up.

Fertilization and Repotting

Fertilizing in winter is generally not recommended for most plants. Plants should be fertilized when they are actively growing which is during late spring, summer and early fall. Repotting is also not recommended in winter. The best time to repot a houseplant is when the growth season is commencing – usually early spring. Never repot, unless you have to, during a plant's resting or dormant period.

Humidity

Home heating systems can produce very dry air during the cold winter months. They take moisture out of the air, making the humidity level often lower than twenty percent. This dry air not only makes us feel uncomfortable, but also is not good for most houseplants. Very few plants like such dry conditions, but cacti and succulents can generally tolerate these low humidity levels. Most houseplants grow best at 40-60% humidity, but can tolerate levels as low as 20%. You may want to consider increasing the humidity around your plants. The easiest way is with a cool-vapor humidifier that can increase humidity levels by 25-30%. Another option is to grow plants in a waterproof tray with an inch of pebbles, crushed rock, or sand. Water up to, but not above the level of stony material. And make sure the pots do not sit in water or the plants risk getting root rot. Misting to increase humidity is not recommended since it provides only a temporary benefit. It may also create water stains and cause nearby floors, furniture, or walls to rot.

PROJECT OF THE MONTH NEWSLETTER

This month our Project is a little different. The newsletter tries to feature a different project every month for you to learn about and to see another avenue for you to use to get your hours in.

This month we will show case the newsletter. Although it is not a typical project seen as a way of achieving the hours goal it is an avenue open to all of our members. Anything you do for the newsletter is considered Community Education and the hours can and should be taken.

You are more than welcome to contribute a story, an article even a poem or another item which can be used in the newsletter. For instance that trip to Europe you took would be of great interest to most of our readers. It would let us know where to or not to go when we get the chance to visit. We would love to see some pictures of the breathtaking garden you got to see. Please share with us. If you don't want to write it yourself send the information to us and we will write it for you giving you copy to okay before it is printed.

One item I have asked all of you for in the past is your Bio. I realize now that I failed to mention that the time you take to write it can be taken as hours. It is seldom if ever that MG's are asked to do things for which the time invested can not be taken as hours. If you haven't sent your Bio. yet, please do so now. If you have sent one and didn't take the hours for it please do so.

If you have a problem with mobility or finding the time to go out away from home to put in your hours consider adding to our Newsletter.

BIRTHDAYS OF DECEMBER



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

**Kathy Daniels, Ken Hawk, Diane Iott,
John Procknow and Audrey Ruedinger**

Organic Gardening Tip of the Month

From Lawanda Jungwirth

Some unusual items that you can add to your compost bin:

Dryer lint

Pet hair

Contents of your bagless vacuum

There is no good way to empty a bagless vacuum

indoors without getting dust all over the place. It's much

easier to take it outside and dump it into the compost bin

(make sure you stand upwind) and then rap the filter

against the inside of the bin a few times to dislodge the dust.

SAVE ! THE DATES SAVE !

Monday November 30 2009

WCMG Awards Dinner

Saturday February 13, 2010

WCMG Bus Trip to Garden Expo in Madison

Saturday February 27, 2010

WCMG All Day Seminar featuring Malinda Meyer

**Watch the newsletter each month for
more info on these events and more.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



The list of our newest members. They have all graduated from our Master Gardener Class of 2009 which finished November 18.

Congratulations!

VICKI CHRISTMAN

AMY MAXSON

LINDA PETEK - YVONNE MOLINSKI

CYNTHIA SCHAEFER - LANCE SCHAEFER

KIMBERLY SCHARPF - MARCELL VIDITO -

STACY VOIGHT - NEIL WILSON

SHARI FROST - KAREN FRITTITTA

BETTE HOYTINK - JULIE LANG - LARRY LANG

RICHARD MALCHOW



Parkview Vegetable Garden – 2009

A Sanctioned Core Project

Project Leaders: Judy and Al Harms

1. Project Goals: To work with the Parkview Clients in all gardening phases to grow vegetables for them to pick, eat and enter in the Winnebago County Fair.

2. Impact: The clients enjoy working in the garden, being outside enjoying the weather and seeing the vegetables grow. The Parkview Staff was very happy with the project and helped us in all phases.

3. How the garden project progressed: Last year without raised bed gardens and containers located in shady areas, the clients had problems in working the gardens and the crops produced little fruit. To remedy the situation Parkview paid for the materials and Bill and Tom Weber built two Raised Bed Gardens in a sunny area.

Some of the containers were still used, with others turned over to the flower garden area for growing flowers.

The vegetables grown were tomatoes, onions, carrots, zucchini, pumpkins, gourds, cucumbers, peppers, oregano, potatoes, string beans and chives. The crops produced adequate produce considering the weather.

The Flower Garden volunteers and Parkview Personal helped by watering during the dry part of the summer.

4. They are planning on continuing the project next year and a meeting will be held in the Spring with the staff to decide what produce will be grown.



ELECTION RESULTS



President; Mary Wiedenmeyer, Kathy Daniels

Treasurer: Alice Graf

Board seat; Audrey Ruedinger

Vice President Pro Tem; Ivan Placko

CONGRATULATIONS ALL !!!

TREE OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER

Lace Bark Pine

(*Pinus Bungeana*)



December's Tree of the Month sheds its greygreen young bark color to reveal a blotched bark pattern of red, olive-brown, and purple.

It has needles and cones but other than that, this pine barely resembles most

pine trees. Its spreading, multi-trunk form gives it an unconventional oval shape, although it can also be trained as a single-trunk tree. Look below the evergreen needles to find its most ornamental feature: the exfoliating bark.

In its native Asia, lacebark pine enjoys a fabled history. Cultivated widely for its attractive bark, it can often be found on the grounds of Buddhist temples. Korea has designated some of its oldest and largest lacebark pines national monuments. China boasts the most storied lacebark pine of all. In Beihai Park in Beijing stands a lacebark pine to which Chinese Emperor Qian Long gave the title the White-Robed General. The tree still stands, right where Qian Long enjoyed resting with his consorts in the eighteenth century.

Mature height: 30' to 40' tall with a similar spread
Rate of growth: Slow

From: Morton Arboretum
SHERRIE WILSON - SUE EGNER
HAROLD CLARK - JANET CLARK

Flowers are our greatest silent Friends.
Jim G. Brown

December - What Am I:

By Bruce Abraham

I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family Cornaceae; Genus Cornus L. I am found naturally in the following habitats: cliff, savanna, and the following forests: beech, boreal, northern upland and lowland, and southern upland and lowland. I grow from 6' – 18' tall with slender branches somewhat horizontal with the ground and with a flat-topped crown - I am deciduous. My woody stem (or multiple stems, as a shrub) is smooth, dark green when I am young, but as I age turns light brown with shallow fissures. My alternate, simple, oval, medium to dark green leaves are 2-1/2" – 5" long and tend to cluster near the end of branch tips. In the autumn, my leaves turn to a mix of yellow and reddish-purple. I bloom from May through July with small, white flowers in flat-topped clusters that are 2" – 4" in diameter. Following my bloom, I then produce a bluish-black 3/8" drupe (fruit with a single seed) in clusters with the fruit stalks turning reddish in color. Although my fruit is not long-lasting, they are enjoyed by birds with very few, if any, left to wither. What Am I?

This issue we are lucky to have 2 what am I's. We have Bruce Abraham's final contribution and Jane Kuhn with her first "What am I." Bruce, thank you very much for all your work in the past we have all enjoyed trying to get it right. We now welcome Jane Kuhn to continue what you began.



Park View Christmas Bouquet/Gift Bag Making

At the November meeting, 12 people signed up to help with this event. Thank you so much! This will take place on Monday-December 7 at 1:30 (and may last until about 3:30). Please bring along a pair of wire cutters to cut the artificial flowers. We will be working in the Great Room-- the one at the end of the foyer as you enter Park View. If you haven't signed up and would like to do so, please call Dorothy Bonnin at 836-2868 or Pat Behm at 410-3290. The residents and the staff make this a joyous activity with music to add sparkle as we put these centerpieces together. Enjoy the Christmas season!

MG of the Month-December

Janet Clark

Our next Master Gardeners of the month will be our newest members who we are all eager to get to know. Please allow me to introduce to you the first member of the class of 2009. - **Janet Clark**

After having 32 address in my life, we have been settled in Oshkosh for 9 wonderful years; the first time having lived at one address for more than 6 years. Being a military "brat" kept all our outgrown clothes, toys and unnecessary stuff weeded from closets, basements and garages.

I met my Wisconsin Knight in Missouri of all places. Shortly after getting married we moved to St. Paul/Minneapolis, Minnesota. Four addresses and four children later we were on to Iowa before landing in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Rapids, River Falls, Wausau and Fond du Lac have addresses that we occupied before settling here in Oshkosh. With every new home, gardens were begun. Never was I able to completely go around the house with gardens until we moved here. I am now under orders not to plant any new gardens, just maintain and recreate the dozens we already have. (My husband loves to mow the yard. When he has a bad day he is known to mow twice in the same day!!)

What started out to be my therapy for a sane life, is now my passion. Perennials are my favorite. There is very little that can get me all excited and gitty like a young school girl than to see our plants coming back to life in the spring. The first little nubs breaking thru the ground or the peeking out of a bud on a vine or bush has me all in a tither! My husband just doesn't know what to do with me!

I have found such joy learning about the plants I enjoy so much. And to be around others who have the same interest, enjoyment and passion just thrills me.



WELCOME to the Winnebago County Master Gardeners, Janet. We are all glad you are here

ANSWER WHAT AM I:

Answer: I am a perennial tree - Taxon: *Cornus alternifolia* L.f.; common name: pagoda dogwood, alternate-leaved dogwood, green osier dogwood



References:
<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/>
and associated links

receive a \$25 gift certificate of her choice for coming up with *Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams*. It seemed to best fit the spirit of the seminar, which will feature two presentations by nationally known garden expert, Melinda Myers, and a tour of English gardens by Education Committee Chair Roy Anne Moulton. Melinda Myers is the author of over 20 gardening books, a frequent speaker and the host of Great Lakes Gardener.

A brochure with full details on the day's events will be distributed in November, but be sure to mark the date now for this winter get-away. If you would like to sign-up to help with planning and for the event, please contact a sub-committee lead to find out what needs to be done. They are all listed in the member directory.

Publicity: Roy Anne Moulton or Linda Werner
Registration: Diane Iott and Audrey Ruedinger
Food, Door Prizes, Decorations: Linda Loker,
Arlene and Bob Kosanke
Book Sale: Linda Baeten and Marge Menacher

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GARDENING

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's roses.
Thou shalt honor thy mum and thy poppy.
Thou shalt not plant it if thou cannot spell it.
Thou shalt not feel silly talking to thy plants.
Thou shalt nurture thy bleeding heart and thy weeping willow.
Thou shalt dig in thy dirt, not dish thy dirt.
Thou shalt bloom where thou be planted.
Thy plants shall be expelled from thy Garden of Weeden.
Thou shalt forget-me-not with friendship everlasting.
Thou shalt rest on the seventh daisy.
And remember...
Thy wild oats are best sewn in thy garden.

From Joni Pagel / Author Unknown

Winter Escape – Summer Dreams Coming in February



February 27, 2010 is the date and LaSure's Banquet Hall in



Oshkosh the place for a daylong gardening seminar planned by the Education Committee. *Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams* is now officially the name of this event. Congratulations to Lawanda Jungwirth for submitting the winning title. She will

MASTER GARDENER BUSINESS MEETING

November 10, 2009

COUGHLIN CENTER, 6:15 PM

A Special Program was presented to the Membership this evening. Andy Krueger is a beekeeper from Winneconne who shared her knowledge of bees and honey. She does presentations at schools as well. The Business meeting followed.

Members Present:

Jerry Robak, Linda Loker, Stanley Meyer, Linda Baeten, Jane Kuhn, Linda Tobey, Roy Anne Moulton, Bette Hoytink, Kim Scharpf, Bob Potter, Joni Pagel, Cindy Meszaros, Audrey Ruedinger, Synda Jones, Patty Schmitz, Ken Hawk, Linda Christensen Anne Murphy, Marge Menacher, Marty Sacksteder, Arlene Kosanke, Alice Graf, Kathy Daniels, Mary Wiedenmeier, Nick Schneider, Debbie Quandt, Julie Henke, Rosemary Smith, Ruth Freye, Lil Hansche, David Leverance, Diana Dougherty, Becky Gratz, Diane Iott, Linda Werner, Al Harms, Judy Harms. (One name I couldn't read)

The Meeting was called to order by Co-President Mary Wiedenmeier.
A sign-up sheet was passed around for Park View wreath making.

Treasurer's Report – Alice Graf

The balance as of 10/31/09 is:

Cash On Hand	\$ 100.00
Checking	\$13,166.78
CD Renewal 2/22/10	\$ 5,072.34
Total all Accounts	\$18,339.12

A handout was available with the details. A question came up whether we should invest in another CD. Alice will look into it after expenses from the Awards Banquet are settled.

Secretary's Report:

There were no corrections to the October Minutes as printed in the Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Review of Elections – Roy Anne

Roy Anne gave the membership a summary of the Board positions. See the By Laws, Article 6, posted on the Website.

- President (2 year term due 2009) Mary Wiedenmeier & Kathy Daniels, Co-presidents
- Treasurer (2 year term due 2009) Alice Graf
- Vice President (2 year term due in 2010) Steve Schueler (recently resigned)
- Secretary (2 year term due in 2010) Linda Baeten
- 4 Board Members (3 year terms) Audrey Ruedinger, Stanley Meyer, Ken Hawk and Bob Potter
- 2 past officers (1 year term), currently Sue Bohn, past Vice president and Linda Werner, past Secretary
- Chair of the Education Committee, Roy Ann Moulton.

Tonight we need to elect new officers for President and Treasurer, and because of Steve's resignation, a Vice President for the remaining one year of that office. We also need to elect one board member as Audrey's term is due. There are 11 positions on the Board. Past officers and the Chair of the Education Committee are not elected positions. Announcements had gone out to the membership, and any certified Master Gardener who wished to run for an office was encouraged to do so. The ballot tonight reflects those who came forward. Nominations are also accepted from the floor. No new nominations came forward. There was also a space for write in candidates for each office up for election. The ballots were passed out and a vote was taken.

Linda Baeten counted the ballots with the help of Stan Meyer and Bob Potter. Election results are:

- Mary Wiedenmeier/Kathy Daniels, Co-Presidents
- Alice Graf, Treasurer
- Ivan Placko, Vice President
- Audrey Ruedinger, Board Member

Our current officers won the election, and will not be assuming the role of Past Officer on the Board. Sue Bohn and Linda Werner's term as Past Officer is up in December leaving two vacant positions. These would not be elected positions, but would be decided by the Board. Mary encouraged members to let the Board know if anyone is interested in serving. This would be a one year term and a great opportunity to be involved.

Education Committee – Roy Anne Moulton

Progress is being made on the February 27th Garden Event – "Winter Escape, Summer Dreams"

- Saturday, February 27th, from 8:00 to 3:00 at LaSure's Banquet Hall
- Featured speakers Melinda Myers and Roy Anne Moulton
- Cost is \$35.00 with breakfast and lunch included.
- Melinda Myer's books for sale, with price above wholesale going to the Master Gardeners.
- Members were asked to forward any lists of clubs, or e-mails of groups that they feel would be especially interested in the program as we are gathering mailing addresses.
- A "Save the Date" post card will go out before Thanksgiving.
- A brochure and registration form will be posted on the website.
- Posters will be available for members to post at their church or work place.

Other New Business

Project Leads: Nick reminded the Project Leads to come and talk to the Basic MG Class to promote their projects. There are only 2 classes left. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the last class. Also, Project Leads need to get their presentations together to present at the January and February Membership Meetings.

Newsletter: Linda Tobey suggested those in the Basic class write a short biography for the Newsletter so we can get to know them better.

MG Apparel: Marty delivered MG Apparel tonight. She can do another order before Christmas. Let her know.

WPT Garden Expo Bus Trip: Karen Wedde announced there will be a bus going to the Madison Expo on February 13, 2010. Plans are being made. Also, our very own Roy Anne Moulton will be presenting at the Expo this year. She will have a program on pruning ornamental shrubs.

Membership Booklet: Mary Wiedenmeier announced the new Membership Booklet will be available at the Awards Banquet on November 30th, as well as Membership Cards and Stickers. Those not picked up at the banquet will be mailed. If anyone has changes for the Booklet, such as new e-mail addresses, contact Dawn Kent ASAP,

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – December 8, 2009
NO BUSINESS MEETING IN DECEMBER –
AWARDS BANQUET, NOVEMBER 30 – SIGN
UP!**

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Baeten

LONGER LASTING CHRISTMAS TREE TIPS

1. Refresh the tree by making a straight cut, taking one inch off the butt and immediately place in water. This will improve water uptake

2. Place the tree in a stand that can hold at least 1 gallon of water. You should expect the tree to take up additional water. Water the new tree until water uptake stops.



3. Always keep the base of a tree in water. If the base dries out, resin will form over the cut end and the tree will not be able to absorb water and will dry out quickly. You don't need anything other than regular tap water - drying out deters future water uptake and will need a new cut. Commercially prepared mixes like aspirin, sugar and other additives introduced into the water are not necessary. Research has shown that plain water will keep a tree fresh.

check for worn Christmas tree light electrical cords and always unplug at night. Use UL approved electrical decorations and cords. Using miniature lights produce less heat and reduce the drying effect on the tree or any chance of fire.

4. Take down the tree before it dries out. Many fresh cut trees if properly cared for (using the first five steps) should last at least five weeks before drying out. Some species keep their moisture longer than others.



Tips:

1. Cutting a refresh cookie off the tree base is important only when trees have been cut for over 4 hours.
2. For easier watering, buy a funnel and a 3 to 4 foot tube. Slip the tube over the funnel outlet, extend tubing down into the tree stand and water without bending over or disturbing the tree skirt. Hide this system in an out-of-the-way part of the tree.



We would like to introduce you to our new What Am I: writer. This segment will now be written by Jane Kuhn. Here is Jane's first installment

What Am I?

I am an evergreen tree native to most of Northern United States and into Canada. I am a small to medium-size tree typically 46–66 ft tall, rarely to 89 ft tall, with a narrow conic crown. My bark on young trees is smooth, grey, and with resin blisters (which tend to spray when ruptured), becoming rough and fissured or scaly on old trees. My leaves are flat needle-like, ½–1 in long, dark green above often with a small patch of stomata near the tip, and two white stomatal bands below, and a slightly notched tip. They are arranged spirally on the shoot, but with the leaf bases twisted to appear in two more-or-less horizontal rows. My cones are erect, 1½–3 in long, dark purple, ripening brown and disintegrating to release the winged seeds in September.

I provide food for moose, American red squirrels, crossbills and chickadees, as well as shelter for moose, snowshoe hares, white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse and other small mammals and songbirds. My needles are eaten by some lepidopteran caterpillars, for example the lo moth (*Automeris io*). I am easily transplanted because of my shallow root system, prefer cold climates and well-drained, acidic soil. I dislike heat and dry air and am not well-adapted to cultivation. I am widely used as Christmas tree.

Getting ready for winter

Last winter the rabbits did a lot of damage to landscape plants. The only sure way to protect your landscape from hungry bunnies this winter is by fencing.

Simple chicken wire fencing is easy to use and relatively cheap. Use a wire cutters to cut the length you need, place it around the plant and hook the cut wires into the openings on the other side and you're done.

Last winter the snow got so deep that many people were forced to put another level of above the first layer.



fencing

Plants like arborvitae, magnolia, burning bush, spirea, bridal wreath, ornamental plum, and Nanking cherry are especially susceptible to rabbits, but if they get hungry enough, they will sample anything. So if you have a plant that is valuable to you, it is best to fence it.

There are rabbit repellent sprays you can purchase, but neither the products nor the sprayers work as well in winter as in warmer weather, and really, do you want to be out there in the cold after every snowstorm re-spraying your plants?

Another important winter preparation is laying a 4-6 inch layer of winter mulch. Not all plants need this, but any perennial, tree or shrub facing its first winter should be mulched. This isn't to protect them from cold temperatures, but rather from repeated freezing and thawing that will damage the roots or even heave the plants above the soil line. Mums, coral bells and many roses are especially susceptible to freeze/thaw damage and should be mulched every year.

But wait – don't put the winter mulch down yet! Do it after the ground has frozen, typically around Thanksgiving. Otherwise you will make a nice little mulch nest for mice and other critters, complete with a snack bar. For the same reason, keep the mulch a short distance away from the plant stems.

An exception is strawberries, which should be entirely covered with mulch when temperatures are forecast to dip to 20° F.

Good materials for winter mulch are loose materials like pine needles and hay or straw. Wood chips and bark also work. Leaves are not good as they tend to clump together into a heavy mat from the weight of snow.

Remember to turn off the water supply to outside faucets, drain and put away hoses, and make notes of any ideas you have for next year's garden.

Evergreens without needles

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The 4-foot arborvitae shrubs in front of my house were planted almost 40 years ago when the house was built. For the 18 years that they've been mine, I've dutifully trimmed back the bright flush of spring growth each year to keep them from growing too wide and tall and looking unsightly.

This year, I realized that not only are they very tired looking shrubs, they are boring. I wanted to brighten up the landscape in front of the house and make it more interesting. Many hours of thought and visualization later, after considering and rejecting numerous ideas, I realized that the area

definitely needed something evergreen so that it would look nice in winter too.

At my sister-in-law's house, I saw and fell in love with 'Green Velvet' boxwood. I didn't even know what it was at first. I only knew boxwood as a sharply-edged rigid green hedge that is commonly used to mark the boundaries of formal gardens. In contrast, 'Green Velvet' grows in a lovely mounded shape and has the most beautiful soft looking oval leaves. And something else I didn't know about boxwood – it is evergreen!

But the mounded shape of 'Green Velvet' wouldn't be right for my front yard. I needed something that would grow in a more upright form. Some internet research turned up 'Green Mountain' boxwood. I purchased four of them and they have replaced the old arborvitae shrubs in the front of the house.

'Green Mountain' has crisp green leaves, in an elongated oval shape. Very pretty, and perfect for where I planted it, but I really loved those 'Green Velvet' leaves. So the next week, out went some scraggly mugho pines in the backyard and in went two 'Green Velvet' boxwoods.

I began to wonder what else could replace the typical needled evergreens in landscapes and found that there are many broadleaved evergreen shrubs. Unfortunately, I also discovered that the majority of evergreen shrubs grow in USDA Hardiness Zone 6 and higher. But I did find a few for our Zone 4/5 area here.

Some of them are mountain laurel, wintercreeper euonymous, Labrador tea, daphne 'Burkwoodi', euonymous 'Emerald 'n'Gold', and some hollies and rhododendrons.

There are also some plants that we don't usually think of as shrubs that hold their leaves all winter and provide substance to the winter landscape. These include lavender, yucca 'Adam's Needle', some artemesias, periwinkle, common sage and rue 'Jackman's Blue'.

Some of the plants listed above don't have green-colored foliage, but are still considered evergreen since they hold their leaves. Lavender, artemesia, sage and rue's leaves are silvery or dusty green. The 'Emerald 'n' Gold' euonymous has green leaves with bright golden margins. In winter the leaf edges turn a pretty pinkish burgundy color.

These plants all have different growing requirements, so before you buy, do some research to make sure that the spot you have in mind for them has the right amount of sunlight or shade, and the proper soil moisture and pH.

Answer to What Am I: by Jane Kuhn

I am a fir tree: *Abies balsamea*; common name: balsam fir. The genus *Abies* (True Firs) is composed of about 40 species, 9 of those native to North America. The word *balsamea* is the ancient word for the balsam tree, referring to the resinous pockets or blisters in the bark.



References:
<http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/> and associated links



SANCTIONED 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
Lincoln School	
Karen Wedde	231-9696
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
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	
Barbara Kuhn	426-2920
Rushford Town hall	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Carol Dorsch	589-5936
Shared Harvest	
Ken Friedman	235-6766
Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity	
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 (VP)	426-1363
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Bohn	685-0427
Linda Werner	725-8168
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
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
Historian	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
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	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Hours	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Bruce Abraham	231-3747
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

December 8 - Board Meeting – 6:00PM

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.





2009

“Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays”
 From Linda & Jean to all of you

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	MG Awards Dinner 	1 ADVANCED CLASS 6PM	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 BOARD MEETING 6 PM ADVANCED CLASS 6PM	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 LAST ADVANCED CLASS 6PM	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24		26
27	28	29	30	31	WELCOME 2010	

This calendar is a perfect place to record your hours