



Winnebago County Master Gardener

December 2013

Volunteer Newsletter

Mission Statement

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

Presidents' Letter

Education is one of the centerpieces of our Master Gardener Association—community education, youth education, member continuing learning, and educating the community about Master Gardeners. October was a busy month for several education projects. Linda Petek and Linda Baeten, with great support by Michelle Peplow, created a collage type exhibit in the main display case in Coughlin. Please take time to check it out! (Buckthorn and garlic mustard plants courtesy of Audrey and Lawanda!!)

Linda Petek and I taped a segment on the CATV-2 Helping Hands program about volunteer activities in Oshkosh. The segment will run many times during December and hopefully will carry our message to potential Master Gardeners and others interested in our projects and activities. We also spoke at the Winnebago County Board meeting to express the Association's thanks for Board support of horticulture education in the County. The Oshkosh Garden Club invited us to their meeting to give them an overview of Master Gardeners—and to share their club's story with us. You all should be proud of the high regard for our organization that exists in the communities thank to all your hard work.

WIMGA awards funds for educational projects each year and this year, thanks to the great story put together by Linda Werner and the education committee, we received two awards. The first is a \$100 grant to support children's educational activities at the Oshkosh Farmer's Market, and the second is a \$250 grant for some new signage with displays that can be changed to highlight project progress and educational features.

Recognition about many other of the year's activities will occur at the December 3 Awards dinner at Bridgewood in Neenah. The Association pays part of the meal cost for members, and a lesser amount for guests. We hope to see you there.

Take care.

Mary and Linda



Awards Banquet on
December 3 at
Bridgewood Resort

6:00 Social

7:00 Buffet
Dinner

..... **from our Advisor**

As we finish up 2013, I want to take the time to thank everyone for your volunteer service. Winnebago County Master Gardener's volunteered a total of 7,291 hours to communities in the county. In particular, 5,937 hours of support service, 924 hours of community education, and 430 hours of youth education were donated. Plus, 2,237 hours of continuing education was attended. Your hard work truly makes a difference in Winnebago County. So, before you start planning for 2014 take the time to reflect on and acknowledge all the good things you have done.



Project Leads Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2014
5:00 eat.....5:30 meeting

The subject for the 2014 Level 2 training will be Branching Out - Woody plants and more. The training will be web based, archived, and available for you to watch from home. The format will be a recorded presentation that you can watch at your convenience and then a live Q & A session with the speakers on Tuesdays at 10:00. The individual topics are tentatively: selection with Laura Jull; EAB Update with Chris Williamson; Tree-ID with Mike Maddox, and Benefits of Trees with DNR Urban Foresters. Costs will be somewhere in the ballpark of \$30. As more details come available I will let you know. If anyone is interested in attending this training at the UWEX office please let me know.

I hope everyone has a good holiday season and happy new year!

Kimberly

How an Invasive Plant *Almost* Spread

By Lawanda Jungwirth

I was asked to collect a few invasive plants for the display window in the hallway at the Coughlin Center. I had seen some teasel on the roadside so one day I took my lopper along when I went to the grocery store and stopped on the way home to chop down a giant specimen. It was about five feet tall, so I lowered the back seat and laid the blanket we use when our dog rides in the car under the plant.

When I hit the brakes at the next corner (okay maybe I was going a little too fast), a gallon jug of milk came rolling forward right onto the teasel. When I got home, I discovered that while the milk jug didn't crush the plant, it did dislodge hundreds of teasel seeds. I very carefully picked each and every one of them off the dog's blanket and put them in the garbage can in a plastic bag.

The point of my little story is this: If I hadn't noticed the spilled seed, our dog's fur would have picked up the seeds and possibly deposited them in one of two places: the Wiouwash Trail or the duck hunting marsh along the Fox River, neither of which currently have a teasel problem.

The experience made me realize how easily an invasive plant can be inadvertently spread and the importance of educating the public so they are aware and diligent in making sure that it doesn't happen.

Lay Out the Welcome Mat for Winter Wildlife

By Lawanda Jungwirth

How are you coming along with your fall yard and garden clean-up? Still have a ways to go? Wouldn't it be much easier to leave the annuals standing, the perennials uncut, the leaves unraked and the brush piles unburned?

You could just quit now and allow your yard to be a haven of shelter and food for the many creatures of winter. Don't feel guilty or lazy, because you'd be doing a big favor for the birds that will eat seed heads of the weeds and flowers and find shelter from winter's cold winds in the brush pile. Toads and other amphibians will be happy to dig in and spend the winter under a pile of brush or wood chips. Ladybugs, that most beneficial of garden insects for the service they do in controlling aphids, like to overwinter under piles of garden debris. Bees that don't live in colonies need places to dig in and sleep over the winter as well. Birds will be thrilled to use long grasses, dried vines, weeds or stems of this year's plants to build their nests next spring. The microorganisms that are so vital to soil health will thrive as leaves left on the lawn decompose and nourish the soil, which in turn will provide valuable nutrients to the grass. However, a thick layer of leaves can mat down and kill the grass, so use your lawn mower to run over them a few times to shred them into smaller pieces.

Is there a dead tree on your property that you've been putting off cutting down? If it's not going to fall on your house or your neighbor's car, save yourself the trouble. Hollow trees give owls and other cavity-nesting birds a place to set up housekeeping. The bark of dead trees houses a myriad of tunneling insects that feed many bird species. The rotting trunks and branches host beneficial fungi and lichens that birds eat or use for nesting materials.

One caveat - any diseased plants or plant parts should be removed and buried or burned.

If I haven't convinced you to let things go a bit and you prefer doing a thorough fall cleanup, you can still welcome birds this winter with a bird feeder or two. Place the feeders in a sheltered area that you'll be able to access to refill once the snow gets deep. Try to place them within ten feet of trees or shrubs so the birds can escape and hide from neighborhood cats or other things that frighten them.

Use the coming winter to plan how to make your yard more welcoming to birds and other critters next year. A variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers that provide berries, nuts, nectar, nesting materials and shelter will attract the most wildlife, especially if you select plants native to our region.





Kale is Still Standing After the Frost

By Lawanda Jungwirth



After the first hard frost of autumn had blackened the basil, wilted the peppers and knocked down the nasturtiums, one plant still stood proudly in the vegetable garden – the kale.

There are three types of kale and you are probably most familiar with the one that has been around the shortest time. Ornamental kale with its beautiful frilly-leaved heads of purple, deep red, pink and white are a standout in autumn flower gardens, but it has only been around for about 25 years. It was first cultivated commercially in California in the 1980s and is sometimes called salad savoy.

Two other types of kale have been cultivated in the U.S. since the 17th century. One is crinkly-leaved and the other's leaves have an embossed texture. There are many cultivars for each type, all of which differ in taste, appearance and texture. A quick read of the seed packet or description in the seed catalog will help you decide which to plant.

In general, ornamental kale, which is also edible, has the sweetest flavor, crinkly-leaved kale has a bitter, peppery flavor, and the smoother-leaved varieties have a milder, more delicate taste.

Kale is easy to grow. The seeds are the size of large pinheads and are planted ¼” deep in the soil. Spacing between plants and rows varies by type planted as varieties range greatly in height and width. Again, check the seed packet.

Kale planted in spring will produce all summer and into fall. A second crop can be planted in August for fall harvest. In fact, fall frosts change the flavor to more sweet and less bitter. Consistent water throughout the growing season produces the best leaves.

Leaves can be harvested individually for salads as soon as plants are a few inches tall. Harvest continues throughout the season by always removing the outermost leaves. A heavy mulch placed around the plants in fall could possibly allow harvesting throughout the winter, depending on the severity of the weather.

Kale's popularity is exploding in the health food world. At only 33 calories per cup, it is high in Vitamins A and C and also provides potassium, calcium, iron, magnesium, protein and Vitamin B-6.

Kale can be stored unwashed in the refrigerator in plastic storage bags for about five days. The longer it is stored, the more bitter its flavor becomes. It can be frozen by blanching the leaves for 2 ½ minutes, spreading them on cookie sheets in the freezer until crisp, then packed in plastic freezer bags.

Kale is eaten raw in salads, as cooked greens, or added to stir-fries or soups. Kale chips are made by washing the leaves, drying them in a salad spinner or patting them with a clean towel, and tearing them into bite-sized pieces. Place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper and drizzle with olive oil and seasoned salt. Bake at 350° until crisp but not burnt, 10-15 minutes.

What Am I?

by Jane Kuhn

I am a genus of over 300 species and numerous garden hybrids distributed over most of the world, especially in North America and Asia. My genus is made up of mostly woody, deciduous climbing plants, though a few are evergreen (in warmer climates) and a few herbaceous. I have a great variety in flower form, color, bloom season, foliage effect and plant height. My leaves are opposite and mostly compound with three to five leaflets. My leaf stalk twines like a tendril and is responsible for giving my plant support. My flowers are showy, having from four to eight petal-like sepals (no true petals) in numerous colors and shades. I grow best in cool, moist, well-drained soil in full sun. After flowering I have attractive seed heads which stay on the plant and add winter interest to the garden.

Propagation of my plant is done by division or basal cuttings of herbaceous species in spring. Pruning needs vary based on bloom times. For plants that flower on last year's vines, avoid cutting them to the ground in spring. Those that flower on current year vines can be cut to the ground each year. A common sense approach would be to leave the prior year's growth in place until mid spring. Begin pruning only when you can see which vines are dead and which ones are starting to leaf out. Incorrect pruning will not bring an early death to my plant. At worst it will only delay flowering.



Christmas Gift Idea for the Gardeners on Your List

There are still some copies of *Down the Garden Path with Lawanda* available for sale. You can cross all the gardeners off your holiday shopping list and support WCMGA projects at the same time by purchasing a copy. See www.winnebagomastergardeners.org and click on WCMGA Fundraisers. Or call or email Lawanda Jungwirth at 920-826-2878 or ljungwirth@new.rr.com to obtain a copy. Cost is \$15.

Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to dldoug5@charter.net

Please send me a picture and short paragraph about how your projects did this summer.



Flower Arranging

December 2

Answer to What Am I?

I am clematis. Family: Ranunculaceae (buttercup family). Tribe: Anemoneae. Genus: Clematis L. The genus name is from the Ancient Greek word clematis meaning vine.

Clematis leaves are food for the caterpillars of some Lepidoptera species, including the Willow Beauty (*Peribatodes rhomboidaria*).



Clematis seed heads in winter

Resources: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Master Gardeners Business Meeting

November 12, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Presentation: Dani Stolley: Growing Oshkosh

Dani gave a presentation of the start, progress and future of Growing Oshkosh.

It is community based organization, although they are not certified as organic, they do use all natural methods of gardening. They sell their produce at farmers market and also assist head start, senior centers, and the low income with the produce. They also donate to the food pantry.

The new projects this year were raised beds and building of a compose bin.

Growing Oshkosh was associations with The Wild Ones, UW Oshkosh, Fox Valley Tech, and many other organizations.

They have many volunteers who help them but are always looking for more.

Growing Oshkosh is also involved in many schools with gardening projects.

Treasures Report: Sue Egner

Report for September was presented

Secretary report

Board minutes can be found on the website. The business minutes are in the newsletter

Two correction were noted; the misspelling of Sue Egner's name and the wording of the University taking over Lincoln school.

Changes were noted and the minutes accepted

Old Business None noted

New Business

There will be a review of the projects in January

We received two grants, which were \$200 for Farmers Market and \$250 for interactive signs for the projects that can be interchangeable.

We are looking for Golden Trowel Award nominations. Please contact Ruth Fry, Ken Hawk, Linda Beaten or Linda Werner with your suggestions.

FVTC might be doing a class on landscape design class. This would be on Saturdays in the spring. Linda Beaten will find out the details.

We are looking for volunteers to organize the picnic this year.

Please update your information in the member booklet. You can notify the extension on any changes

We are looking for a member to fill the position of Historian and Photographer.

Project updates

There are current opportunities for the Oshkosh Home Show

Election Update

Mary Shepard and Linda Petek won re-election for president and co-president, Sue Egner was re-elected for treasure.

Donna Kudlas was elected for the member at large

Other items

Any project definitions in the book need to be reviewed and updated if needed

In January all projects will give a 5-minute talk on their project.

Education Committee Report:

Brochures will be sent out for the Winter Escape, Summer Dreams seminars

There will be a trip to Savannah on March 26-31

We will be doing the bus trip to the Madison Garden Expo this year

UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller

There are a few projects that maybe coming open, Omero Library and Menasha Senior Center

Kim reported last year we had 7,235 volunteer hours and 348 hours at the call center

Level 2 training will start March 25

There will be no business meeting in December

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Board of Directors

Co-Presidents

Mary Shepard 235-9242

Linda Petek 233-5730

Co-Vice Presidents

Ivan Placko 721-9394

Jane Kuhn 231-3993

Secretary Mary Jo Maher 915-2506

Treasurer Sue Egnor 231-1729

Members

Linda Baeten 232-1224

Pat Behm 410-3290

Carole Dorsch 589-5936

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Roy Anne Moulton 915-9731

Anne Murphy 379-7132

Dara Sitter 420-0620

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	<i>(looking for volunteers!)</i>	
Membership	Linda Baeten	379-8377
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	Sue Egner	231-1729
SOP & Bylaw Committee	Ivan Placko	721-9394
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012

CORE PROJECTS

Community Gardens	Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
	Synda Jones	233-3228
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Matt and Julie Miller	233-8370
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Pat Behm	410-3290
	Dara Sitter	420-0620
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
ThedaCare	Diane Iott	379-4176
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Parkview Flower Arranging	3 Awards Banquet 6:00 Bridgewood Resort	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 	2	3	4
5	6	7MG Board Mtg	8	9	10	11
12	13	14MG Bus Mtg	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	