

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FEBRUARY 2012 - NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Now that winter appears to have really arrived, it's time to start the gardening season. The seed and plant catalogs are here, the holiday decorations have been stored, our daylight is at least slightly longer, and unfortunately the Packer season is over so a gardener's focus can move to the all-important questions of what to plant, why, and where. For years, I relied on memory to keep track of what needed to be done next year. Now I combine an informal journal with digital photos taken in rotation around the beds on the first day of each month. Not only does this help me remember much more accurately how things look throughout the season, but it is interesting to be able to compare a segment one year to the next to see the effect of weather, growth, and any new additions that were made. What are your favorite planning tools?

The Education Committee has worked very hard to bring us two great events in February that should make garden planning fun. Winter Escape-Summer Dreams will be Saturday, February 4 from 10:00-4:30 pm—registration opens at 9:00 am—at Reeve Union on the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh campus. There are 2 great speakers, vendors, door prizes, and a chance to socialize with gardeners from Wisconsin. You will also earn several hours towards our 10 hours of required continuing education.

Another excellent way to get education hours and learn about many garden topics is the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo in Madison February 11. Join in the fun of the WCMGA bus trip, or car pool.

Linda and I want to extend congratulations to three of our members for outstanding accomplishments. Ruth Freye is our 2011 Golden Trowel winner, in part for her awesome work the Menasha Community Gardens. Ken Hawk and Bob Potter have "retired" from the Board after years of outstanding service. Thanks for being excellent examples of what a Master Gardener should be.

Mary and Linda

ADVISOR'S Note:

Hi! My name is Kimberly Miller,

I am excited to begin my new role as the Interim Horticulture Educator for Winnebago County. I have been involved in the forestry/landscape profession for the last 15 years and have been an ISA certified arborist for the last 5 years. Throughout my career, I have worked in forest research for the pulp and paper industry, the retail nursery trade, community planning, and as an urban forester. Currently, I will be splitting my time with WDNR where I am the urban forestry assistant for the Northeast Region. I received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Oklahoma. In addition to my love for trees and plants, I have a passion for how to integrate the natural and built environment through initiatives such as conservation design and green infrastructure. I look forward to meeting everyone and working with you throughout the upcoming year.

Kimberly



REGISTER NOW FOR WE~SD 2012!

The brochure and registration form for Winter Escape~Summer Dreams is now available on the WCMGA website www.winnebagomastergardeners.org. Download it today to get all of the details for this great event and make your reservation before the holiday rush. Better yet, put it on your Christmas list! February 4, 2012 will come around a lot quicker than we think

The [sign-up form](#) for the bus trip to the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo in Madison on February 11 is also on the website. And, more information about the other educational opportunities being planned by the Education Committee will be posted as they are finalized. They include:

- A pruning workshop in mid-March.
- A multi-day trip to the Philadelphia area to visit some of the great gardens of the east during first week in May.
- A bus trip to the Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference to be held July 19-21 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Save the Dates!

Feb. 4 – Winter Escape – Summer Dreams

Flower Arranging Dates:

(All are Mondays, 1:30@ PV)

January 30 --Wine bottle and roses arrangements

March 26 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

April 23 -- Spring artificial bouquets

May 21 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

June 18 -- Flowers from the cutting garden, our gardens

July 16 -- Flowers from the cutting gardens, our gardens

July 30 -- Flowers for their fair -- making many bouquets

August 13 -- Flowers from the cutting gardens, our gardens

September 24 -- Flowers from the cutting gardens, our gardens

October 8 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

November 19 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

December 3 -- Christmas arrangements



What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an easy to grow classic perennial with heart-shaped leaves, dark green with a heavily frosted overlay which allows only my green veining to show through. From mid to late spring, baby blue forget-me-not type blossoms form in clusters several inches above my foliage creating a breathtaking effect.

My height and spread are 12 to 15 inches and I am hardy in zones 3 through 8. I am valued for my shade tolerance and my use as a ground cover. I require little care after established. My foliage should be cut back in spring rather than fall to protect my crown in winter.

Propagation is by division or from seed. Division can be done in spring before I bloom or in fall. My plants should be spaced about 12 inches apart and will soon fill in for a blanket of bloom. I am attractive when massed as a border and when naturalized in a wooded area. I can also be used in a woodland garden, in a rock garden, where texture or form is desired, in a container or as a specimen plant. I am deer and rabbit resistant.



Our Favorites

By Jean Reed



I was reading an article in the Post Crescent about 2 months ago written by Rob Zimmer. The article was about local nurseries and garden centers. I thought it would be a wonderful idea to add a page to our web site with the Winnebago

County Master Gardeners' favorite places to shop. We could also list the favorites in the newsletter and then add them to the web site.

Send garden centers, nurseries, catalogs, etc. Please send the name, address, and if you have it, phone number. Also, list what you like best about this place (i.e., crappy for roses but good for hostas).

Please send your suggestions to Jean Reed at jmrvan617@tds.net.

Level 2 M G Training for Spring 2012: The Ecology, Cultivation & Use of Wisconsin Native Plants

There are two options for taking these courses:

Option 1: Participate at the Extension office. Join MGVC colleagues for a live-broadcast of the lecture via the online learning platform, Blackboard. Call the UW Extension office to register. The class is \$30, payable on the first evening of class.

Option 2: Enjoy the freedom to view the lecture from your own home and at your leisure! Archives of the live-broadcasts will be e-mailed to you after the conclusion of each session. These archives will be available using the online program Blackboard Collaborate.

Due to everyone's computer being different **we cannot offer technical support or configuration assistance.** [Register on-line through Conference Services](http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Schedule2) connected at: <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=Schedule2>

Understand the synergy in the landscape as gardeners explore the balance between natural environments and those manipulated by humans. Discover the array of plant communities native to Wisconsin, how to apply this knowledge to local gardening endeavors and the impact of mistakes made in the past. Further develop your personal perspective of sustainability as it would apply in your volunteer efforts.

| Date | Tentative Topic |
|----------|--|
| March 20 | Plant Communities in Wisconsin – Barb Larson, Kenosha Co. UWEX |
| March 27 | Landscaping with Native Plants – Chrissy Regester, Walworth Co. UWEX |
| April 3 | Non-Native Insects – Chris Williamson, Department of Entomology, UW-Madison |
| April 10 | Invasive Plant Species: Biology and Management – Mark Renz, Department of Agronomy, UW-Madison |
| April 17 | Attracting and Managing Wildlife in the Landscape – David Drake, Department of Wildlife Ecology, UW-Madison |
| April 24 | Environmentally Friendly Landscaping – Darren Lochner, University of Minnesota, Master Naturalist Program |

Master Composter Program



The Master Composter program is a train the trainer programs that aims to build the capacity of composters to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for composting with others. In order to become certified Master Composter trainees must attend the one day workshop, participate in a Wisline program and complete three outreach activities.

The composters who participate in the program will gain a more thorough understanding of the composting process as well as common uses for compost. The program also provides an introduction to vermicomposting and techniques to reduce the amount of waste generated. Most importantly Master Composter trainees will learn strategies that will enable them to share their knowledge and interest in composting with others.

Workshops are scheduled to be held in partnership with the following County Extension Offices

- Outagamie County, Saturday April 21st - Jim Resick, 920-832-5121

The local program hosts will be handling registrations as well as selecting the location for the program.

Answer What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

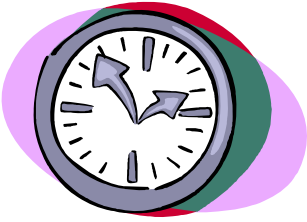


I am a brunnera.
Order: Lamiales.
Family: Boraginaceae (borage family).
Genus: Brunnera.
Species: Brunnera macrophylla.
Common names: largeleaf brunnera, heartleaf brunnera, Siberian bugloss. The plant was named for the Swiss botanist Samuel Brunner and is

native to Siberia and the Caucasus. The name Bugloss comes from two Greek words meaning ox and tongue that describes the approximate shape and rough texture of the leaf.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

Time is Running Out! Make Your Reservations Today!



On Saturday, February 11, the Education Committee will host a bus trip to the annual Wisconsin Public Television (WPT) Garden Expo in Madison. Go to www.wigardenexpo.com

for a list of all the workshops, demonstrations and vendors offered at this event, which attracts over 20,000 people from throughout the Midwest each year. This is a great way to get your continuing education hours!

To register for the bus trip, go to the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association website at www.winnebagomastergardeners.org for a registration form and send it in right away. The cost is \$39 which includes transportation and a ticket to the WPT Garden Expo. The bus will leave from the old Wal-Mart parking lot (near Penny's) in Oshkosh at 6 a.m. and return at about 6:30 p.m. For additional information, contact Marge Menacher at 233-3467 or marmen4105@sbcglobal.net.

Also check our website regularly for updates on other educational opportunities coming this spring.

- A pruning workshop in mid-March.
- A multi-day trip to the Philadelphia area to visit some of the great gardens of the east May 2-6.
- A bus trip to the Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference to be held July 19-21 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Along with your New Year's resolutions to lose weight, get more exercise, get organized, quit smoking or whatever else is on your list, consider adding some gardening resolutions. The best part is you don't even have to think about them for a few months yet!

Resolve to cut down or eliminate the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. Learn about organic gardening, working with Mother Nature rather than doing battle with her. Be kind to the earth and its creatures.

Resolve to learn which plants are invasive and eliminate them from your property no matter how pretty they may be.

Resolve to conserve water. This could take the form of drip irrigation, spot watering, a rain barrel, using kitchen waste water to irrigate plants, letting the lawn go dormant when rain is scarce, or catching water that would go down the drain when waiting for it to warm up for your shower.

Resolve to look first to native plants when buying new plants. Natives are adapted to local conditions and need less water and fertilizer. They provide more food for insects, birds and small mammals than do alien ornamental plants.

Resolve to start or add a compost pile. You can buy ready-made compost bins, build one yourself, or just dig a hole or trench in the garden and throw in food scraps, egg shells, and yard waste.

Resolve to keep ahead of the weeds in May and June so that you can relax about that task in July, August and September. At the very least, make sure you don't let the weeds go to seed. Removing them from the soil entirely is best. Chopping them to pieces with a hoe may result in resprouting from each little piece of root.

Resolve not to get too stressed about weeds. A few weeds don't hurt anything and many provide food and cover for wildlife.

Resolve to keep your tools clean and sharpened. This makes work easier, keeps plants healthier and prevents injuries to the gardener.

Resolve to make a sincere effort to design your landscape or vegetable garden to be of a size that you or your family will reasonably be able to care for. If a plant needs constant attention in the form of watering, deadheading or fertilizing and you can't provide that attention, you've wasted your money.

Resolve to plant something new, first learning about what conditions the plant prefers and making sure your landscape provides those conditions.

Resolve to keep your body strong and healthy over the winter so that when spring arrives you'll be ready to get out and garden.



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Business Meeting January 10, 2012

Meeting was called to order by Mary Shepard 6:15 PM. Forty-seven in attendance!
New officers were introduced: Mary Shepard and Linda Petek are the new co-presidents. Sue Egner is the new Treasurer. Welcome to the class of 2011.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Egner

- A handout was available. Total in the Treasury is \$11,851.83.
- Sue reminded members to use the tax exempt number for purchases pertaining to Master Gardener Projects. Sue has copies of the number, and a list of establishments that have a record of dealing with us. She suggested you also bring your Master Gardener "business card" along when making purchases.
- You need to fill out a voucher form and attach receipts for reimbursement. Vouchers will be available at meetings and on-line. Forms on the website need to be updated with Sue's name.
- We have 2 cash boxes for use at events.

Secretary's Report – Linda Baeten

Linda reported that the Board Minutes were sent to Jean Reed for posting on the Website. Business Minutes are sent to Linda Tobey to be included in the Monthly Newsletter. No one had any corrections.

OLD BUSINESS

NeighborWorks project –

We still need a Master Gardener to develop a landscape design on Bowen & Waugoo Streets in Oshkosh. The site is in full sun and plant material can be no taller than 30 inches. Carole Dorsch may have volunteered. Linda Petek will contact her to see if she is interested.

Meeting Speakers –

We are looking for a person (or a team) to take Audrey's place to invite guest speakers to our Business Meetings. Talk to Audrey or an Officer if you are interested, or bring us your ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Term Completion – Mary Shepard

Thank you to Ken Hawk and Bob Potter for their terms on the Board. A job well done!

UW Extension Temporary Replacement – Nick Schneider

Kimberly Miller will be taking Nick's place for 9 months while he is working on a special assignment. Kimberly is a Certified Arborist with experience as an Urban Horticulturist with the Green Bay DNR. She starts on Monday, January 16 at 50% time. She will still be working in Green Bay as well.

Level II Training – Nick Schneider

Two six-week classes will be offered by the State on Tuesdays from 6-9 pm at the Coughlin Center.

- Horticulture – History and Health will run on Tuesdays from February 7 to March 13.
 - The Ecology, Cultivation & Use of Wisconsin Native Plants will run from March 20 to April 24.
- Each section costs \$30.00 and a Level II Binder is available for additional cost. Fees will be collected at the door. The Coughlin center can accommodate up to 25 people for each class. This is an on-line Webinar. Those that want to view at home may do so for \$27.00 and register themselves. Check the State website for more details.

State Representative's Report – Sue Bohn

Sue has a copy of the 2011 State Report available tonight.

Project Applications – Ivan Placko and Jane Kuhn

- Turn in your project summaries from 2011 if you haven't done so already.
- New applications are due ASAP for the Board to review.
- A Project Lead meeting will be held on February 29th at 5:30 pm at the Coughlin. Food will be provided. Contact Ivan if you have an agenda item and RSVP on-line so we have a count for refreshments.
- Individual projects need to turn in a project report as well.

Education Committee – Roy Anne Moulton

- Registration forms are available tonight for both Winter Escape/Summer Dreams, February 4th, and the bus trip to the Madison Expo, February 11th.
- Roy Anne gave a slide presentation on the Philadelphia Garden Tour to take place this May.
 - Final costs are not available at this time, but she estimates it will be approximately \$1,000 to \$1,200 per person which includes air fare, bus transport, hotel and garden fees. Food is not included.

- 30 to 35 people, offered to Master Gardeners first.
- Look for an e-mail to get on the list.



Lawanda Jungwirth Book Project – Mary Shepard

- Lawanda is working on the details
- Diana Dougherty has gathered pen and ink drawings from Oshkosh art students, and 2 drawings from Sue Forbes.
- The name of the book will be “Down the Garden Path with Lawanda”, winner of the name contest is Linda Tobey. Linda will receive a gift certificate.
- The book should be ready by spring.
- Still looking for helpful websites to include as references for the back of the book. Members were asked to send in their suggestions to Lawanda by January 13.
- Also included is information on MG projects taken from our Membership Booklet. If any project descriptions need updating, please send these to Lawanda as well.

Meeting adjourned 7:12 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten

Winnebago County Master Gardener Board Members as of January 1, 2012

| <u>CAPACITY</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>ENDS</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Co-Pres. | MaryShepard | 12/31/2013 |
| Co-Pres | Linda Petek | 12/31/2013 |
| Co-V Ptlvan | Placko | 12/31/2012 |
| Co-V P t | Jane Kuhn | 12/31/2012 |
| Secretary | Linda Baeten | 12/31/2012 |
| Treasurer | Sue Egner | 12/31/2013 |
| Past Co-Pres | MaryWiedenmeier | 12/31/2012 |
| Past Co-Pres | Kathy Daniels | 12/31/2012 |
| Past Treas. | Alice Graf | 12/31/2012 |
| Members at Large | | |
| ''' | Audrey Ruedinger | 12/31/2012 |
| ''' | Carole Dorsch | 12/31/2013 |
| ''' | MargeMenacher | 12/31/2014 |
| ''' | Diana Dougherty | 12/31/2014 |
| ''' | Anne Murphy | 12/31/2014 |
| Education Chair | | |
| | Roy Anne Moulton | |



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 |
| Paine Gardens | | |
| Betty Kuen | | 558-9586 |
| 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 |
| The Wild Center | | |
| Mary Wiedenmeier | | 426-0991 |

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Mary Shepard (PRES) | 235-9242 |
| Linda Petek (PRES) | 233-5730 |
| Ivan Placko (CO-VP) | 721-9394 |
| Jane Kuhn (CO-VP) | 231-3993 |
| Linda Baeten (SEC) | 232-1224 |
| Sue Egnor (TRES) | 231-1729 |
| Susan Bohn | 685-0427 |
| Marge Menacher | 233-3467 |
| Carole Dorsch | 589-5936 |
| Ann Murphy | 426-1691 |
| Audrey Ruedinger | 231-5745 |
| Roy Anne Moulton | 886-1283 |
| Diana Dougherty | 233-3349 |
| Mary Wiedenmeier | 426-0991 |
| Kathy Daniels | 233-0410 |
| Alice Graf | 203-8252 |

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 | | |
| Membership | | |
| Dawn Merten | | 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 | | 420-1676 |
| Home & Garden Shows | | |
| Joni Pagel | | 233-6619 |
| Cindy Meszaros | 233-3550 | |
| Website, Computer and Projector | | |
| Jean Reed | | 729-9012 |



**BOARD MEETING – Feb.7
BUSINESS – Feb. 14**

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.





| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|--|-----|------|-----|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Winter Escape Summer Dreams  |
| 5 | 6 | 7 BOARD MEETING | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 Bus Trip to Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo |
| 12 | 13 | 14 BUSINESS MEETING  | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | |