

# WHAT'S GROWING ON?

## Winnebago Master Gardeners



Submitted by Virginia Slattery



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.

### Inside this issue

Presidents Pen	2	Seed for Thought	9	Food for Thought	15
Dates to Remember	3	The Latest Dirt	10	Calendar	16
Sharing Your Time	4	Cuts and Clips	11	Growing Pains	17
It's a Gardener's Life	5	Show us Your Bloomers	12	What Am I?	18
African Violets	6	Buzzing Around	13	Minutes	18

## *The President's Pen*

We've made it through another week of abnormal cold and the spring seed catalogs have started to arrive in the mail. It is wonderful to sit back and dream about spring as I am looking at the colorful pictures of the flowers.

I would like to thank our new newsletter team for the great job that they are doing on the newsletter. The articles are informative and love the pictures!

We have speakers lined up for our February and March business meetings.

In February Sheila Glaske from the Paine Gardens and Arboretum will be talking to us. In March our new Agricultural Agent at the Winnebago County UW-Extension, Darrell McCauley, will be giving a presentation on Straw Bale Gardening. We also will be having our project leads from our Long Term Projects giving an overview of their projects and how members can volunteer to help on them.

Don't forget to check the newsletter and the UWEX Master Gardener website for information on conferences being held in the state. Two conferences close by to attend are the Outagamie MGA Conference and Fond du Lac MGA Conference.

These are great ways to get your continuing education hours completed.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams event on February 7 at Reeve Memorial Union on the UW-Oshkosh campus.

Stay Warm, Mary and Linda

## Dates to Remember

### **NEWS ALERT**

*We have many wonderful items that were donated for the silent auction at our upcoming Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams on Sat., Feb. 7. If you haven't registered yet, there is still time! Go to our web site [www.winnebagomastergardeners.org](http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org) to find the registration form and speaker information. Have questions? Contact Audrey Ruedinger at 231-5745.*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- February 3- Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- February 7- Winter Escape/ Summer Dreams-Winnebago MGA
- February 10- Business Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- February 14- Madison Bus trip- Garden Expo
- February 17- Project lead meeting
- February 21- A Day in the Garden, Fond du Lac MGA Conference
- March 28- Marinette MGA Conference
- March 28- Outagamie MGA Conference
- Flower Arranging at Park View Health Center at 1:30 PM
 

February	no flower arranging
March 23	flowers from Pick N Save
April 20	flowers from Pick N Save

## Sharing Your Time

By Kathy Gore

The Park View Prairie has been a core project for many years. The Project Lead for many of these years was Ken Hawk. He has shaped the small garden into a wonderful prairie with many varieties of native plants. I visited it this summer and was amazed at the color and natural setting.

To volunteer at the Park View prairie gardens contact the new project lead, Sally Lindo. She is taking over the garden and will be updating us on new ways to help keep the prairie a beautiful place.

Park View Prairie by Eric Kropp

The prairie garden at Park View is a great place to visit. It is nearby but off the beaten track. Parking is easy and there is no difficult trek or long walk through a swamp. When you get there, there are benches to sit on and enjoy a wonderful outdoor setting. I encourage everyone to visit it often throughout the growing season so you do not miss the flowering of a particular plant or the insects that the plants attract. After enjoying the prairie garden, there are paths through surrounding fields and the restored prairie that runs along the railroad tracks and County Y to the Extension offices.

The prairie garden is not very big. It is a triangular area that was created by two service roads merging together. It takes only a minute or two walk around it. Due to the many varieties planted, you have access to many plants. Ken Hawk, the Project Leader for many years, created a list of 100 plants that have grown there. This gives the visitor an opportunity to see plants that may be difficult to find in a natural or restored prairie. The small size allows it to be managed to keep out woody and non-native plants. Management also keeps a small number of plants from dominating the garden.

This past year I took the opportunity to help on this project. I also set a weekly "event" on my phone to remind me to visit on the way home from work. I did not make it every week but when I did I tried to remember the camera. I have lots of pictures and I saw plants I have never seen in bloom. Like all gardens, the prairie garden changes rapidly through the season. If you miss a plant blooming, you will have to wait until next year.

My plan for this coming year is to keep you up to date on what is growing and blooming at the garden. If you have questions, I will track down the prairie/wild flower experts among us. The internet or a field guide is a great way to identify and learn about these plants. I will also share with you natural and restored prairies that are in the area. Come to the prairie garden workdays, it is a great way to become familiar with the plants and the park.

Late May brings Shooting Stars but the Pasqueflowers may already be done.



## ***IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE – Joseph Jares***

By Virginia Slattery



I was born in Evanston, Illinois and grew up in Glenview. This suburb of Chicago is near the Glenview Naval Station where the Thunderbirds practiced in the '60's and where George H.W. Bush trained. I attended the University of Chicago and Rush Medical College. I also did my post medical training at Rush.

I currently am a neurologist working in private practice. My practice focuses on brain waves and spinal cord functioning of patients especially during brain or spinal surgery. This is done to improve safety. It's very high tech and very cool!

I'm married and have 4 children. My wife, Susan, is a parish nurse for the First Presbyterian Church in Neenah. So far none of my children have caught the garden bug--but I'm still hoping!

I am a newly certified MG member. Thus far, I have done some volunteering for the Paine Festival of Spring, the Plant Health Advisors, the Octagon House, and the new Omro Library project. I have enjoyed them all, but one of my favorites is the Plant Health Advisors. I like doing the detective work and research to provide the answers people need. I've also enjoyed the groundbreaking work at Omro.

Growing up, I had a "surrogate" aunt and uncle who were very into gardening. They taught me a ton! I learned about vegetable gardening, roses, perennials, shrubs, trees, composting, mulching. Just about everything! Also, during high school I was the youngest member (by 40 years) of a men's garden club. Living in Chicago gave me the opportunity to visit some of the great meccas of horticulture.

A medium-sized lot surrounds my 74-year-old house. My special interest is ornamental gardening. I first began with imports and exotic species, but I am now replacing them with Midwestern planting. I'm also trying to attract more birds and butterflies. I'm currently treating a mature Green Ash against EAB. Of course, like all of us, I'm trying not to bite off more than I can chew. Oh, I also have a side hobby of Bonsai! I'm learning the techniques of overwintering against that nasty polar vortex.

## African Violets – Care Basics

By Eric Kropp

African Violets have been a popular houseplant for over 70 years but I have not been growing them for that long. The plant originates from the mountain forests of northern Tanzania in east tropical Africa. The original specimens were found in the late 1800's and were sent to Europe for study. A number of species were identified over time but recent genetic studies have reduced it to just 6 species with a number of subspecies and variations. However, today there are over 10,000 hybrids registered with the African Violet Society of America (AVSA at [www.avsa.org](http://www.avsa.org)).

How do you get to 10,000 hybrids? There is variation in plant size, flower color, flower shape, flower patterns, flower complexity, leaf color, shape, texture and variegation. Knowing the correct terms, each hybrid can be described by just a few words – see the first picture. It sounds like a lot of hybrids but by comparison there are close to 80,000 daylilies and over 5,000 hostas.

I have been growing African Violets for about 15 years. It has been a great experience. I have learned about plants, in general, and a lot about African Violets. I am a member of the Oshkosh Violet Society and often participate in their annual show.

Probably the best characteristics of the plant are its simple beauty, the ease with which they grow and flower, the ease of propagation and the variety available. However, they are not indestructible and the following will help you maintain healthy plants. I break it down into seven topics of care: potting mix, watering, lighting, temperature and humidity, fertilizer, grooming and repotting. Feel free to ask me questions, search the internet or head to the library. The AVSA's bimonthly magazine is available at the Oshkosh Public Library.

**Potting Mix** – Because the roots of these plants are very fine, a light potting mix is needed. There are many variations but a simple one is 1 part peat moss, 1 part perlite and 1 part vermiculite. These are readily available in small quantities from garden centers so you can make your own. Purchased mixes may need additional perlite to further lighten it. Before using a mix, stir some water into it and let it sit a few hours so it is uniformly damp. The components are very dry and can repel water for a surprisingly long time.

**Watering** – The single point about watering is to not over water the plant. You can kill a plant by not watering it but you will surely kill it by over watering. Do not let the plant sit in water. The plant should be kept damp. Water should sit for 24 hours at room temperature before using. It can be added to the top or bottom of the pot.

**Lighting** – African Violets can do well receiving just natural light. They need plenty of light but not direct, intense sunlight. The recommendation is an east or a west window. I have plant stands with fluorescent lights. The fluorescent lights provide bright light without the heat. The lights should be 10-12 inches away from the tops of the plants and on for 10-12 hours per day. Even with artificial light, I notice my plants do best in the spring when they receive additional natural light and the temperature and humidity start to moderate.

**Feeding/Fertilizing** – African Violets will need fertilizer to thrive and bloom. The easiest way is to continuously fertilize using a balanced (12-12-12), water soluble product. The fertilizer should also provide the micronutrients needed by the plant. A fertilizer with higher phosphorous to promote blooming (12-36-14) is an alternative. The fertilizer should not contain urea as the source of nitrogen. There is a feeling that the potting mix does not support the bacteria needed to breakdown urea into nitrogen that the plant can use. The urea content is noted on the label.

**Temperature and Humidity** – African Violets do well in normal indoor temperatures. They even like it cooler at night. The indoor humidity can be more variable. In winter, the dry air will dry out a plant much faster and require more frequent watering to maintain the desired dampness. In other seasons with higher humidity a plant will need less water.

**Grooming** – This includes removing old leaves and flowers stems, rotating the pot for even growth, removing suckers and generally assessing the plant on a regular basis. The lower, outer leaves are the oldest and it is normal for them to turn yellow and die. The same is true for spent flower stems and old buds. Rotating the plant for even light exposure will keep the plant growing evenly. This is particularly true for plants that only get natural light. Most African Violets should only have one crown but a plant will often produce suckers. These are easiest to remove when they first emerge. A pair of tweezers or a thin blade knife is all that is needed to remove a sucker. Although optional, grooming may include removing the developing buds. The plant will respond by producing more leaves. Once disbudding is stopped, the plant will produce a large quantity of flowers. This is often done for show plants.

**Repotting** – This is another maintenance item that should be done regularly (every 6 to 10 months). It will solve two problems. As the old leaves die and are removed, the stem will be exposed and detract from the appearance. The other problem is fertilizer build up in the potting mix will adversely affect the plant's health. When repotting, a large amount of the root ball can be removed – lower third to half. By removing the lower portion of the roots, the plant will be lower in the pot, which will bury the neck. Note that the stem should be scrapped before burying. This will encourage root growth from the stem. The pot can often be the same size or one step larger as African Violets do well when pot bound. Going to a much larger pot can result in too much moisture for the plant and cause problems.

African Violets are available at local stores, shows and sales, friends or your Co-Vice President. The internet offers an opportunity to select from many different hybrids and species. Starter leaves and young plants are available. Two nurseries that have great websites and numerous hybrid plants are [Violet Barn](#) and [Lyndon Lyons Greenhouse](#). The Violet Barn is also a great source of information. They sell other houseplants including these close relatives of African Violets: streptocarpus, shinnigias, primulinas and kohlerias.



Mas Pinat

(Violet Barn) Semi -double lavender-pink pansies flowers with heavy purple fantasy splashes and variable white edging. Dark, variegated foliage. Standard size.



Acas Summer Parfait (Violet Barn)



Robs Mad Cat (Violet Barn)



Instant Attraction (Lyndon Lyons Greenhouse)

**Submit items for the newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**



## SEED FOR THOUGHT

*by Jennifer Footit-Tank*

It's that time of year when many of us will make a New Year's resolution to improve our health and vigor through some type of health maintenance. This is also the time of year that we must extend this same courtesy to our fruit trees for the same reason. Pruning and training are best done when the trees are dormant and before spring growth starts. Without leaves we are better able to view branch angles, water sprouts, scaffold limbs, and windows for picking the fruit. This yearly maintenance allows for better pest management, improving airflow for disease prevention and maximum fruit production.

When it comes to demonstrating how to properly prune fruit trees, everyone will give you a different answer. There are many videos available on the YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/>) on how to properly prune your particular fruit tree. Watch several and follow the one that fits your desired outcome. UW Extension provides an excellent, free source for training and pruning apple trees at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/assets/pdfs/A1959.pdf>

Below are some commonly referred to references but are often poorly diagrammed.

This type of pruning allows you to obtain the desired "wine glass" shape for the tree.



The bud on the left is a leaf bud that can be pruned. The bud on the right is a fruiting spur that you most likely will keep.

So bundle-up, grab your pruners and telescoping loppers and give those trees the much-needed attention. When the leaves turn their fall colors, all of your hard work will pay off as you are harvesting delicious fruit to enjoy into the cold months.

## The Latest Dirt

### **Mentors needed!**

*Twelve or more of the newly graduated class members are interested in having a mentor. What's involved? Just being friendly, able to answer questions (either by phone or e-mail), giving advice about projects, being a friendly face at meetings.... Perhaps you could turn them toward a project that fits their interest and schedule. Mainly, being a mentor is sharing your love of gardening and your experience. If you are interested in helping a new member assimilate into our group, please contact or talk to me so that I can try to match you up with someone with your same interests.*

*Virginia Slattery, new member liaison*

### **PHOTOGRAPHER NEEDED**

***We are looking for a photographer for the newsletter. Do you have interest in photography? Need hours? If so, please contact one of the editors.***

### **2015 Project Lead Meeting**

**The Project Lead meeting will be at 5:30 on February 17th at the Coughlin Center. This meeting is for leads on both types of projects or those interested in becoming a lead in the future. We will discuss the new forms, funding requests and reimbursements, project experiences and documentation. A light meal will be provided. We will send an agenda and additional emails before the meeting.**

Bette Hoytink and Eric Kropp- WCMGA Vice Presidents

***Tried and True:*** submitted by Lynne Slat

*Did you know vinegar has many benefits? Check out the many uses at:*

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/info/use-vinegar-in-gardens.htm>

***Do you have any items like this handed down to you? Please submit them to one of the editors***

## CUTS AND CLIPS

### Tasks for February

By Marge Bolding

#### Houseplants, Perennials & Annuals

When forced bulbs have bloomed, continue to water the plant and put it in a sunny window, and then plant in spring. It may take a year or two for forced bulbs to regain their vigor.

WEEK 1- Inspect dahlia and begonia tubers and all other stored rooted plants for rot or desiccation.

WEEK 2- Start tuberous begonias in pots.

WEEK 3- Start seeds for impatiens, vincas, pansies and geraniums.

WEEK 4- Start caladiums in pots.

#### Vegetables and Herbs

WEEK 2- Start seeds for leeks and onions. Use a sterile soilless seed-starting medium to avoid damping-off disease.

#### Lawns, Trees and Shrubs

Prune dormant trees and summer-flowering shrubs.

#### Fruits and Berries

If renovating old apple trees, prune no more than 1/3 of old growth each year. See UW-Extension publication #A1959, "Training and Pruning Apple Trees," at [learningstore.uwex.edu](http://learningstore.uwex.edu)

Spray dormant oil to control scale and other overwintering pests. Spray on any day above 40° F and when forecast temperatures remain above freezing for 24hours. This may be done until the buds swell.

Remove and destroy any mummified fruits, galls or egg clusters on trees and shrubs. Check for fire blight cankers on susceptible varieties of apples and pears; remove by pruning 6-8 inches below the cankers. Disinfect pruners between cuts.

Source: 2008 Wisconsin Garden Journal: "The Year Round Garden: A Plan for all Seasons," – Madison Area Master Gardener's Association.

*SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS!*

Member Gardens



Lawanda Jungwirth



Mary Jo Maher



Lynne Slatt



Linda Beaten



## **BUZZING AROUND**

*By Mary Jo Maher*

Sometimes one gets lucky when going from point A to point B and you just happen to run across a garden center. This happens to be how I ran across these two garden centers. I always break for flowers! Both of the garden centers have a wide selection of plants and statuary. Let's go discover the Greenleaf and New Holstein area!

### **GREENLEAF GARDEN CENTER- 6919 CTY RD PP, GREENLEAF**

Greenleaf Landscaping & Gardens is located at 6919 County Road PP in Greenleaf. It is one of the area's best-kept secrets! The word is out that Greenleaf Landscaping and Gardens has everything that you would need or want to create a unique and beautiful landscape as well as awesome home décor items.

This Garden Center/Gift Shop is a place to find fun, unique plants and garden art that you can't find anywhere else. The Gift Shop is a gem all its own with beautiful, affordable home décor, fashion items, seasonal items and a great selection of wines and beers to try. You can find a gift for anyone.

Our plant selection includes new and tried and true varieties of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and veggies.

We have a friendly, knowledgeable team that is here to help you with questions or ideas for specific areas of your yard. We have landscape designers on staff that will come to your home and give you ideas or draw complete landscape designs. Our professional landscape crews are able to install all phases of your landscape. Services include: Lawn, Shrub Beds, Retaining Walls, Water Features, Paver Brick Patios and Walkways as well as yard cleanup, pruning and mulching.

Come bring your friends and experience Greenleaf Landscaping and Gardens. A fun day out!

To view our specials, special events and classes along with Landscape Tips and highlights of what's new, go to [www.greenleaflandscaping.com](http://www.greenleaflandscaping.com). Subscribe to our newsletter for monthly information.



## Honeymoon Acres

2700 Ford Street, New Holstein

From Honeymoon Acres to you, if you do not know who we are this is a short story. It started when I was born, my parents had a greenhouse in PA. I grew up in the greenhouse learning and watching. I then moved to Wisconsin in 1980, worked with my brothers in honeybees and greenhouse. In 1983 I got married to Marci, and we started our first greenhouse in 1984, a 1000 sq. ft. area. We sold plants that spring, with \$5 in our pocket to start, (go to our website to learn more about our start) and after many hours of work at the greenhouse and other jobs we got to where our place is now. Our place is 135,000 sq. ft. of inside growing area and 40,000 sq. ft. outside.

Our commitment to making our place the best greenhouse in the area has not stopped. We still have plans on future projects to make your plant gathering even more fun. Our clients come from everywhere to find plants, some of which you may not find anywhere else. We grow 80% of the plants from seed or cuttings, which we start in mid-December, with our staff of 4 (our children) and a little temp help in spring.

What do we have: 70 kinds of Roses; 35 kinds of Herbs; 26 kinds of hot peppers; 32 kinds of sweet peppers; 24 heirloom tomatoes; 39 other kinds of tomatoes and many other veggies including sweet potatoes; over 600 kinds of perennials; and many other annuals so numerous it is hard to list them all. Visit our website to see everything @ [honeymoonacres.com](http://honeymoonacres.com). We also have a selection of Lawn Ornaments and Metal Garden Art. We do carry potting soil with Honeymoon Acres Brand on it. At the end of the day we are here to have as many plants as possible for very reasonable prices.

Joe & Marci and the Crew at Honeymoon



**Looking for places to eat in this area:**

- **D&G Restaurant**, 6794 Hwy 57, Greenleaf
- **The Village Inn**, 1706 W Wisconsin Ave, New Holstein
- **South Town Family Restaurant**, 1305 Milwaukee Dr., New Holstein

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

By Linda Loker

Source: [food.com](http://food.com)

*CINNAMON CANDY POPCORN*

*8 qts popped popcorn  
1-cup butter  
1/2 cup light corn syrup  
9 oz. red-hot cinnamon candies*

*Place popcorn in large bowl. Grease flat deep baking pans.  
Bring to boil in saucepan butter, syrup and candies over med heat, stirring constantly.  
Boil 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.  
Pour over popcorn and mix thoroughly. Turn onto greased pans.  
Bake one hour, stirring every 15 minutes.  
Remove popcorn from pans onto wax or foil paper to cool.  
Store in an airtight container.*

*Microwave method: Place popcorn in large brown grocery bag; pour syrup over and stir in bag. Fold over top of bag and microwave 90 seconds; take bag out and shake very well, holding top of bag securely closed. Microwave 60 seconds and repeat shaking. Microwave 60 seconds and shake well. Pour out onto wax or foil. Cool. This is fast and easy!*

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting 6:00 PM	4	5	6	7 Winter Escape/Summer Dreams
8	9	10 Business Meeting 6:00 PM	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Madison Bus Trip
15	16	17 Project Lead Meeting 5:30 PM	18	19	20	21 Fond du Lac MG conference
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Board Meeting 6:00 PM	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Business Meeting 6:00 PM	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Park View Flower Arranging 1:30	24	25	26	27	28 Marinette MG Conference Outagamie MG Conference
29	30	31				



## Growing Pains

### Safety while gardening

Garden-topics.net

#### Wear Appropriate Clothing

The best way to manage health and safety is to eliminate any risks by finding safer methods or even avoiding the need for the activity in the first place. However, there are some risks that we cannot avoid and therefore, we should be suitably dressed to safeguard ourselves. Strong waterproof shoes or boots are very important. Trying to garden in flimsy footwear is simply inviting serious accidents. Similarly, most of the time you need to protect your hands with a sturdy pair of gardening gloves.

- Wear gloves when handling chemicals and if you are spraying, then wear a facemask and protection for your eyes.
- If you are using machinery such as a lawn mower, you also need to wear clothing that will protect you against missiles such as stones that are picked up and thrown out by the mower.



- Much gardening is done on your knees and therefore you should protect them, either with strap on kneepads or with some form of substantial kneeling cushion.
  - Some items of garden equipment, such as chain saws, are notoriously dangerous, particularly in the hands of the inexperienced gardener. You would be well advised to seek our proper instruction on how to use such equipment safely. In addition, you need addition protection for hands, arms, legs and eyes.
  - In some cases you may also need to protect your hearing from prolonged use of particularly noisy equipment. Use, either earmuffs or other form of protection that is designed for the purpose.
- The sun can also pose a threat to health and safety. Use sun screen, sunglasses and preferably wear clothing and a hat to protect you from the direct rays of the sun.

It is generally good practice to tuck trouser bottoms into your socks to guard against the possibility of bitten by mosquitoes or ticks.

#### *What Am I?- by Jane Kuhn*

I am a popular ornamental plant, a shrub or a tree depending on pruning preference, grown for my clusters of fragrant rich yellow to orange-red flowers, which begin to expand in autumn slightly before the leaves fall, and continue throughout the winter. My generic name means "together with fruit" which refers to the fact that I am the only tree in North America to have flowers, ripe fruit and next year's leaf buds on its branches at the same time. I can reach 30 feet high and 15 feet wide at maturity and I am a favorite with gardeners looking for winter color and fragrance. I thrive in USDA planting zones 3-9, like moist soil although I am adaptable, and will thrive in part shade to full sun. I require minimal care including regular watering the first season and pruning only to shape as desired. Seeds, layering or softwood cuttings propagate me. I need a rich soil with a pH of neutral to slightly acidic. I am not bothered by any serious pests or disease and will tolerate deer browsing. I am excellent as a border, mixed hedge or even a specimen plant, if given enough room to spread.

# MINUTES

## Winnebago County Master Gardener's Business Meeting Minutes

**January 13, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Shepard presented the January report.

**Secretary's Report:** The board minutes are posted to the website, and the business meeting minutes are posted in the newsletter.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### *Awards*

Service awards were presented at the December recognition dinner, but because all were not present, Diane Iott, Cindy Meszaros and Bill Weber were recognized at this meeting for achieving 1000 service hours.

Marge Menacher was recognized for receiving the Golden Trowel award.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

*Projects:* The new forms for projects will be emailed out to project leaders.

There will be a project lead meeting February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at the Coughlin Center.

Long Term Project Leads Marge Menacher presented the School Project update and Diane Iott presented the Theda Care Memorial Garden update. Diane's project will be wrapping up and turned over to Theda Care after this year.

A sign-up sheet was available for long term project leads to sign up to present at the Business meetings from now through May.

Cindy Meszaros announced the Master Gardeners will be present at the Winnebago County Builders Expo March 13 – 15<sup>th</sup>. We will not be at the Tri County Expo, as the cost increased sharply for this year.

*Education:* Winter Escape/Summer Dream seminar will be February 7<sup>th</sup> at Reeve Memorial Union at UW-Oshkosh. Sign up sheets are available via newsletter and an email from Ashley Rolph.

We are still accepting Silent Auction items for Winter Escape/Summer Dreams.

Sign-up sheets have been sent out for the Madison Bus Trip on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Mentors:* Ginny Slattery reported that many members of the new class requested a mentor. Interests include help with vegetable gardens, perennials, grasses and flowers, miscellaneous and herbs. Please contact Ginny if you would like this opportunity.

*Newsletter:* Deadline for submission for the newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send pictures as jpegs to Mary Jo Maher. You can also bring your memory card to be downloaded. Recipes should be sent to Linda Loker, and please cite your source for the recipe.

A new feature is Tried and True. Please submit any tips you've used in gardening and if they worked to Mary Jo or Kathy Gore.

*Extension Update:* Kimberly reported that Ashley Rolph is the support person for Master Gardeners. The workload in the office is adjusting with one person retiring and one taking a new position. Recruitment is active for replacements.

There is a new look to the nametags, and newly certified members received their nametags.

The membership books are available tonight for pickup, and others will be mailed out. There will be a list of corrections coming out.

Kimberly had a crazy worm sample for all to look at, courtesy of the DNR. Crazy worm is a very invasive species that destroys the soil it lives in.

*SOP revisions:* Revisions were discussed at the meeting, and a motion was put forward and passed to adopt the changes to the SOP.

*Monarchs:* Mary reported that the counts are not complete in Mexico, but initial indications are that the monarch population is up. The group was in favor of getting additional monarch friendly plants to add to gardens.

*Group Project.* If anyone has any ideas for another group project (similar to the Monarch effort), please let Mary or Linda know.

*Other news:* The next business meeting will be February 10, 2015.

Respectfully Submitted- Kathleen Schultz

#### Answer to "What Am I?"

**I am Witch Hazel. Order: Saxifragales. Family: Hamamelidaceae. Genus: Hamamelis. Species: 3 of the 5 species are located in North America. Common names: winter bloom, snapping hazel. The witch hazel bush is often called water witch as its branches were once used in England to search and find underground sources of water and minerals. Native Americans used witch hazel tree bark to treat sores, tumors and skin ulcers. When boiled, twigs were used for sore muscles, and a tea was used to treat coughs, colds and dysentery.** References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.



# PROJECTS

## LONG TERM Projects

**UW Fox Valley Community Garden**

open

**Farmer’s Market**

*Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Janet Priebe, Synda Jones, Patty Schmitz*

**Emmeline Cook School Gardens**

Marge Menacher

**Education Control of Invasive Species**

Lawanda Jungwirth

**Park View**

**Flower Arranging**

Lil Hansche

**Prairie Garden**

Sally Lindo

**Cutting Garden**

Bill Weber

**Vegetable Garden**

Tom Weber

**Lincoln Garden**

Jo Helf

**Plant Health Advisors**

Ann Gratton

**County Fair**

Sue Bohn

**Shared Harvest**

Ken Friedman

**Oshkosh Humane Society**

Julie and Matt Miller

**Paine Gardens and Arboretum**

Virginia Slattery

**Gardens of the Octagon House**

Jerry Robak

**Tri County Home and Garden Show**

Cindy Meszaros]

**Winchester Historical Society**

Sandy Mathison, Mary Rebman

**Carter Memorial Library**

Pat Behm, Linda Petek

## SMALL GROUP PROJECTS

**St Raphael Church**

*Linda Loker*

**MG Project Signage**

*Deborah Drake*

**Habitat for Humanity**

*Mary Sheppard*

**Time to Grow**

*Virginia Slattery*

**Neenah Shattuck Park**

*Mary Jo Maher*

**Theda Care Memorial Garden**

*Diane Iott*

**Neenah Library Gardens**

*Mary Jo Maher*

**Growing Oshkosh**

*Lil Hansche*