



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

February 2020

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.



What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a perennial native herb of Eastern North America including Wisconsin and can be found growing in prairies, rock outcrops and roadsides. I prefer full sun in zones 4-8 and grow to a height of 2-4 feet in medium moist sand, loam or clay. My tooth edged leaves which can be a foot long are widely dispersed near my plant base and their concentration and size decrease near the top of my plant. Underground a tuberous root is found. I have white compound flowers in an inflorescence which can reach 8 inches in diameter. My plant blooms in summer and fall and the flowers are known for their pleasant but medicinal fragrance.

The central taproot of my plant is thickened and tuberous in appearance and rhizomes promote its vegetative spread. My flowers attract bees, wasps, flies, and beetles. The beetles feed on the pollen while the other insects seek the nectar. I am deer resistant. Although rare and unusual, I am a worthy garden plant with my good form, excellent foliage, long bloom time and resistance to insects and disease.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Vice President: Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Deby Voyles

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing in a future newsletter by writing an article or submitting a photo, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

We are halfway there! February 2, Groundhog Day, marks the halfway point between winter and spring. Groundhog Day has its roots in the Christian tradition of Candlemas Day. When this tradition was introduced to Germany, the hedgehog became part of the tradition. According to German lore, if the hedgehog saw his shadow on Candlemas Day (February 2) there would be 6 more weeks of winter. When German settlers came to the United States, they brought their traditions and folklore with them. However, since hedgehogs do not naturally exist in North America, a similar hibernating animal was chosen; hence the lowly groundhog was given a special day.

Another event recognizing the passing of the halfway point to spring is the WCMGA Winter Escape~Summer Dreams seminar, which is set for Saturday, February 15th and we hope many of you can attend. This year Ben Futa, Executive Director, [Allen Centennial Gardens](#), Madison will present **Brown is a Color Too** and **Principles of Planting Design with Perennials**, Anita Carpenter, Biologist an Oshkosh native will present **Native Naturally**, and Jim Nienhuis, Professor of Horticulture, UW- Madison, will present **Seeds of Change**. We invite and encourage all of you to consider attending this wonderful educational day. Door prizes, silent auction & raffle winners will be announced at the end of the seminar. This is a great way to start your own coming of spring tradition

At the December Business Meeting, pink stickers with the year '20 on them were distributed. They are intended to be placed like a license plate renewal sticker on your name badge. Unlike license plate renewal stickers, no one will be checking your name tag for the correct year. It does, however, indicate all requirements for certification have been met for 2020.

We want to thank those attending January's board and business meetings and look forward to future meetings.

Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

WCMGA Scholarship

By Jane Kuhn

The WCMGA is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a current high school senior who resides in Winnebago County. The applicant must be planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution to pursue a program related to the following areas of study: Horticulture, Landscaping, Agriculture, Forestry, Agronomy, Arborist, Conservation, Natural Resources, or other areas approved by the Scholarship Committee and the Board. The scholarship recipient will be based on a completed application including a typed essay and letters of recommendation.

Applications are available from counselors at high schools where Winnebago County students attend, on the WCMGA web page (<http://winnebagomastergardeners.org/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>), and from members of the Scholarship Committee (**Vicki Daniels, Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn**). The deadline for applying is March 1, 2020. The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient at the May membership meeting of WCMGA.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am [wild quinine](#). Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae / Compositae – Aster family. Genus: Parthenium L. – feverfew. Species: Parthenium integrifolium L. – wild quinine. Other names: Prairie-Dock, Cutting Almond, Nephritic Plant, American Feverfew. European settlers of the Midwestern United States discovered this herb to be used for coughs and sore throats as well as in treating burns by the Native Americans. Wild quinine was used as substitute for the bark of the Cinchona tree, which was in short supply during World War I, as a treatment for malaria. The conservation status of wild quinine is considered to be threatened in Wisconsin. I can be found in the rain garden adjacent to the Coughlin Center.



a

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Member Business Meeting Minutes - Jan. 14, 2020

Co-President **Bob Kneepkens** called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM

Treasurer Report: **Deby Voyles** gave the cash reconciliation report for the period of December 2019.

Secretary Report: WCMGA Board minutes for October and November are on the website. Member meeting minutes are in the Newsletter. No corrections to the minutes as written.

Project Updates: **Britton** thanked **Sue Egner** for her service as Lead on the Buckthorn project at the North High Conservancy area. This project is being sunset and will be handed back to the city of Oshkosh. **Ed** and **Jill Dombrowski** are the new Co-leads for the Rain Garden project. The Farmers Market and Omro Library still need either leads or co-leads at this time. February 25th will be a Project leads' meeting. Contact **Linda Werner** for specifics on a grant opportunity.

Extension Updates: **Kimberly** reminded new members that she has their name badges. Online annual enrollment agreement needs to be completed by February 1st. **Kimberly** was asking members if they wanted to participate in the speakers bureau. If so, please sign the form or let her know.

Education Committee Report: **Linda Werner** reported that there will be a bus trip to the Garden Expo on February 8th. Registration forms are available on the website and on the back table. Continuing education hours can be earned at the Expo. February 15th is WE~SD. The conference provides a full day of speakers and activities. Give registration forms to **Linda Baeten**. March 28th there is a workshop featuring Justin Kroening from Stone Silo Prairie Gardens and Loris Damerow from Wild Ones.

State Representatives Report: **Becky Schoborg** no report.

New Business

Certification stickers: 2020 stickers are available.

Communications: **Bob** reported that WCMGA received a Thank you note from Megan Zillges, 4-H member, who received "The Fair Exhibitor Award" and a \$25.00 certificate from WCMGA.

Other New Business

National Conservation Program: Control invasive species in the native habitat.

Kimberly Miller reported that there will be a party to honor **Bill Weber**. He is retiring from the Medical Director position at Park View. The party will be on Monday, January 27th from 2-4 PM.

Drawings for door prizes.

Adjourned 6:58 pm

Expand Your Garden with Native Perennials

Join the Winnebago County Master Gardeners on Saturday morning, March 28, 2020, for a fascinating look at how you can use Native Perennials in your garden. Natives are good for the environment, encourage pollinators and provide food for many birds and insects. They are drought and disease resistant and don't need fertilizer. Featured speakers are Justin Kroening from [Stone Silo Prairie Gardens](#) in DePere and Loris Damerow, Landscape Designer and Civic Gardening Coordinator.

Justin has owned Stone Silo since 2004 and he and his nursery are committed to the preservation of native species and encourage their use in landscape design. Justin will discuss a selection of native plants and how native cultivation may vary from non-native perennials.

Loris Damerow is a former Master Gardener and has served as past President of the [Wild Ones, Fox Valley Chapter](#). Wild Ones promotes the use of native plants in home and civic landscaping.

The program will start at 9AM and runs until 12 noon at the Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Rd. Y in Oshkosh. The cost is \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door and includes light refreshments. Make registration checks payable to WCMGA (Winnebago County Master Gardener Assoc.), include your name, address and phone, and mail to WCMGA, 1112 Merritt Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901. For questions, contact Linda at: LWERNER7@aol.com You can also go to the Master Gardeners website and use the [registration form](#) there.

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for February Events

Mar 7 and 8: [NE Wisconsin Orchid Society Show](#); New Location

Mar. 17: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

Mar. 23: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room

April 21: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

May 18: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room

May 19: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

July 13: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room

Oct. 19: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room



11th Annual

Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams

Sat., Feb. 15, 2020 * 8 AM - 3:30 PM

La Sure's Banquet Hall Oshkosh, WI

- **Cost: \$45 through February 11**
- **\$50 after Feb. 11**
- **Breakfast and lunch included**
- **Gluten-Free options available**
- **ATM available on site**
- **FREE onsite parking**
- **Confirmation will be sent via email or US mail**
- **Proceeds from this event support the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association's community projects and scholarships**



Registration Form	
Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email	
Amount Enclosed	
<p>Make check payable to WCMGA and mail to:</p> <p>WCMGA</p> <p>1112 Merritt Ave.</p> <p>Oshkosh, WI 54901</p>	

WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

Project	Project Lead(s)
Algoma Town Hall	Petey Clark
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow/Audrey Ruedinger
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber
Park View Prairie Garden	Eric Kropp
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/ Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Diane Iott
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

Project Leads: If you'd like your meetings listed on the calendar, please email information to Anne Murphy pakster0605@yahoo.com.

February 2020						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Board Mtg. 6 PM	5	6	7	8 Bus trip to Madison
9	10	11 Business Mtg. 6 PM	12	13	14 	15 Winter Escape~ Summer Dreams
16	17	18 Education Committee, The Ground Round 5:30 PM	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.