

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

February 2021

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.

“**FLOWERS** are like friends, they bring **COLOR** to your world.”



Yellow finch enjoying a treat at feeder.

Submitted by Kim Willman.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a dense, herbaceous, clump forming perennial growing in zones 4-8. I grow from 1-3 feet tall and 1-3 feet wide in full sun to part shade, have no preference for soil type and am very adaptable to both dry and moist locations. I have toothed, fragrant gray green leaves on square stems and small but abundant, blue-purple flowers which bloom from late spring through early fall, providing long-lasting garden color.

Propagation is by division in spring or fall or by taking softwood cuttings in early summer. My plants are fast growers and are kept looking their best by cutting back severely half way through summer. Regrowth and fresh blooms will occur quickly. I can be used in mass plantings, edging, ground cover, rock gardens and in containers. I attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. I am deer, rabbit, disease and pest resistant.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Vice President: Kathy Procknow & Debra Butch

Secretary: Anne Murphy

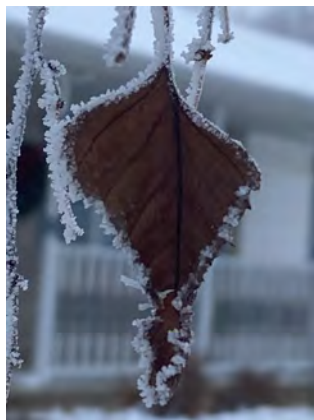
Treasurer: Deby Voyles

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!



Rime ice on birch tree.

Submitted by Kim Willman.

Rime ice forms when supercooled water liquid droplets freeze onto surfaces.

Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

WINTER GREENERY

Think about what the benefits a good winter hike can do for you. Not only will it get you out of the house but will also provide a way to get us moving physically. In addition, you will be able to walk with and maintain those relationships lost due to the pandemic. And perhaps most of all, satisfy our curiosity when we see green growth among the seemingly dead brown patches.

Most of us will notice green growth associated with the family of evergreens. It will be easy to spot such trees we know as pines, balsam, spruce, white cedar and hemlock. But what about the other kind of evergreens called "[clubmoss](#)".



Clubmoss types are Shiny and Stiff. The Ground Cedar and the Ground Pine are sometimes called the "Princess Pine". (Not to be mistaken for the Prince's Pine) These are North American clubmoss varieties. They are non-flowering, reproducing from spores rather than seeds. Like their cousins, ferns and horsetails, the clubmoss spores do not develop directly into new plants. Instead, they develop into male and female plants that eventually unite and grow into mature clubmoss. (About 7-10 years)

Interestingly enough, clubmoss spores were harvested and sold as [lycopodium powder](#). The use of this powder ranged from making fireworks, to coating pills. Lycopodium also was used as an antiseptic dusting powder. Its non-sticking properties were also used to coat surgeon's gloves.

There are approximately 100 species of clubmoss worldwide. About 13 of those species are in North America of which 9 reside in Wisconsin. You may hear them called ground pines, but they are not related. Pines are woody and reproduce by seeds. Clubmoss produce heavy ground cover in forests by spores and prefer acidic soils.

The most common clubmoss you may see in the woods are Stiff, Shining, and Running or "Wolf Paw" clubmoss. Others may include Ground Cedar and Ground Pine. Look for foliage resembling small evergreen trees; irregularly shaped branches that are bunched together. Also look for small upright plants that look like little tuning forks.

So, the next time you want to get out for a nice winter walk; take a walk on the wild side. (That is the wild native species side.) Satisfy your inner urge for fitness and see if you can recognize the native wildlife family of clubmoss.

Please stay staff and healthy.

Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Parsley is Herb of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The International Herb Association has chosen parsley for its 2021 Herb of the Year. Now wait . . . don't throw this article aside like you might toss aside the parsley served by a restaurant along with your entrée. That restaurant parsley had likely been stored, shipped a long distance, and stored again before it hit your plate, rendering it tasteless, and without any vestige of its original fresh smell and nutritional value.

Parsley fresh from the garden is a whole other experience! And it's one of the easiest herbs to grow besides.

Buying plants from the nursery is the easiest way to procure parsley for the garden. They need a sunny spot, supplemental water until they become established, and that's about it. Starting parsley from seed is also possible, but germination takes about six weeks, stretching the patience of even the most experienced gardener. The seeds need a period of cold in order to germinate so they can be planted either in fall or very early spring, or the seed packet can be placed in the refrigerator for several weeks before planting outdoors. To speed germination, soak the seeds in warm water overnight before planting, or pour boiling water over them after they are in the ground.

Parsley can be harvested a few stems at a time as soon the leaves reach full size. Harvest from the outside of the plant by snipping stems low on the plant with scissors. The plant will continue to produce new growth from its middle.

Parsley has either flat or curly leaves. The curly-leafed variety is what you usually find on your restaurant plate, but flat-leaved parsley is actually tastier. Both are nutrient packed, with more vitamin C per volume than an orange, along with vitamin A, several B vitamins, calcium and iron.

Parsley is a biennial plant, meaning that it grows and produces leaves during its first season and goes to seed its second year. You can pot it up and bring it indoors at the end of its first season to stretch the harvest, but it will still go to seed the second year.

Probably parsley was originally placed on entrée plates for its decorative aspect and as an after-dinner breath freshener and those uses are still valid. It also can be added to salads or sandwiches, or sprinkled over egg dishes, potato salad, soups, dips, fish and boiled potatoes. It enhances the flavor of cooked dishes but should be added near the end of cooking time. Stems are more strongly flavored than leaves and can perk up a bland dish nicely.

Flat-leaf parsley can be dried in the shade or carefully in a dehydrator. When it is crispy, store it in an airtight container. Storing whole leaves and crushing them just before use will preserve the flavor longer. Curly-leaf parsley can be frozen on cookie sheets and then stored in the freezer in plastic freezer bags.

WCMGA Scholarship

By Jane Kuhn

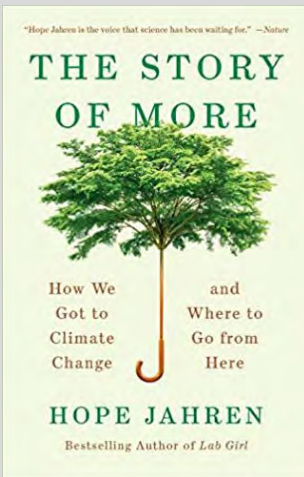
The WCMGA is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a current high school senior who resides in Winnebago County. The applicant must be planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution to pursue a program related to the following areas of study: Horticulture, Landscaping, Agriculture, Forestry, 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>). The deadline for applying is March 1, 2021. The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient in May.



Rime ice on pines.
Submitted by Kim Willman.



Rime ice on coneflower.
Submitted by Kim Willman.



The Story of More: How we Got to Climate Change and Where to Go from Here

by Hope Jahren

Published by Vintage Books Trade Paperback 2020, ISBN:
978-0-525-56338-9

Hope Jahren is an outstanding scientist who has the gift of translating complex scientific data and concepts into understandable terms for the layman. Her highly readable narrative is a thoroughly researched description of how human habits have driven planet earth to the brink of unsustainability. Human history is a continual quest for more of everything combined with historically uneven distribution of this “more.”

Often, even our attempts to replace or substitute for resources we have used-up go awry. For example, our answer to depleted wild fish stocks, fish farming, is resulting in a different resource loss. Jahren explains that to get 1 pound of farmed salmon, you need to grind up 15 pounds of other fish into fish meal. Currently, about one-third of the total wild catch is made into fish meal. These are the smaller, less desirable fish for humans but an important part of the food chain for other ocean fish and mammals. More for us. Less for them and so it goes. There are many more examples like this related to fuel, water, travel, electricity...basically everything that is part of our lives in the developed world.

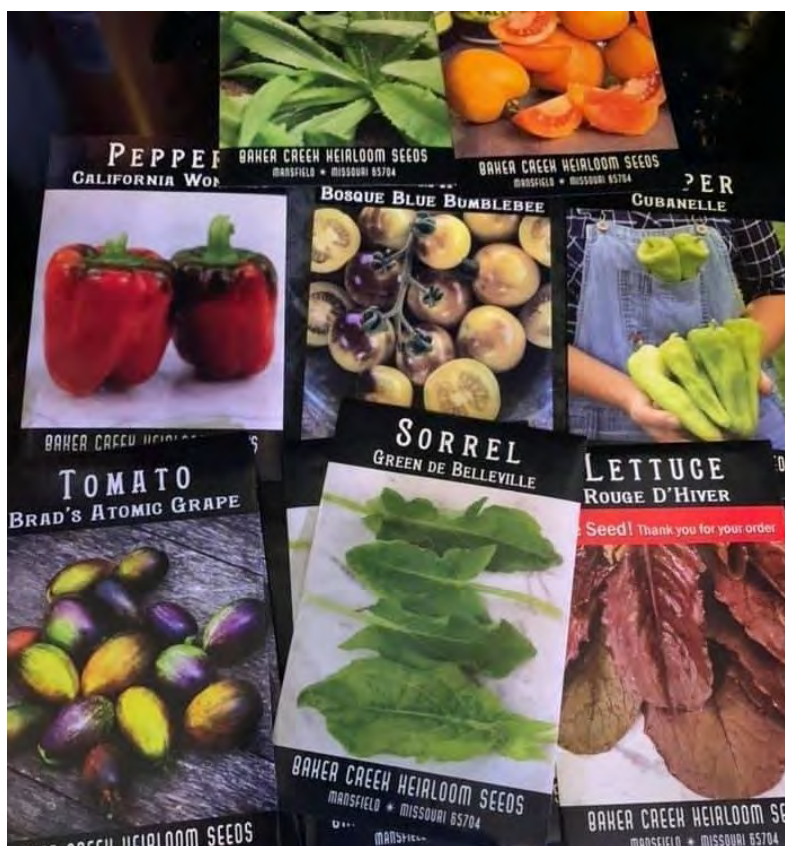
To me, Jahren’s primary message is to be mindful of what you use: where it comes from, where it’s going and how much of it you choose to consume. There are big ideas out there on how to mitigate the devastating effects of climate change through technology or mega construction projects, some of them more realistic than others, but Jahren argues that the human behavior that got us into this predicament is what has to change.

The Story of More is a very personal story which draws most of its data comparisons from the 51 years since Jahren was born in 1969. It is also sprinkled with comments and anecdotes from her own experience. As she was born in Minnesota and initially went to the University of Minnesota, Jahren has a Midwestern sensibility that I enjoyed.

This book is available at the Oshkosh Public Library.

Getting garden seeds during a pandemic 2021

By Jay Dampier, Extension Horticulture Program



When purchasing seeds, make sure to read and follow the directions on the seed packet.

The pandemic has disrupted how we do things on so many levels. In 2020 some gardeners were not able to get the seeds they wanted due increased demand and staffing shortages at seed companies. While seed companies expect to be better prepared this year, it is not too early to plan your garden now and get your seed order in for the 2021 growing season! Here are a few suggestions to help you get the seeds in time for spring planting. For starters, order early. [By ordering seeds](#) early you get into the fulfillment cue early. This will help ensure that you get the seeds you want, when you need them. This is especially important if the seeds should be started 6-8 weeks (or more) prior transplanting outside.

Be flexible and try other cultivars. Some online ordering forms have a notes section. If you are not 100% dead set on a specific cultivar, make a note to the seed company that you will consider a substitute of a similar cultivar.

Shop around online ... or when safe, in garden centers. Different online seed stores carry different items. Some companies have exclusives that are only carried by them. If you do not find exactly what you're looking for, try a few different sources. Some local garden centers and nurseries carry large selections of seeds. Find a time when you think the store will not be too busy and see what they have, in-person.

Check websites regularly. If you are ordering your seeds online, check the website frequently. Some seed companies get new varieties of seeds after their paper catalogue has been printed and mailed. The most up-to-date seed availability will usually be in their online stores.

Here's one final tip ... save seeds for next year. You may want to [consider saving seeds from your 2021 crop](#), to be planted in 2022. However, there are a few things you need to know about seed saving. Make sure that the seeds you purchase this year are not hybrids and will be good seed saving candidates for next year. Not all seeds are good for seed saving.

Remember to take photos of your indoor plants and send them to Anne at pakster0605@yahoo.com for uploading to the Master Gardener Facebook page and then go and LIKE your favorites!

DISCOVERING YOUR GREEN THUMB CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

WHO: Open to WCMGA members

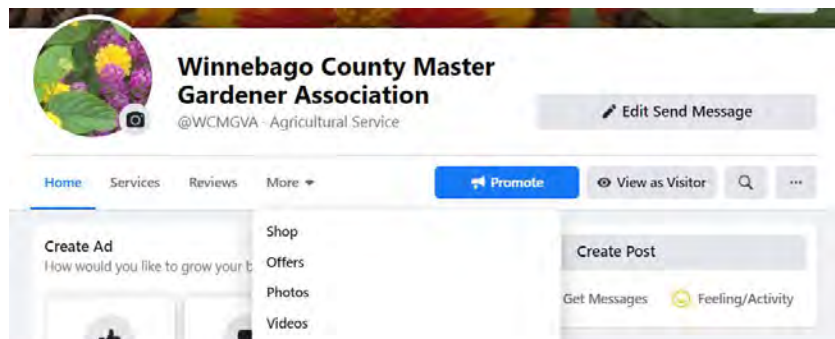
WHAT: Indoor Plant Contest with 4 categories: **Flowering Plants/Non-Flowering Plants/Succulents/Chia's**

WHEN: January 12th, 2021 through March March 5th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Pictures received after March 5th, 2021 6:00 p.m. will not be posted. Voting (like the photo) starts once the pictures are posted

WHERE: Pictures are to be forwarded to ANNE MURPHY (pakster0605@yahoo.com)

Members without electronic capabilities can send a picture(s) to Anne at:

Anne Murphy
W1235 County Rd. X
Berlin, WI 54923



Go to the Winnebago County Master Gardener Facebook page:

facebook.com/WCMGVA.

Click on "More" and the Photos to get to the Plant Photo Contest Albums. Click on the Album you want to view and like the photos you

want to vote for. The photos with the most likes will be the winner in each album.

WHY: To supplement lectures, keep our members interested in winter horticulture activities

HOW: Picture(s) will be taken by WCMGA members of their own plants within their own household

Submit Indoor plant pictures in any one or all of the 4 categories: Flowering, Non-Flowering, Succulents and Chia's by March 5th, 2021 6:00 p.m. **Include your name and category with each picture submitted**

Members without electronic capability may call **Anne Murphy at 920-379-7132** to cast your vote. Ribbons will be given as follows: 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for each of the 4 categories. Winners will be recognized at the March 9th, 2021 6:00 p.m. business meeting.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am Dropmore catmint. Order: Lamiales. Family: Lamiaceae / Labiatae – Mint family. Genus: Nepeta L. – catnip. Species: *N. x faassenii*. Common name: Dropmore catmint. This plant is a hybrid whose parent species are *Nepeta racemosa* and *Nepeta nepetella*. Genus name comes from the Latin name for certain aromatic plants. The specific epithet is in reference to the Dutch nursery of J. H. Faassen. It has gained the Royal Horticultural Society's Award of Garden Merit. I can be found in the rain garden adjacent to the Coughlin Center.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Member Business Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2021

Education Presentation: Brian Hudelson – Plant Diseases in History – 1 hour Cont. Education 6-7

Treasurer's Report: **Deby Voyles**

- \$2469.81 in checking; \$30,965.74 in money market; 81 members submitted dues

Secretary's Report: **Ed Dombrowski**

- Minutes can be found in the newsletter

Project Update: **Kathy Procknow**

- WIMGA grant awarded to Park View Cutting Garden \$400; Butterfly Garden \$250
- Lead meeting will be end of February

Extension Update: **Kimberly Miller**

- Annual enrollment – must be done by March 31, 2021. Log into ORS (online reporting system), accept forms and move on before any volunteering can be done. If you don't have a computer, a hard copy will be mailed to you.

Education Committee: **Mary Moosemiller**

- Webinar Feb. 2, 2021 6:30-7:30 PM watch for invite coming soon
- Plans for WESD 2022 are happening

State Rep.: **Becky Schoborg**

- Nothing to add

New Business

- Indoor Plant Photo Contest – **Ed Dombrowski**
 - o Starts at end of this meeting until March Business meeting
 - o Categories: Succulents, Non-Flowering, Flowering, Chias
 - o Take picture and submit

- o Can enter any category
 - o 1st-3rd ribbons
 - o No artificial plants
 - o More info to come
 - Dues Reminder – due by March 31, 2021
 - Break Out Session – What plans do you have for gardening this spring/summer?
 - o Asparagus bed, refigure plans, flowers within vegetable garden, new plants, tree down and will make new beds, new backyard plans, native ephemerals, catalogs, pots, ferns, shade areas, clean up tree area, move shade plants, white garden in wooded area, learn flower names, soil test in community garden, new fence area, mulch of pulverized leaves, retaining wall added with meandering path of grass, herbs in basement, raccoons and vegetable garden, simple square foot, organization
- Adjourn 7:51 PM

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for February Events

Feb. - March 9: Plant Picture Competition

Clarification:

In the January Newsletter section “From Your Presidents” it incorrectly states, “The enrollment process begins January 1 and ends March 15”. The correct end date is March 31. We apologize for any confusion.

Continuing Education Opportunities

Linda Werner

It looks like in-person continuing education still won't be possible during the first part of 2021. Winter Escape~Summer Dreams and the usual spring conferences sponsored by other Master Gardener groups are not being held. However, on-line opportunities continue to grow. Those listed on the WCMGA website and Facebook page are approved for MG continuing education credit. New programming for January includes:

The **WPT Garden and Landscape Expo** is going virtual on February 20-21. Not all the seminars/workshops offered are eligible for MG Continuing Education Credit. The January edition of "The Vibe" newsletter will provide guidance. In the meantime, the event schedule is already posted at: www.wigardenexpo.com

Xerces Society (All free) <https://xerces.org/events/webinars>

Friday, February 26, noon-2 p.m. CST, Buying Bee-Safe Plants: How You Can Help

Thursday, April 1, noon-1:30 p.m. CST, Soil Invertebrates-Getting to Know the Life in Soil

Thursday, April 15, noon-1:30 p.m. CST, Getting to Know the "Good Bugs"- Scouting for Pollinators and Other Beneficial Insects

Thursday, May 6, noon-1:30 p.m. CST, Supporting Pollinators Over Time: How to Maintain Wildlife Diversity

UW Arboretum, (\$10 each)

<https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/>

Thursday, February 4, 10 a.m. CST, Relationships, History, Hip Hop, and Forestry: Thinking About Diversity and Inclusion in the Environmental Sciences

Thursday, February 11, 10 a.m. CST, Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation

Thursday, February 18, 10 a.m.-noon CST, Arboretum Research Symposium

Thursday, February 25, 10 a.m.CST, How Microbes Shape Our Lives, Transform the Environment, and Influence Climate

Thursday, March 4, 10 a.m. CST, Holy Ground: Working With Faith and Indigenous Leaders to Build Resilience

Thursday, March 11, 10 a.m. CST, Beyond the Clinical Walls: Environmental Determinants of

Health

Thursday, March 18, 10 a.m. CST, Climate Change and Wisconsin's Forests: What We Know, What We Expect, and How to Adapt

Thursday, March 25, 10 a.m. CST, Treaty Rights, Culturally Important Beings, and Indigenous-led Climate Adaptation in the Ojibwe Ceded Territories

Thursday, April 8, 10 a.m. CST, Climate Change, Reality vs. Development: Global South and Worldwide Perspective

University of Illinois Extension (Free)

<https://extension.illinois.edu/news-releases/learn-identify-trees-winter-bark-twigs-buds?fbclid=IwAR1Ekn2Hz0tjelGleH5ssUa9LJ7v5gHSGRxifwF9Cfh8oklm9tgziBsORSo>

February 1, 3, 5, 2-3 p.m. CST, Winter Tree ID Webinar Series



**Albuca spiralis, Frizzle Sizzle.
In bloom!**
Submitted by Linda Loker.



Rime ice on coneflowers.
Submitted by Kim Willman.

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	Valerie Stabenow
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	Donna Kudlas/Jane Kuhn
Park View Prairie Garden	Eric Kropp
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	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 2021						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1	2 Business Mtg. 6:30PM	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Board Mtg. 6:00 PM	10	11	12	13
14 	15	16	17	18	19	20 WPT Garden & Landscape Expo
21 WPT Garden & Landscape Expo	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

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