

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

Winnebago County Master Gardeners



Submitted by Lawanda Jungwirth



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.

Please excuse our mess as our newsletter is under construction.



The President's Pen

This is a good time to address the frequently asked question of how to fulfill the requirement for 10 hours of continuing education each year. The our Education Committee is providing two excellent ways to get education hours - "Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams" February 7 at UWO Reeve Union and the bus trip to the 2015 [Garden Expo](#) in Madison the following weekend. The speakers for WE/SD are diverse and outstanding this year, and the Madison Garden Show has topics for everyone. (Members who just finished their Level I training have already completed the 10 hour requirement for this year.)

There are a plethora of other garden seminars around the state for you to attend. [Larry Meiller's](#) radio program on WPR frequently has extension speakers talking about plant and garden topics, especially on Friday's Garden Talk show (replayed on Saturday). These programs are archived and can be accessed at your convenience. Level II training is often offered in the spring, and there are often programs on insects and plant diseases offered in our area. Guided tours at Botanical Gardens are another good way for continuous learning. Let us know your favorites.

We would again like to recognize Diane Iott, Cindy Meszaros, and Bill Weber for reaching 1000 volunteer hours—and special recognition to Marge Menacher for receiving the Golden Trowel Award.

Now it is time to start a new year and prepare for the next project and gardening season. Last year we were a part of the gardening community's effort to support the plummeting Monarch Butterfly population by providing milkweed host plants. The final assessment of the current migrating population is still in process but there is some optimism that the population may have as much as doubled compared to last year.

Are you interested in adding more milkweed plants to our gardens? Learning how to support other pollinators like the native bees? Please let us know your thoughts and we'll plan to discuss in 2015.

Take care. Stay safe.

Mary and Linda

NEED TO CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER? PLEASE SEE THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.

Dates to Remember

Winter Escapes / Summer Dreams - Register NOW!

Don't miss this year's winter event on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 8 AM - 3 PM at UW Oshkosh. You'll be entertained by four professional speakers, enticed by the NEW silent auction and overwhelmed by how much you're going to enjoy this event! Find the speaker bios and [registration form](#) on our web site at winnebagomastergardeners.org. If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Ruedinger at 920.231.5745.

You won't want to miss this wonderful opportunity planned especially for you - send in your registration today!

Silent Auction Donations Needed

Something new and exciting is being planned for Winter Escape/Summer Dreams for Saturday, February 7, 2015. We are having a "Silent Auction." We invite and encourage all our members to participate in donating items.

If you have something you'd like to donate, please bring it to the Jan. 13 Business meeting or contact Audrey at 920.231.5745. Thank you for your help!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 6- Board Meeting**
- **January 13- Business Meeting**
- **January 24- Harmony With Nature Convention Wild Ones**
- **February 7- Winter Escape/ Summer Dreams-Winnebago MGA**
- **February 21- A Day in the Garden, Fond du Lac MGA Conference**
- **March 28- Marinette MGA Conference**
- **March 28- Outagamie MGA Conference**
- **Flower Arranging schedule at Park View Health Center 2015**

January 26	Flowers from Pick N Save
February	No flower arranging
March 23	Flowers from Pick N Save
April 20	Flowers from Pick N Save

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

Oshkosh Area Humane Society Reflections Garden

History

In 2007, an area of the Oshkosh Area Humane Society property was designated as a memorial garden where people could remember or honor a loved person or pet. Donors were offered the opportunity to purchase trees, engraved garden stones or garden benches. Twenty-four trees were planted and 73 garden stones were installed as a patio, along with 20 benches placed throughout the space. The next phase was to create a green space where people could come and remember their loved ones.



In 2010, a Team of Master Gardeners took on the vision of transforming an area of young trees and shrubs, an overwhelming volume of hardscapes, and the turf (that was showing plenty of weeds and not much lawn grass) into a peaceful, reflective space. The team, led by Project Leader Dara Sitter, softened the look of the benches with grasses and mulch, improved the quality of the lawn and planted multiple beds creating all-season color and interest and providing separate, intimate spaces in the garden.

In the spring of 2012, Matt and Julie Miller became involved in the project, combining their interest of gardening along with their love of animals. “Dara encouraged us both to add our own touches and to try new things with the space,” Julie said. “She and her Dad were very encouraging to us, as we were both new to the Master Gardener program.” Working full-time, this project gave them the opportunity to work in the gardens on Saturday mornings or in the evenings. After two years, they became the new Project Leads, allowing Dara to venture into other MG projects of interest.

What inspires us to be there?

Anyone who has ever had a pet knows how much joy and happiness they bring to your family. Not only do these reflection gardens honor these pets and their owners, it also gives the OAHS Staff Members and their visitors a green space to enjoy.

Cheryl Rosenthal, the OAHS Communications & Education Coordinator, sent us this email in September:

“Working at the Oshkosh Area Humane Society can be very stressful at times and we often don’t have time to turn around yet alone eat lunch. When I don’t have time to get away I have found the Reflection Garden is the perfect place to sit, eat my salad and unwind a bit. I’m short, so I fit perfectly, resting my back on the armrest of the one of the cement benches with my feet

resting against the other. I have seen Goldfinches, dragon flies, bees, birds and Monarch butterflies. One day I counted six or seven Monarchs flitting flower to flower. I hated going back inside. Sometimes I will see our volunteers walking through the garden, reading the stones or just sitting quietly with a shelter dog. Our visitors do this too. Thank you for making the garden a true respite from the hustle of the work day. It is a peaceful place to relax and reflect.”

What is involved in this project?

In order to sustain the gardens, there is always the opportunity to weed and dead-head throughout the season. MGs can add their style to the gardens by selecting and planting annuals, watering and helping to maintain the lawn that surrounds the 16 beds. The team continues to develop educational resources for our visitors, identifying the plants, trees and shrubs throughout the space.



When are the times to work there?

Matt, Julie and other MGs are typically found in the gardens on Saturday mornings, from 9:30 – noon. This allows everyone to talk over any ideas and tackle any bigger projects, like spreading mulch or planting annuals. As members feel more comfortable with what needs to be done, they are welcome to come and go at a time that works best for them. Feel free to contact Matt or Julie if you are interested in working on the project in 2015.



IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS by VIRGINIA SLATTERY



BONNIE SMITH

Wants to learn more about fruits and vegetables



CAROL SWANNELL

Wants to learn more about vegetables



DEBORAH VOYLES

Likes designing spring and summer gardens



JAY BIRSCHBACH

Enjoys perennials, bulbs and shrubs



JOAN NEWELL

Does a lot of container gardening



JULIE BIRSCHBACH

Tries to incorporate her stain glass in her English garden



LAURIE WAGNER

Excited to be a master gardener



LEE KRONFORST

Loves growing anything he can eat



DONNA JAEGER

Her specialty is dahlias



LINDSY DEVRIES

Loves gardening



LISA MINEW

Wants to learn about herbs



LYNN CHRISTIAN

Anxious to get started



LYNN SLAT

Excited to be learning
much



MARGOT CASTLE

Really into ornamental grass



MELISSA HAYES

Now is moving to Madison



PATRICIA CLARK

Petey loves perennial
gardening



ROXEE MALNORY

Loves houseplants



RUTH RETZLAFF

Loves just digging in the dirt



WENDY WILBER

Loves gardening

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

by Lawanda Jungwirth

Herbal Gifts

Herbs from your garden can form the basis for a healing salve, lip balm, soothing hand cream or solid perfume. All have the same three ingredients: an herb-infused oil, beeswax and vitamin E oil. Varying the amount of infused oil and beeswax is what changes the outcome.

The first step is to infuse an oil with herbs. Jojoba oil, which is quite expensive, works best, but olive oil is a fine substitute. Herbs should be dried before infusing. It is a simple process. Place 2 oz. of dried herbs in a slow cooker or crock-pot and cover completely with oil. Use a long-handled spoon to crush the herbs slightly and push them down so they don't float atop the oil. Place over low heat for six hours. Let cool for a few hours, then strain the oil through a metal strainer or cheesecloth and discard the herbs.

Almost any herb can be infused. Comfrey leaves and calendula flowers are commonly used for a healing salve. Lemon verbena, lemon balm, peppermint or chocolate mint make refreshing lip balm. Lavender is wonderful in hand cream or solid perfume. Other herbs to try are chamomile flowers, catnip leaves, juniper or other evergreen needles, plantain leaf, dandelion root, rosemary, sage, rose petals, thyme and lemon thyme. If you don't find the herbs you want in your own garden, almost any herb can be purchased in bulk via the Internet. Look for certified organic herbs to avoid contamination from pesticides.

You can even infuse oil with spices from your kitchen spice rack. Whole cinnamon, clove, anise, allspice, ginger, nutmeg, cardamom and vanilla beans are some you can try. Cayenne pepper can be used to make a salve for aching joints.

After the oil is infused, heat it along with the beeswax in a double boiler, or in a glass measuring cup set in a pan of boiling water, until the beeswax melts. Remove from heat and add the contents of a vitamin E capsule by poking the capsule with a pin and squeezing out the contents. Mixing in a few drops of essential oil to match or complement the herb-infused oil makes your product even more aromatic. Stir gently and pour into clean metal or glass containers to cool and harden.

For salve, use 1 oz. beeswax and 2-8 oz. of oil, depending on how hard or soft you'd like the result. Perhaps start with 4 oz. and adjust. A hand cream would be on the softer end of the salve spectrum. For lip balm and solid perfume, use 1 oz. beeswax and 2 oz. oil. If you are unsatisfied with the product's consistency after it is cooled and hardened, you can adjust by reheating it and adding more oil if you'd like it softer or beeswax if you'd prefer it harder.

Package the containers prettily for holiday gifts or treat yourself.

SEED FOR THOUGHT

By Jennifer Footit-Tank

The tree is down, the gifts unwrapped and all of the company has gone home. Now we have sub-zero temperatures, snowdrifts and the view outside your window is white with various shades of brown. But to the die-hard gardener, this is a time of great planning and daydreaming of the summer's pending garden. Now our mailboxes are stuffed with garden catalogs adding more fuel to the creative fire.

So how to handle this task:

1. The first step is to inventory last year's heirloom seeds that were carefully dried and saved.
2. Next, is to consider all the seed varieties available to purchase. GMO vs non-GMO, mainstream vs organic. If you have not considered trying organic and non-GMO species, here are some links to look at providers for these types of seeds.
 - a. www.seedsofchange.com organic seeds
 - b. www.johnnyseeds.com organic seeds
 - c. www.organiccatalogue.com organic seeds and non-GMO
 - d. www.rareseeds.com Baker Creek Seed Company non-GMO
3. Once the seeds are ordered, it is time to plan the garden layout and rotation. Many a gardener has toiled for hours over this task with pencil and paper. Now there are a few options that allow the computer to assist you, thus saving time.
 - a. www.GrowVeg.com is \$25/year and allows fruit and vegetable planning
 - b. www.gardeners.com is free from Gardeners Supply Company which has pre-planned and custom garden plans
 - c. www.bhg.com is free from Better Homes and Garden called Plan-a-Garden which allows you to put in structures, accents, and plants, save and edit for later, and print plans.
 - d. www.smartgardener.com is free and is a vegetable garden planning system.
4. After the seeds have arrived, the itch to plant usually becomes one that cannot be scratched. So go ahead and dive into starting your seeds indoors.

National Gardening Association. "Vegetable Seed Starting." Online video clip. *YouTube*. YouTube, 26 Apr. 2010. Web. 10 Dec. 2014.

If you are unable to view the movie please click on this link to take you there
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FGH3MBZ21M>

No longer will January be thought of as the holiday let down time but one of anticipation for next season's garden. The smell of earth, the sight of green seedlings, and the daily routine of nurturing them will surely be the cure for any winter boredom.

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 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.

CUTS AND CLIPS

By Marge Bolding

Tasks for January

Source: Madison Area MG Assoc. (2008)

- Give houseplants a monthly shower with tepid water
- Use discarded Christmas branches as mulch on perennial beds or a shelter for songbirds near feeders
- Work on plant labels for perennials, annuals, and vegetables
- Begin your vegetable garden plan, remembering to rotate crops
- Start perusing catalogs for disease and pest resistant varieties good for our Wisconsin growing season
- Check trees and shrubs for wildlife damage using 1/4 inch hardware cloth if needed as fencing
- Try using sand or kitty litter to provide traction instead of ice-melting products
- Do not try to remove ice from ornamentals

Tried and True: *submitted by Virginia Slattery*

My mother always said to plant rusty nails in the hydrangeas to keep them blue

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

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS!

GARDEN PICTURES FROM OUR MEMBERS



Lawanda Jungwirth



Jeanne Callen



BUZZING AROUND



By Mary Jo Maher

One of the great things about living in this area is being able to take day trips to the local garden centers. You can make these trips as long or short as you like. If you are crazy about plants as I am, you can spend just about a full day at one of these stops. So, let's go explore the Green Bay area.

Mayflower Greenhouse

726 Airport Drive, Hobart, WI



Originally one of Green Bay's best-kept secrets, Mayflower Greenhouse has become the area's prevailing live plant greenhouse for landscape artists, designers, and in-the-know gardeners. At Mayflower Greenhouse, customers can discover a vast assortment of exotic plants, extraordinary containers, gardening accessories and hidden gems from the "picker" barns of Wisconsin and Poland.



Mayflower prides itself on carrying an unusual assortment of annuals, perennials, tropical, and the area's largest selection of succulents & sedums. We have topiaries in every form imaginable (dogs, rabbits, camels, fish, birds, etc....)! We have terrariums, and fairy gardens, and we love the challenge of reinventing something! We have planted everything from tables and chairs, to picture frames, bicycles, birdcages, pianos, and even chandeliers. You name it we planted it (or at least tried)!

Mayflower is known for the most diverse and abundant selection of indoor/outdoor containers in Northeast Wisconsin. From big and extravagant, to small and unique, contemporary to traditional, elegant and timeless, to light weight and functional, we have the container you are looking for! Mayflower also carries beautiful fountains,

antiques, garden and home accessories, well-crafted gardening tools, American handmade aprons and garden totes, and one of a kind pieces that all of your friends will envy!

Mayflower is so much more than just a pretty place. We are the premier container design center for the Green Bay and surrounding area. The award winning design team can transform your home and garden into a unique and beautiful setting. We offer on-site design advice, and consultations. For the busy bee we offer a pick-up and delivery service that takes all the hard work out of gardening. We will pick up your containers, plant them beautifully, and deliver them back to you! All you have to do is water them! Mayflower is also your place for unique centerpieces, holiday arrangements.



Sign up for the Mayflower newsletter to be in the loop on all the fun events that the greenhouse offers! “Succulent planting classes,” “Holiday wreath-making workshops,” “Cooking with herbs,” “Herbal Cocktails,” and of course the “Spring Champagne Mixer,” which launches the year’s growing season. This is where our customers get a sneak preview of the rows of blooms, see the latest container collections, purchase top-rated plants for the season, and get free design advice from our experts. Visit the website www.mayflowergreenhouse.com for current hours, sign up for our newsletter, and check out our web-store. Also follow us on Facebook for all of the latest deals and offerings!

ROSE-HILL GARDENS

472 ROSE-HILL DRIVE, HOBART

[Rose-Hill Gardens](#) was established in the spring of 1998 as a small retail perennial nursery. The primary plant offering at that time was a large offering of daylilies.

The nursery consisted of one hoop house and a retail sales building. Through the years the nursery expanded both in plant offerings and in structures. Currently we have four hoop houses in which we grow over 12,000 pots of perennials. Primary plant offerings



moved away from daylilies and now include a large selection of hostas, heuchera, lilies, and coneflowers. We have an extensive line of hostas including one of the largest offerings of miniature hostas in northeast Wisconsin. Our heuchera offerings exceed 30 in number and include many of the spectacular cultivars recently introduced. Our lily offerings are extensive and include everything from short border lilies to the spectacular orient pets. In the past couple of years we have steadily increased our selection of coneflowers, as much progress is being made in new

and unique offerings. Many other hardy perennials are also available.

Rose-Hill Gardens is unique in several respects. Our nursery sits on 2.4 acres of land and we therefore are able to showcase many of our perennial offerings by featuring mature specimens in any one of our 25 display beds. The display gardens range from full shade featuring hostas and other shade-loving plants to gardens that are in full sun and displaying the vast array of plants that thrive in a high light environment. Visitors are encouraged to stroll the gardens and see the full potential of each perennial before making purchasing decisions based on a tiny plant label.



Another aspect of the nursery that makes us unique is the vast array of hypertufa pots and planters on display and also for sale. We currently have over 300 pots to choose from with some planted up and others empty. Classes are also offered periodically for those who would like to make their own planter.

In the past several years we have increased our emphasis on succulents, rock garden plants, and miniature conifers. Several display beds have been dedicated solely to display these types of plants. These plants are also excellent candidates for hypertufa planters. Our miniature conifer collection now numbers over 200 cultivars. Our succulent collection features an expanded offering of unique agaves and aloes. Four rock garden displays are also part of the landscape to give you ideas on how to incorporate these unique gems into the landscape. Rose-Hill Gardens has regular hours beginning May 1st and continuing daily through October. A lot of additional information is available on our website at www.rhgardens.com. Instructional garden videos are also available at the website. Garden tours of small or large groups can be scheduled at any time during the growing season. We can be reached by phone at (920) 869-2540 or by email us at rosehillgardens@yahoo.com.

Looking for places to eat in this area:

- Lorelei Inn- (German Food) located at 1412 S Webster Ave in Green Bay
- The Rite Place located at 1580 Bellevue St, Green Bay (soups and croissants)
- Allouez Café- 2020 S Webster Ave., Green Bay (breakfast and lunch)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

ROLO PRETZEL SNACK

Submitted by Linda Loker

Source: Hersheys.com

- 1 bag of circle pretzels
- 1 bag of Rolo candy - unwrap candy pieces
- Pecan halves
- Heat oven to 300 degrees.

- Line baking pan with parchment paper
- Place single layer of pretzel circles on paper
- Top each pretzel piece with one Rolo
- Place in oven for 4 minutes
- Take out of oven and immediately top with each with a pecan.
- Cool. Store in airtight container.

Note: This is a great treat for children to help with.

Growing Pains

Staying healthy while gardening By: Ralph Helm Inc Blog

Hearing Loss: How Basic Lawn Mowing Chores Should Be Left To Professionals

Posted on [March 14, 2012](#) by [Admin](#)

It seems that almost everyone has heard of hearing loss through listening to [loud music](#); the age of MP3 players and ear buds has even escalated the issue to be highlighted in local high school newspapers, such as The Lance from Linganore High School. So, listeners respond by turning the volume down. However, what about lawn mower noise? Does anyone usually wonder about the effect of that incredibly loud noise on a day-to-day basis? In fact, it is quite possible to lose a substantial amount of hearing by simply mowing the lawn.



Hearing occurs through sound waves entering the ear canal; the sound passes across the eardrum, middle ear, and into the inner ear. Tiny hair cells vibrate deep within the inner ear which directly communicates with the auditory nerves. Excessive [noise](#) above 85 decibels, such as a lawn mower, can slowly damage the hair cells. As a result, hearing loss occurs. Unfortunately, these hair cells cannot be regenerated.

What are the best ways to [prevent](#) hearing loss from loud lawn mowing machines? One of the best forms of protection is covering the ears. Specialized earmuffs will cover the entire ear, effectively muting the damaging incoming sounds. Alternatively, earplugs made of foam, or other alternative materials, can be gently placed within the ear canal for even more muting power. Many of these ear coverings will have a specified decibel rating; consumers should make sure that the covering is rated for the lawn mower's maximum decibel level.

The News Crew:

EDITORS: *Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Jennifer Footit-Tank, and Mary Jo Maher*

Contributors: Lawanda Jungwirth, Anne Murphy, Eric Kropp, Linda Loker, Jane Kuhn, Lynne Slat, Marge Bolding, and Julie Parker-Birschbach



January 2015

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Board Meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Business Meeting	14	15 Submit newsletter items	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Harmony with Nature
25	26 Flower Arranging	27	28	29	30	31

Submit items for the newsletter by the 15th of the month.