

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

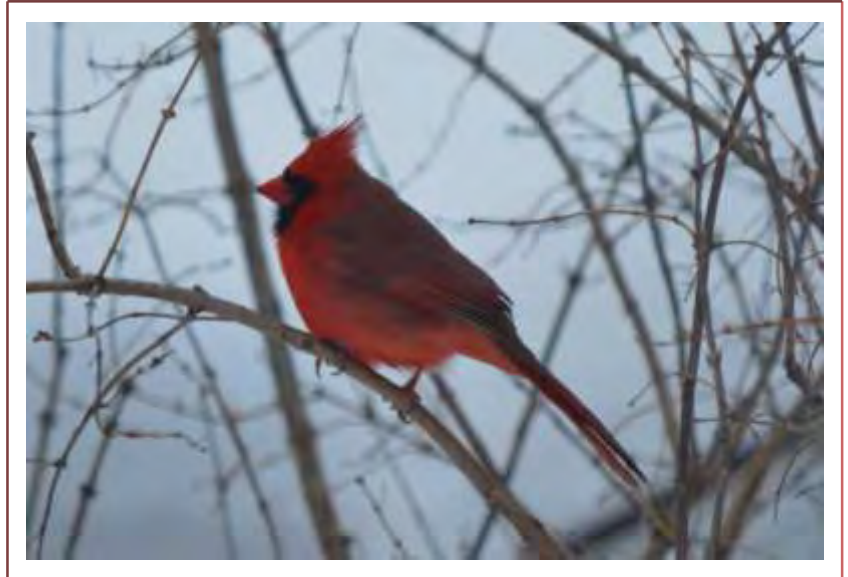
WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

January 2017-Issue 26



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.

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Maria Talin

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Home and Garden Outdoors Living Show- Jan 20-21
Garden Visions-Wausau –January 21
Park View flower arranging – January 23
Madison Garden Expo- February 11
Winter Escapes- Summer Dreams – Feb 18
Fond du Lac Master Gardeners Conference- April 1
Outagamie Master Gardeners Conference- April 1
Marinette Master Gardeners Conference- April 1

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



Hello and Happy New Year to All!!!

Are we singing "Let It Snow" or "Baby It's Cold Outside"?! We have had both this past month. We hope your holidays were filled with blessings.

We are now starting our 26th year in the organization. Winnebago County MG Association has had a great 25 years of growth and contribution to the community. We have over 100 members, numerous projects that MG's are a part of, a wonderful Education Committee team that is putting out successful seminars and workshops, a fantastic newsletter team that creates a colorful and interesting pallet for our eyes, just to name a few of our accomplished teams! Because of all of our projects and committees we have an active presence in our county. Thanks to all of our members!

We had a wonderful turn out for the Awards Banquet in December with over 80 members and guests! LaSure's did a great job, and we were very proud to welcome our new members and newly certified members. When you see these new members at our business meetings, please help them feel at home with our organization. Each of us is truly an asset to this team!

We are now entering into a new season.....the seminar season!

First off, we are hosting a booth at the Home and Garden Show at the Winnebago Co Fairgrounds on January 20, 21, and 22. Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel are our leads for this project. They will be asking for helpers for the booth at our January member business meeting so consider signing up. This counts for 'educating the community' hours so it will be a nice start to your 2017 hours! There will be 2 workshops available on Saturday so you can earn your own education hours as well!

Madison's WPT Garden Expo will be held at the Alliant Energy Building on February 11, 2017 and we will be hosting a bus to this event. From personal experience, we find we can earn most of our education hours by attending all the wonderful talks available. They are free talks once you pay admission into the event. And there is a wonderful and colorful vendor area to browse through. Thank you, Marge Menacher, for organizing this trip.

Winter Escape Summer Dreams - our very own seminar - will be held at LaSure's on February 18, 2017 and proves to be a great event to obtain hours for your education as well. The speakers have been carefully chosen by the education committee and should prove to be not only interesting but entertaining as well!

Our first business meeting of the year will be on January 10, 2017 and we are working on a presentation for everyone we hope you will enjoy.

See you all next year!

Kathy and Linda

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

At the Master Gardener monthly business meetings, after we check in and register, most of us head to the wonderful refreshment table. There are always so many great treats to taste. I would like to try everything at the table but I can't. Renee Donner is the person who organizes all these treats and goodies as they come in for each meeting. She is the Chair of the Refreshment Committee. I asked her to explain how she organizes this and what is involved.

The Refreshment Committee

By Renee Donner

The refreshment committee: I feel somewhat embarrassed, Linda Loker had this job for 6 years, I have had it only 1 year in February. I'm not sure of the history, however I would bet that Linda just started baking treats and bringing them. This is actually a fun job! I do enjoy the generosity and willingness of our members. This job is actually very simple. I pass around a sign up sheet 2 or 3 times a year, members sign up. I then email or call them the week before and let them know that they signed up for that given month. If they are unable to bring a treat, I either make the treat myself or purchase a snack at the store. Members are very generous and helpful; they love the festive atmosphere that the treats provide. On the meeting day, I pick up waters; make sure we have plenty of plates, napkins and coffee. I arrive at the Coughlin center at 5:00 and start the coffee, set up the table and wait for the treats to come walking in the door!!! The members are always willing to assist with cleanup and, of course, I have members that consistently assist. This committee is so much fun, because of the members and their willingness to pitch in and make wonderful treats for their organization.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Cheeseburger Soup

Source: passed on through family members/Ginny Slatery

1/2 lb. ground beef
3/4 cup chopped onion
3/4 cup shredded carrots
3/4 cup diced celery
1 tsp. dried basil
1 tsp. parsley flakes
4 Tbs. butter (divided)
4 cups peeled, diced potatoes
1/4 cup flour
8 oz. Velveeta (processed cheese)
1 1/2 cups milk
3 cups chicken broth
3/4 tsp. salt
1/4-1/2 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup sour cream

Brown and drain beef and set aside. Sauté vegetables (except potatoes) with basil and parsley in 1 Tbs. butter for about 10 minutes. Add broth, potatoes, and meat. Bring to boil and then reduce heat and cook about 10 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Meanwhile, in saucepan prepare a white sauce with remaining butter and flour, adding the milk gradually. Cook on low heat until thickened (about 3-5 minutes). I like to add dices of the cheese to the sauce so it melts evenly. After the cheese has melted, add to the rest of the soup and bring to a slow boil (careful not to burn!). Add salt and pepper anytime and blend in sour cream before serving.

This is an easy and filling soup for a cold winter day. If you don't like it this thick, add more chicken broth.

WHAT AM I

By Jane Kuhn

What Am I

By Jane Kuhn

I am a clump-forming, cool season perennial which grows from 2 to 3 feet tall and wide, has very narrow, spiky, steel blue leaf blades, and spikelets of bluish-brown flowers, turning wheat color by fall, rising well above the foliage clump in June. I am easily grown in zones 4-8 in average, dry to medium, well-drained soil in full sun, with dryish soils resulting in my best blue color. Although my foliage is evergreen in warm winter climates, I am a semi-evergreen in harsh winters where foliage decline will occur.

Propagation occurs with seed or division. I feature summer blooms, fall foliage and blooms, and winter interest. I work well as a contrast in a perennial border, an accent plant in a rock garden or as a border along a pathway. I am deer resistant, drought tolerant and can be used on a slope for erosion control. I attract birds and am low maintenance.



WHO KNEW

Submitted by
Mary Jo Maher

SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE BACK TO THE FUTURE

Recycled Christmas trees have many uses

Source- University of Wisconsin Extension

You can put your Christmas tree in your backyard where birds and small animals can use it for shelter. Add strings of popcorn, cranberries, suet and other treats that birds and other small animals like.

Homeowners with private fishponds may want to consider sinking their tree to make a refuge and feeding area for fish.

A creative use for Christmas trees is to save the needles to create potpourri. Dry the branches, then remove and crumble the needles. Mix the needles with cinnamon sticks, whole cloves and Christmas scent. Place in jars to store.

To create a pleasant Christmas scent, add one cup of water to one-fourth cup potpourri and heat it on a stovetop or in a potpourri heater. The potpourri makes a great gift next year.

Save the tree till spring and chip it for mulch around trees and shrubs

Other uses: Cut the tree trunk into to pieces to use as coasters or use the pieces as a garden border. Use the cut limbs to shelter perennials

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Caring for Holiday Gift Plants

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Most plants given for holiday gifts – poinsettias, Christmas cactuses, kalanchoes, cypresses, and others – originate in tropical regions and cannot tolerate our cold winter temperatures, even for a few minutes.

Special care must be taken in transporting these tender plants outdoors. Protect them with as many layers of paper, plastic, towels or blankets as possible. In a pinch, sacrifice the scarf or hat off your own head! When giving or receiving a tender plant, warm up the car and move it as close to the door as possible before rushing the plant through the cold air. When shopping, be sure to schedule the store where you will purchase gift plants as your last stop.

When you arrive home, check the potting soil and water the plant immediately if the soil is not moist. Slip the pot out of the pretty foil that surrounds it and let it drain before replacing the foil. You can keep the foil around the pot until Christmas, but then it should be removed and the pot inside should be placed on a saucer for drainage. Allowing the plants to sit in standing water invites root rot.

Inspect the plant, including the undersides of the leaves and the stem to be sure no greenhouse pests have been relocated to your home. Look carefully, especially at poinsettias, to see if tiny little whiteflies are flying around the plant. Most pests can be removed with just water using your kitchen sprayer or the bathroom shower.

If the pot feels unusually light, the plant is root bound and it should be transplanted to a larger pot with a good potting mix.

In general, houseplants and gift plants should be kept in a warm location near a south or west facing window. Poinsettias do best in indirect sunlight, but Norfolk Island pines and Christmas cactuses can be placed right in the sunshine.

The challenge in growing Norfolk Island pines is lack of humidity indoors. They thrive at 50% humidity, but most homes have much lower indoor humidity in winter. A humidifier or daily misting will keep the plant much happier.

It is normal for a few needles on lower branches to turn brown and drop. If it becomes widespread, the problem may be too much or too little water, too hot or too cold temperature or too low humidity.

Make sure plants are not near a furnace register, radiator, fireplace or other heat generating appliance and move them away from the window if it gets cold in the area at night. The key is to prevent rapid temperature fluctuations.

Plants should be watered as soon as the soil is dry to the touch.

Give the plants a quarter-turn occasionally to keep them growing straight. There is no need to fertilize in winter, but during the warmer months, they can be fertilized with houseplant fertilizer.

The Invasive Grapevine

(The Invasive Grapevine features a short and easy fact about invasive plant species each month)

Good news from the Natural Heritage Conservation Program 2016 Annual Report!

Giant hogweed, an invasive plant with toxic sap that can burn the skin and grow 15 feet high, is meeting its match in Wisconsin. Thanks to the state's 2009 rule to regulate species and rapidly respond when plant and animal invaders first appear, hogweed has been eradicated from one site in Wisconsin and is under control in all other known sites, including two sites discovered in Sheboygan County in 2016 that represented the southernmost and most urban discovery. A citizen call to NHC resulted in identifying the hogweed and spurred local partnership efforts with the private property owners to work to control the infestation

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Deterring Deer

By Lawanda Jungwirth

As we build homes further out into what was once countryside, we encroach on the homes of many species of wildlife, including deer. With fewer undeveloped acres available to provide natural food, deer are forced to look at our residential landscapes for sustenance. Many of our home landscapes and gardens are virtual deer buffets.

There are many methods people use to discourage deer such as hanging bars of Irish Spring soap around the garden, spreading human hair, getting a dog to patrol the area, noise makers, sprinklers, flags or shiny objects, and pepper spray and other sprays you can make or buy. Some of these methods actually work. For a while. But, the thing is, deer aren't stupid. They are eventually going to find a way around, through or past every one of these.

The UW-Extension issues a publication entitled "Plants Not Favored by Deer" that lists approximately 275 trees, shrubs, flowers, herbs, groundcovers and grasses. However, the introductory paragraph states that hungry deer will eat almost anything! They do steer away from fuzzy, bitter, thorny, coarse, bitter or aromatic plants. Of course, they may need to sample the plants first to find out whether or not they fall into one of those categories.

The best solution for deterring deer is to use a physical barrier – a fence. The entire garden needs to be enclosed. Leave even a small gateway and deer will find it and walk right through. A large garden needs an 8-foot fence. Most deer won't try jumping anything higher than a six foot fence, but some will, and there is a risk of a deer becoming entangled in the fence and injuring itself, wrecking the fence, and wrecking the garden inside in efforts to free itself.

Deer don't like to jump into an area where they don't have enough space for a clear landing and to take a few running steps to get back out. My own garden has only a five foot fence, but the garden is long and narrow. So far no deer have entered. Fingers crossed!

If an 8-foot fence seems like too much, there are other options. You can try two 4- or 5-foot fences spaced three feet apart. Another alternative is a 4-foot fence with a 2-foot chicken wire fence at the top, angled at 45° toward either the inside or outside. Shorter fences may also work if tree branches or thorny shrubs prevent clear take-off or landing spots.

Some recommendations say that the fence should extend partly underground so deer cannot crawl underneath. My fence does not extend underground; perhaps the deer haven't been hungry enough to try crawling under. If deer pressure is particularly high in an area and there is little other food available, extending the fence underground may be necessary.

If you can't fence your entire garden, you can individually fence your most valuable plants. Make sure the mesh in the fencing is small enough that deer can't get their mouths through the openings.

TRIVIA FACT- There is over 70 species of voles. Voles live on an average of 3-6 months. The average female can produce up to 10 litters with 5-10 per litter.

CUTS AND CLIPS

Cuts and Clips

By Kathy Gore

Source: Melinda Myers Month-By-Month Gardening
Minnesota & Wisconsin

Tasks for January

January is a time for dreams and excitement, rest and reflection, study and plans. There's very little physical labor needed in a Wisconsin garden during this time, so most of the work should be inside your head. Planning is integral to this month's chores. Think about your goals and how to achieve them.

- The catalogs start pouring in and the wish list keeps growing. Develop a list with plants best suited to your growing conditions that give you a desired look.
- Order seeds you plan to start indoors.
- Make and keep a resolution to faithfully write in a garden journal and record details on planting times, techniques, successes, and challenges.
- Make a list of your favorite plants and those that need to be replaced.
- Take advantage of this down time to prepare your tools for the growing season. Clean and sharpen your spade. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlryaOSy_4w for sharpening instructions.
- Check geraniums you stored in the basement or other cool dark location. Plant any that started growing. Move to a warm, sunny location and treat them as houseplants.
- Pinch back leggy geraniums, coleus and other annuals that you are overwintering as houseplants.
- Check on any non-hardy bulbs such as dahlia species that were tucked away for winter storage. Discard any soft, discolored, or rotten bulbs.
- Remove spent flowers on amaryllis and other forced bulbs. Leave the leaves intact to restore spent energy if you plan on reblooming these bulbs in the future. Water amaryllis and any other flowering bulbs, keeping soil moist but not wet.
- Monitor indoor plants for fungus, gnats, mites, aphids, and whiteflies. Treat outbreaks.
- Perennials, shrubs, and trees check for signs of animals. Rabbits, voles, and deer feed on stems and branches. Get busy if you find tracks, droppings, and feeding damage. Secure animal fencing and reapply repellent as needed.

Trivia: Aphids are born pregnant without the benefit of sex. Aphids can give birth 10 days after being born themselves.

ANSWER TO WHAT AM I

BY JANE KUHN

I am blue oat grass. Order: Poales. Family: Poaceae. Genus: Helictotrichon. Species: H. Sempervirens. Common names: blue oat grass, silvertarve. The Latin name sempervirens means immortal and in botany means evergreen. This plant earned the Royal Horticulture Society's Award of Garden Merit in 2004. Blue oat grass is a beautiful plant with an interesting hue that could compliment any garden or landscaping project.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Interested in Participating in the Wisconsin Vegetable Trials? Read On...

Eric Kropp and Kimberly Miller

At the October Business meeting, Kimberly mentioned the possibility of members participating in the Wisconsin Vegetable Trial. UW Madison Urban Food Systems Specialist, Julie Dawson, has been conducting on-farm vegetable trials as part of a Seed to Kitchen Collaborative for the last two years. She encourages the participation of not only growers but also Master Gardener groups. The goal of these trials is to gauge how different vegetable varieties perform in our region. They provide the seeds, support and guidance. They also combine and reduce the evaluations into a report (see link).

The participants choose which vegetables they want to grow from the annual list. They grow, taste and evaluate the crop. The harvest can be kept or given away. The annual seed list includes varieties of beets, carrots, cucumbers, kale, greens, melons, onions, peppers (sweet and hot), winter squash, potatoes and tomatoes. The grower evaluates the each variety by answering these questions:

Would you grow this again?

What did you think of the flavor?

What are the major flaws?

General Comments

No yield data is collected

How marketable is it?

What is the strongest point?

What was the best and worst variety?

Site Information: soil type, planting method/date, spacing, etc.

The WCMGA Board has already approved this project. To go forward, a project leader will need to submit an application and form a team of interested master gardeners. The extension office will provide a garden plot (20' x 40') at the Sherman Road Community Gardens or, possibly, the hoop house. In addition, Kimberly and Darrell will be available for guidance. This would be a fun project for those interested in vegetables and growing local. Additionally, they could collaborate with others to promote community education. Kimberly has information on the seed varieties and potential garden layouts. Please let her know if you are interested in the working on this project.

Tentative schedule for the trials:

February – Select vegetables from annual list

Spring Planting – as required for growing from seed

Late Summer/Fall – Return evaluation sheets

March – Receive seeds and datasheets

Summer – Maintenance and harvest; Follow-up by the organizer

This link provides additional information including what was trialed and the results from 2015 and the plans for 2017. There is lots of good information even if you are not interested in participating.

<https://dawson.horticulture.wisc.edu/chef-farmer-plant-breeder-collaboration/>

This is an additional link to an article about how the crops were evaluated and used by the Madison restaurant community.

<http://ecals.cals.wisc.edu/2016/09/12/breeding-for-flavor/>

THE LATEST DIRT

Education Committee - Winter Escape Summer Dreams requests help from members:

If you have any Spring/Summer silk flowers, stems, bouquets, etc. that you would be willing to donate to the February WESD, please bring them to the **January Business Meeting**. We will be using them for table decorations/centerpieces.
Contact Valerie Stabenow

Home and Garden Show

Save the Date for the Home and Garden Show
The dates are **January 20, 21, 22 - 2017**. Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel
We will have a sign up sheet at the **January Business Meeting**.

Park View flower arranging

January 23

Madison WPT Garden Expo

February 11

Winter Escape Summer Dreams

February 18- LaSure's

Gardening Conferences

Marinette, Fond du Lac, Outagamie – April 1

Flower Arranging schedule at Park View Health Center 2017 Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30 in the Great Room

January 23	flowers from Pick N Save
February 20	flowers from Pick N Save
March	no flower arranging
April 17	flowers from Pick N Save
May	cancelled by Park View
June	cancelled by Park View
July 24 Park View's fair	flowers from our gardens supplements from Pick N Save
August 21	flowers from our garden and supplements from Pick N Save
September	cancelled by Park View
October 16	flowers from Pick N Save
November	cancelled
December 12	cancelled

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association
WPT Madison Garden Expo
Saturday, February 11, 2017 7:00 am– 6:30 pm

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual WPT Madison Garden Expo, on Saturday February 11, 2017 at the Madison Alliant Center. Garden Expo is presented by Wisconsin Public Television and the UW-Extension and is a midwinter oasis for people ready to venture out and dig their hands into the dirt! Join gardening enthusiasts to share ideas, gain inspiration and create something new.” From 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, you can choose to sit in on 8-9 seminars or demonstrations. Lead presenters include Joe Lamp’l from Growing a Greener World; Gretchen Mead on growing a Victory Garden; Joan Ziegler on the Joy of Gardening; and Larry Meiller hosting a discussion and answer session of Garden Talk. Go to www.wigardenexpo.com for more information. Usually you must preregister for the ‘make and take seminars’. Spend some time strolling among the hundreds of vendors offering everything from seeds to garden art to tools and even outdoor living spaces! Food is available at vendors or brings your own lunch. Enjoy an exciting day of learning and getting ready for a brand new year of gardening at Garden Expo!

Departure Sites and Times:

Oshkosh at the Coughlin Center, Cty Rd Y. at 7:00 am

Oshkosh at the Penney’s parking lot on 2175 Koeller just off Hwy 44 at 7:15 am

Fond du Lac at the old Home Depot, Johnson St. at 7:30 am (across Hwy 23 from Forest Mall)

Meet back at the bus at 5:00 and depart Madison Expo at 5:15 arriving back in Oshkosh at about 6:30 pm

Cost is \$35.00 through January 27, \$40 thereafter. This includes bus transportation and ticket for Garden Expo. The trip is non-refundable, so if you can’t attend, please find someone else to take your place. Bring your own lunch, drinks and snacks or purchase your own food from vendors.

Please direct any questions to Marge Menacher at marmen4105@charter.net or call 920-233-3467.

Send your checks payable to WCMGA c/o Marge Menacher 4105 Westview Lane Oshkosh, WI 54904.

2017 Madison Garden Expo Trip Registration Form

(copy as needed)

Name: _____ Email _____ (confirm reply)

Address: _____ Phone _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Cell phone _____

- o Pick Up Location:
- o Coughlin Center leaving at 7:00 am
- o Penney’s parking lot in Oshkosh at 7:15 am
- o Fond du Lac (Old Home Depot) at 7:30 am

January 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Home & Garden Show	21 Home & Garden Show
22 Home & Garden Show	23 Park View Flower arranging	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2016 Awards Dinner

Photos by Maria Talin



Kathy and Linda presenting



Kathy and Linda presentation to Marge Menacher for 2500 volunteer hours



Kathy and Linda presenting to Kimberly



Bob Koshanke presenting Golden Trowel Award to Bob Potter



New board elect members:
Lori Berndt
Nancy Karuhn
Ann Abraham
Diane Iott
Eric Kropp

