



# Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

January 2018

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## 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.

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“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

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*Oshkosh North Conservancy Park, Buckthorn Removal Day,  
Dec. 2, 50 degrees!*

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## Letter from Your Presidents

*Kathy Schultz & Linda Loker*

### HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!

Here we are - round two as co-presidents. We hope we can carry the reins and continue to serve you in this capacity for another two years - **but then we have such wonderful people in this organization, it makes our job easier!** We thank you for all of your valued volunteering , and all of your help. We both are very proud to be in this organization!

**Valerie Stabenow** has completed her three years on the board and we thank Valerie for her time, her energy, and her expertise.

Our Awards Banquet was very nice. We have 12 newly certified members, and we welcomed 23 new members that will now intern for the year. This is so great! Our organization in Winnebago County is so fortunate to have these garden enthusiasts among us - not only will you learn from the many members you will be working with, but we know that you all have great knowledge to share with us as well. It's a win-win! We were very honored to offer certificates to members with mile markers in hours earned - lots of hours for our organization - over 7000! **Jane Kuhn** received a plaque for 2500 (or will receive it when it comes in!) Hats off to all!

We also want to thank **Diana Dougherty** for the wonderful door prize baskets that many went home with. A thank you also to **Linda Baeten** who assisted in the collection of registrations and money, and for helping out at the registration table along with **Diane Iott** and **Joni Pagel**. Our member booklets couldn't have been done without the help of **Kimberly Miller**, our advisor, and **Ashley Rolph** at the extension, so thank you to the extension for always helping us out. And, lastly, we thank the membership for taking the time to attend - we may have started a new tradition...come next year and see!

The Golden Trowel award gives recognition to a master gardener who exemplifies volunteering in our organization. The committee receives names and then chooses a candidate. The committee also says that this is the single most difficult task of any they have to do! The honor for 2017 went to **Donna Kudlas** and **Janet Priebe!** Congratulations to both of you!

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We are now officially entering into the "season". That is the garden seminar season! Check out what is going on around the state on our website and on the University of WI-Extension Master Gardener Program website. Consider attending the Alliant Energy Garden Expo in Madison February 9, 10, 11 - we send a bus to this event on Saturday each year, and there is an opportunity to earn up to 7 hours of education at this single event! Next up is our own Winter Escape~Summer Dreams on February 17 at LaSures in Oshkosh. There is a good line-up of speakers for this as well, so plan to attend. Fond du Lac and Appleton MG programs host seminars during this "season" as well. These are all great opportunities for sharing your love of gardening with other enthusiasts and maybe learning something new!

Our business meetings are also an opportunity to earn education hours. We have a speaker line-up already in plan for January through May. In January we will host our own **Barb Harrison** and she will present gardens of England - a nice vision of spring to help us through our winter!

Yes, our board (Jan 2) and business meetings (Jan 9) will resume in January. If you have not received your member booklet, it will be available at the business meeting. And when you have your booklet in hand, please check that all the information is correct. If there are any changes, please let us know.

See you soon...and stay bundled up - the cold weather is upon us!!!

*Kathy and Linda*

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## What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am a deciduous, low, freely suckering shrub which is native to eastern and central North America including Wisconsin. I grow from 1 to 3 feet high with a spread of 5 to 10 feet in well-drained soils and although I prefer full sun, I will tolerate part shade. I bloom in May and June with 2 inch wide, 5-petaled, fragrant pink flowers which occur singly or in small clusters. My fruit turns from dark green to bright red as it ripens and will provide winter interest in the garden against the white snow.

My plant is propagated by seed, cuttings, or stolon division. Separate and transplant stems arising from the underground stolons in late fall or early spring. Make softwood cuttings in early spring after vigorous shoot growth has just started. I can be used in a hedge, in borders, naturalized areas or native plant gardens. I am deer resistant and am beneficial to pollinators, butterflies, and birds.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

**Co-Presidents:** Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Nancy Karuhn & Eric Kropp

**Secretary:** Ann Abraham

**Treasurer:** Joni Pagel

**Advisor:** Kimberly Miller

**Newsletter Compilation:** Anne Murphy

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**Remember to get your  
registration in for Winter  
Escape~Summer Dreams!**

**Watch for the Madison Bus  
Trip info coming out soon -  
Feb. 10, 2018.**

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## Congratulations

to our Master Gardeners who achieved these levels of cumulative volunteer service:

150 hours	Lori Berndt Julie Birschbach Jeanne Callen Patricia Clark Tami Erickson Julie Gutsmiel Nancy Karuhn Lynne Ann Slat Mary Thiel Jan Wetterau-Houge Kim Willman
250 hours	Rebecca Chirhart Susan Forbes Barbara Harrison Eric Kropp Kathy Schultz
500 hours	Lil Hansche Debbie Quandt Virginia Slattery
750 hours	Linda Werner
2500 hours	Jane Kuhn

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## Join Master Gardeners for a Winter Escape

By *Lawanda Jungwirth*

Everyone is excited about the first few snowfalls each winter, but by February, many people are tired of it and are beginning to think about warm weather and next year's garden. The Winnebago County Master Gardeners have been busy planning a one-day event that will let you escape winter for a day and begin dreaming of warmer weather. Four great speakers, a silent auction with wonderful prizes, a continental breakfast, and a delicious lunch complete the day.

Winter Escape~Summer Dreams will be held Saturday, February 17 at LaSure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St., Oshkosh, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Speaking first is Mark Dwyer, Director of Horticulture at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville for the past 19 years. In "Sensational Shrubbery" he will share his extensive knowledge of how to use shrubs to enhance your landscape and have them be more than just background for annuals and perennials. He'll offer tips for selecting, planting and caring for shrubs.

Next up is Mark Schwartz, a phenoclimatologist and professor of Geography at UW-Milwaukee. His presentation is "Phenology: Tracking Seasonal Transitions in a Changing Climate." Phenology is the study of recurring plant and animal life cycle changes, focusing on their timing and relationships with weather and climate. Professor Schwartz will describe how plant phenology is measured and how the data provides tangible evidence of the impacts of climate change.

After lunch and time to explore the Silent Auction, Jennifer Lazewski, a Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardener, will discuss "The Importance of Pollinators and How to Support Them in Your Garden." Nearly one third of the food we eat requires a pollinator, and pollinator-dependent crops add \$55 million to Wisconsin's economy. Unfortunately, pollinator numbers have been dropping dramatically in the past several years. Ms. Lazewski will talk about different types of pollinators and how we can support them in our own gardens with successions of blooms throughout the seasons.

The final speaker of the day is Bernie Williams, Plant Pest and Disease Specialist, Division of Forestry – Forest Health, at the Wisconsin DNR. Her presentation is entitled "The Scoop on Jumping Worms and Other New Invasives." Most gardeners know that earthworms are a sign of good soil health and welcome them to their gardens. Jumping worms are another story. Ms. Williams will describe the damage done by this new invasive species and other new invasives in our state.

Cost for Winter Escape~Summer Dreams is \$45 through February 12; \$50 thereafter; and includes breakfast, lunch, four presentations and time to explore the silent auction.

For a brochure and registration form, see [www.winnebagomastergardeners.org](http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org) and click on "Winter Escape~Summer Dreams" near the bottom of the page, or call Linda Baeten at 920-379-8377. Make checks payable to WCMGA (Winnebago County Master Gardener Association) and mail to 1112 Merritt Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901. Registration confirmation will be sent via e-mail or the U.S. Postal Service.

## Buckthorn Removal Day

by Anne Murphy



Having not ever tried the buckthorn removal day, I decided to join the forces and found out that it's not only a very helpful project for the community, but also a helpful project for some much-needed exercise! The day was perfect for lopping. A beautiful 50 degrees with the sun out felt more like a fall day than a December 2nd day and I was happy for that.

We met at the Oshkosh North High School conservancy. Who knew there was such a nice area right in the midst of



the city? It's really a gorgeous nature area and I was glad to be a part of this experience for the morning.

Got my loppers. Got my gloves. I am good to go get that buckthorn! After a brief low-down from the master buckthorn lady, Sue Egner, I was on my way to help start eliminating that nasty invasive species.



Training 101: If it has the orange layer under the bark, then it's buckthorn. Lop the buckthorn close to the ground and then douse it with the blue stuff in the spray bottle, but first make sure you have a protective glove over or under your working gloves. I chose to use the latex glove under my working gloves.







Gerry showed me the cutting techniques he uses and is a real wizard at buckthorn removal. He has a way of getting those big trees out of the way, too, which may or may not include pulling and running.

The committee has ONE battery-operated sawzall that is a pretty handy tool. Maybe we could support adding a couple more for this project, as it saves a lot of time and energy - cutting those bigger trees is much more difficult when using a hand saw. Chain saws have been banned from all projects but the sawzall is still allowed.



All-in-all, I really enjoyed my time with the other Master Gardeners removing buckthorn trees. It was a super time to get outside and also to meet other MG's in a fun and relaxing manner. I would suggest everyone to give it a try—you may find that this project is where you can get your volunteer hours and it really is a valuable effort.

Find out more about buckthorn later in the newsletter.



*Gerry Schaefer, Karen & John Seifert, Sue Egner*



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## Native Plants Support Birds

By *Lawanda Jungwirth*

Numerous birdseed mixes are sold so humans can help birds survive the winter months. Each is blended for certain target bird population. There are songbird mixes, woodland bird mixes, blends specific to mourning doves or finches, waste-free mixes, and regional blends, as well as single ingredient bags of sunflower seeds, safflower seed and thistle seed. The price range is wide. Most bags list the types of birds its contents attract to make it easier for the homeowner to choose what to buy. So we're all set for caring for the birds in winter.

Why not make your property a welcoming place for your favorite kind of bird all year long? Audubon has a new website to help you do just that. At [www.audubon.org/nativeplants](http://www.audubon.org/nativeplants) you have only to enter your zip code and chose the bird or birds you wish to support and the website comes back with a list of plants native to your area that will provide sustenance for those birds. Or, if you'd like to welcome all birds, you need not select any particular bird.

As a reminder, native plants are those that were growing in a particular geographic area prior to European settlement. They are accustomed to an area's soils and climate, so once established, they need little help from humans in the form of water and fertilizer. Native plants support the birds, mammals, insects and microscopic creatures that are indigenous to the area much better than do non-native plants.

On the Audubon native plant website, you can narrow the search to particular types of plants, such as trees, shrubs, grasses, vines, evergreens, annuals and perennials, or succulents.

For example, when I entered my zip code and selected "shrubs" and "cardinals," the website came back with these nine native shrubs: alternate leaf-dogwood, American hazelnut, black raspberry, chokecherry, common buttonbush, common winterberry, gray dogwood, red elder and white sagebrush. There is a photo and short description of each plant, and a list of the birds besides cardinals that each shrub will support.

Many of these native plants hold on to their fruits, seeds or nuts through autumn and early winter and provide late season food for birds, saving money on the purchase of birdseed.

At the top of the Audubon screen, clicking the Local Resources tab returns a list of websites to go to for more information, along with a list of nearby companies selling native plants. For some reason, information for the Winnebago County Audubon Society is missing. Their website is [www.winaudubon.org](http://www.winaudubon.org).

If you'd like learn more about native plants, consider attending "Toward Harmony With Nature" on Saturday, January 27 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual conference on native plants and natural landscaping sponsored by Wild Ones Fox Valley Chapter. The daylong conference offers a variety of speakers from which to choose, a silent auction and vendors providing an abundance of free information along with items for sale. See [towardharmonywithnature.org](http://towardharmonywithnature.org) for more information.

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## Ask a Plant Health Advisor



***“Client is wondering if the berries on her “tree” are edible & would like them identified, if possible. She has picked 2 buckets of the berries already.”***

Find the answer later in the newsletter.

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### Garden Trivia

January is National Hot Tea Month. Traditionally, a true tea is made from the leaves of the tea plant, *Camellia sinensis*. Beverages made from the leaves, flowers, bark or roots of other plants have become widely known as herbal teas. Herbal teas do not go through the same curing process as black or green tea so it is important to brew herbal teas using water that has been heated to a

temperature high enough to destroy harmful microorganisms. It is recommended to brew herbal teas at 180-200°F for 5-15 minutes. Brewed herbal tea can be chilled for use as iced tea. Herbs or herbal teas should not be used in making tea which is not brewed, such as sun tea; however, after cooling, brewed herbal tea can be added to sun tea that has been made with black tea labeled for cold brewing use.

*Fact Sheet #9.335, University of Colorado Extension*

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## Buckthorn 101

### Ecological threat:

- Invades oak forests, riparian (on the banks of river) woods, savannas, prairies, old fields, and roadsides. It thrives particularly on well-drained soils.
- Common buckthorn has a broad environmental tolerance. It leafs out very early and retains its leaves late into the growing season, giving them a longer growing season than native plants.
- Creates dense shade, eliminating regeneration of tree seedlings and understory species.
- Allelopathic; produces chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of other vegetation.



**Leaves & stems:** Ovate or elliptic, with prominent veins curving toward tip. Mostly opposite leaves, 1-2.5" long, with tiny teeth. Leaves remain on plants and stay green into fall. Bark is gray to brown with prominent light-colored lenticels. Cut bark exposes an orange inner cambium layer.



**Flowers:** Inconspicuous, small and clustered in leaf axils. Fragrant, greenish-yellow, 4-petaled flowers that bloom in spring.

**Fruits & seeds:** Abundant clusters of round, black, pea-sized fruit. Ripen on female plants in late summer.

Dispersed by birds and mammals. Fruits remain on plants into winter after all the leaves have fallen.

**Roots:** Extensive, black fibrous root system.

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**Similar species:** Glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*; invasive) is similar to common buckthorn. Leaves are mostly opposite, with greater number of veins. Upper surface of leaves are shiny with undersides dull.

Alder buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*; native) is under 3' tall with thornless twigs.

Lance-leaf buckthorn (*R. lanceolata*; native) is less than 6' tall, found in wet areas and on dry limestone slopes, and has alternate leaves, 2-6" long, gradually tapering to a point at the tip.

Carolina buckthorn (*R. caroliniana*; native), found in the southern Midwest, is 10-30' tall with toothed, mostly alternate leaves, 2-3" long.

Reference: WI DNR



**Reminder:**

**Brush heavy snow off hedges and conifers to prevent the branches from snapping out under its weight.**

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## Answer to Ask a Plant Health Advisor:

These berries are from the horribly invasive common buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*. The fruit is poisonous and causes a harsh cathartic effect in mammals and birds who eat the fruit. You will be spending the day in the bathroom with diarrhea if you eat them. Please tell the homeowner to get rid of all buckthorns in their area. The plant is dioecious, meaning the entire plant is either male or female. The female plants are very invasive due to the fruit, but the male plants are invasive too as they sucker from the rootstock. This is one of the worst plants to have escaped cultivation and is an overwintering host for the soybean aphid and is a carrier of wheat rust. Either way, get rid of it, especially in the fall by either basal bark applications of a systemic herbicide or cut the entire plant to the ground and immediately treat the cut stump outer edge with a systemic herbicide to make sure the roots get killed. If not sprayed, the plant will simply grow back next year. Throw the fruit away that was collected as composting it only invites more seedlings, plus the birds will eat the fruit, fly away and deposit the seeds everywhere.

*Ref: PlantDoc, 10/17/17, Laura Jull*

## Member Meeting Minutes - No December Meeting

## Events

**Jan. 16: Education Committee, 5:30 PM, Benvenuto's**

**Feb. 3: 4-H collaboration**

**Feb. 10: Madison Expo Trip**

**Feb. 12: Park View Flower Arranging, 1:30 PM**

**Feb. 17: Winter Escape~Summer Dreams**

**Feb. 20: Education Committee, 5:30 PM, Benvenuto's**

**Flower Arranging - Park View - 1:30 PM**

Monday May 14

Monday July 23

Monday September 10

Monday November 12

**Feb. 2018: Winter Escape~Summer Dreams** silent auction - think of something you'd like to donate or create a basket with some other members!



## Answer to What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am Carolina rose. Order: Rosales.

Family: Rosaceae – Rose family. Genus:

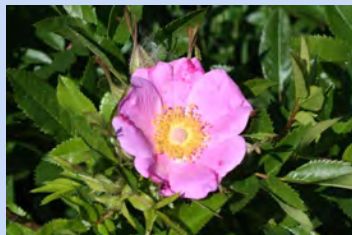
Rosa L – rose. Species: Rosa carolina L. –

Carolina rose. Common name: pasture

rose. I am of special value to native bees

and bumble bees. I serve as a host plant for the larval stage of the Apple Sphinx Moth. My fruit, or

rosehips, are extremely high in vitamin C and can be used in teas.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.



## WCMGA Projects

*Check your Member Guide for contact information.*

Project	Project Lead	Next Meeting
Butterfly Garden Lutheran Homes	Jane Kuhn	
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek	March 2018
County Fair	Sue Bohn	Aug. 1-5, 2018
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak	
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow	
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	Sally Lindo	
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche	Feb. 12, 1:30 PM
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz	June 2018
Photography		
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard	
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Julie Gutmiedl	
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker	

January 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Board Mtg. 6:00	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Business Mtg. 6:00	10	11	12	13
14	15 	16 Education Comm. Benvenuto's 5:30 PM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Wild Ones Conference - Oshkosh
28	29	30	31			

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