



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

January 2019

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.

“Gardening requires a lot of water - most of it in the form of perspiration.”



Saturday, February 16, 2019
LaSure's Banquet Hall, 3125 S Washburn St, Oshkosh WI
8:00 am- 3:30 pm

[Registration Form](#)

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a medium to tall deciduous shrub which is well known for the interest created in the winter garden due to my fiery red branches. I am a native throughout northern and western North America and in the wild am commonly found in areas of damp soil such as wetlands. I grow 3 to 6 feet tall with smooth stems, and my 1 to 5 inch long leaves are opposite, ovate to lance-like, and are dark green above and whitish below. My blossoms appear in May-June and are white, four-parted, inflorescence a 1-2 inch flat, branched cluster (cyme) with berries appearing in fall.

I grow in a variety of conditions including full sun, partial sun and shade as well as soil ranging from moist, well drained to wet. I am an excellent plant for massing in large areas, and because of my interesting stem color I am suitable for a shrub border in residential landscapes. I can be an effective bank cover because I hold soil quite well. Since I spread readily by underground stolons to form dense thickets, I am potentially invasive.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents:

Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

Vice President:

Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Joni Pagel

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



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

Letter from your Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz



Happy New Year!

"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening and even the most experienced gardener can learn from the unrestrained beauty around them." - Vincent A. Simeone

We begin a new year with the holidays behind us and spring is ahead. This is the time of year the garden catalogs start showing up on our doorstep, and we start dreaming of what our gardens can be for the coming year.

We also begin our year with new members to our board. We welcome **Britton Dake, Susan Raasch, Ed Dombrowski, Sandy Gollhofer, and Virginia Slattery** to this leadership team. We thank, and so appreciate, the time and effort of our outgoing members - **Eric Kropp, Nancy Karuhn, Jan Wetterau-Houge, Ann Abraham and Lori Berndt.**

Our 2018 Awards Banquet had a very nice turn out - over 75 in attendance. Thank you to all who came, and ate and had fun! Wonderful awards were given out to our new interns, to our newly certified, and to members with mile marker hours numbers. Congratulations to **Jane Kuhn** and **Mary Shepard** for being honored with the Golden Trowel Award this year! 25 members also were lucky enough to win one of the beautiful baskets created by **Diana Dougherty** and the help of her team. Check for an article in this newsletter for these lucky members! **Mary Wiedenmeier** won a free ticket to our WESD seminar in February.

Member booklets were available at the banquet, and for those not in attendance, they will be available at the January business meeting. Please look at your information in the booklet when you receive it, and if any changes need to be made, let us know. There are changes that have been made already and stickers will be available at the meeting to enter into your booklet.

Winter Escape~Summer Dreams seminar is fast approaching - if you did not pick up a brochure at the banquet, you can find it on our website. It is February 16, 2019, at LaSures Banquet Hall. Speakers will feature Jeff Epping from Olbrich Gardens and 3 women that will entertain us as well as share their horticulture expertise. Please consider attending.

February 9, 2019, will be the bus trip to the Garden Expo in Madison - it is a great day to obtain education hours, shop a little and have fun! Brochure is on the website. Thank you **Marge Menacher** for setting this

up again this year!

Our first business meeting for 2019 will be on Tuesday January 8. Board members please remember that our board meeting will be on Wednesday, January 2, at the Coughlin Center. Our speaker for the January business meeting is **Barb Harrison** and she will share her information on Japanese Gardens.

Let us now celebrate another new year of good wishes and bounty!

Kathy and Linda

Golden Trowel Award Winner - Jane Kuhn



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association
Saturday, February 9, 2019
6:45 am– 7:00 pm

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual WPT Madison Garden Expo, at the Madison Alliant Center on Sat., February 9, 2019. 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 done by UW educators, UW-Ext. educators and gardening experts. Lead presenters include Mark Dwyer from Rotary Gardens, Melinda Myers, Kerry Ann Mendez, 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! 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 6:50 am back – east parking lot
- 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 4:50 pm and depart Madison Expo at 5:00 pm arriving back in Oshkosh at about 6:30 pm.

Cost is \$35.00 through January 31, \$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 920-420-8472.

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

2019 Madison Garden Expo Trip Registration Form (copy as needed)

Name: _____

Email _____ (confirm reply)

Address: _____

Phone _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Cell phone _____

- Pick Up Location:
- Coughlin Center leaving at 6:50 am
- Penney's parking lot in Oshkosh leaving at 7:15 am
- Fond du Lac (Old Home Depot) leaving at 7:30 am

Welcome newly-graduated Winnebago County Master Gardeners!



New Master Gardeners - Why do you enjoy gardening?

I love plants and growing things. I enjoy being outside and working with the soil. There is so much satisfaction in seeing a flower bloom or a vegetable garden produce. I am learning so much in the Master Gardener class, and realizing all that I don't yet know!



Mary Beth Bossert



I prefer being outside when the weather cooperates and gardening is a great way to spend as much time as possible in the great outdoors!

Valerie (Jean) Sprague



To say I like to garden is an understatement. I LOVE to garden! It's always so rewarding to plant a tiny seed, watch it grow into a plant and eventually pick a basket of tomatoes or beautiful bouquets. Over the years I've grown everything from asters to zucchini but my very favorite thing to plant are trees. They are the ultimate perennial. It's true: only God can make a tree!

Faye Helstrom



"You are closer to God in a garden than place else on earth"

Barbara Pressley



As Jan said in our class the other day, "gardeners tend to be optimistic people." I can relate to that. Whether I'm planting seeds or perennials, annuals or a tree, I'm hopeful they will grow and bring joy to me

when I walk around my yard. I enjoy "playing in the dirt" and seeing the results of my weeding and watering. And there are always endless options and choices to plant & enjoy every Spring.

Karen Morton



As an avid gardener and farmer from a young age, I feel keeping in touch with my roots and desire to continuously learn about gardening has lead me to advance my skills, education, and knowledge. Having the proper tools and ability to research technical information allows me to become more efficient in all aspects of gardening, thus, providing an opportunity to apply new skills from MG trainings. Enjoying the benefits of being outdoors by staying grounded, utilizing organic methods of vegetable production, and creating gardens of biodiversity support my health and wellness values.

Sue Paulick



For me gardening has fulfilled 2 things in my life; I find that it really grounds me (no pun intended) and it brings good memories and feelings back. I have always found when having a particularly rough period in my life that there is something almost therapeutic about digging in the earth, planting and growing. It has quickly become my go to "therapy" when needing to center and relax my mind. Gardening also brings back warm thoughts of my parents. Growing up we moved a great deal, but the one constant was that no matter where we were we always had to have a garden. Dad and I spent many years planting, growing and eating fresh vegetables right from the ground after brushing the dirt off! Even in his later years dealing with the ravages of Alzheimer's, it was the one thing we could still

do together for a long time. His love of roses and his green thumb made for many great stories. To this day I can't be in the garden without thoughts of him. I'm happy to say I've inherited part of his green thumb...my sister's is black! Which has also provided us with great gardening stories!

Diane Thompson



Plain & simple, I love being outside. I know your question was "why do you enjoy gardening?" but I'd like to tell you why I want to be a Master Gardener. After retiring from dental hygiene and spending all my life with people I have found the quiet of my home a little bit, well...quiet. I knew I wanted to do some volunteer work and I was looking for something to keep me outside and I enjoy being with people. I enjoy learning so I wanted something educational. My yard is small and shady so I don't grow vegetables but I have a lot of hostas and pots. I love sitting in my backyard watching nature and enjoying the simple beauty of my flowers. Becoming a Master Gardener seemed like a perfect fit. I am excited to learn more about flowers and gardening in general and so far have had a great time with all my fellow interns in class. I'm certain I have made the right decision and am looking forward to meeting

more volunteers and learning a lot along the way.

Kris Miller

Doreen Dittberner



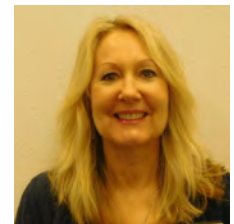
Cindy Kissinger



Bob Kneepkens



Sue Rogers



Herbs Take Stress Out of Holiday Season

By Lawanda Jungwirth

There are many herbs that can help you relax when the holiday shopping, baking, wrapping and planning get to be too much. While it's too late for this year, three of them are easy to grow and harvest to be ready for next year's holiday rush. All three can be dried for tea or potpourri or infused in bath water.

Lavender is an almost universally loved scent. It is a perennial herb that enjoys a dry, sunny location. Lavender is difficult to grow from seed, so purchase a lavender plant at the nursery. With almost 30 lavender species, that's a good idea anyway so you can smell the plant and be sure you are satisfied with its scent.



Plant lavender in the ground at the same level as it was in the nursery pot. Water it only until it is established; after that it should be fine on its own. Clip any flower stalks that form the first year so that it puts its energy toward developing strong branches and roots, but note that lavender's leaves are just as aromatic as its flowers. Beginning the second year, harvest flower spikes just as they begin to open and hang them in bundles upside down to dry.



Lemon balm is the second herb to keep you calm. It provides a bright green accent to a sunny or shady spot in the herb garden or flower bed. White tubular flowers appear in the leaf axils, but aren't especially noteworthy. What is noteworthy is the leaves' lemon minty scent. Just brushing past the plant on a warm day evokes a sense of wellbeing.

Lemon balm is propagated by division in spring or by spreading seed atop the soil. Like other members of the mint family, lemon balm is a spreader. It is best planted in a large container sunk into the ground.

To dry lemon balm leaves, cut stems two inches above the soil before flowers appear. Lay them on a screen or newspaper in a shady, airy spot to dry. You may get three harvests in a single growing season. Lower parts of the plant harvested late in the season are the most potent.

The third herbal relaxer is chamomile. Roman chamomile is a perennial plant that grows to nine inches tall, while German chamomile is an annual that may reach two feet. Both share the same calming properties and have the classic yellow-centered small, white flowers with a scent reminiscent of apples.



Both chamomiles grow easily from seed spread atop the soil. Roman chamomile seed should be planted in spring, while German chamomile is best planted in fall, although spring will work too.

In mid-summer, rake your fingers through the plants and tug gently on the blossoms just as the petals begin to turn downward to harvest small handfuls of blooms. Dry the flowers on paper and store in glass jars. Be sure they are entirely dry before storing. Flowers left unharvested will reseed themselves.

New tool forecasts spring's arrival months in advance

Submitted by Lynne Slat



A web tool developed at Cornell CALS determines the onset of spring across the U.S. months earlier than was possible before. Eric Shatt, farm manager at Cornell Orchards, inspects the flowering buds on peach trees in late April 2013.

Punxsutawney Phil – the prognosticating groundhog who famously foretells the arrival of spring – may need a new job. Cornell’s Emergent Climate Risk Lab has unveiled [Springcasting](#), a web tool to determine the onset of spring – a season before it occurs.

“We’re trying to look beyond the typical five- to 10-day barrier of traditional meteorological forecasts by focusing on the timing of spring indicators, not just warm or cold temperatures,” said Toby Ault, assistant professor of earth and atmospheric sciences.

“Our Springcasting product tries to predict spring onset a season in advance. The climate is changing, and the onset of spring impacts agriculture, orchards, insects, migrating birds, pollinators, quite literally an entire suite of ecosystem responses. We’re trying to get a heads-up a season ahead of what to expect each year,” he said.

The new tool’s map of the continental U.S. shows in color where spring will be early, late or right on time. Updated forecasts will be issued Jan. 31, Feb. 15, Feb. 28, March 15 and March 31 for this spring.

In 2017, spring arrived early throughout most of the Southeast, Southwest and the Midwest. "Spring was crazy last year, more than 20 days early in several places. That took everyone by surprise," Ault said, explaining that he and his colleagues examined models and circumstances from late 2016 forward. "Could we have seen that coming? The answer was pretty much 'yes.' We probably could have predicted the crazy early spring last year, if we had tried."

This year, Ault and his colleagues aim to predict spring onset for all regions in the U.S. months in advance. Current forecasts predict much of the West, Southwest and parts of the Southeast will have an early spring. Growers and natural resource managers, for example, could use the spring outlooks to make critical decisions about allocating assets on long lead-time horizons.

Ault has collaborated with [Mark D. Schwartz](#), professor of geography/climatology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; [Julio Betancourt](#) of the U.S. Geological Survey; and the [USA National Phenology Network](#) (USA-NPN) to develop and apply quantitative indices of spring onset for North America.

Three decades ago, Schwartz developed a method for predicting when lilac and honeysuckle leaves would emerge, which are phenological (the relationship between seasonal and biological) events based on meteorological data. He expanded the phenology models to the continent.

"The continental models are only as accurate as the long-lead temperature data that goes into them," said Schwartz. "The Springcaster tool not only makes the information more precise, but it puts the data into a form that's easier for users to interpret."

Two years ago, USA-NPN issued index maps to track the start of spring across the continental U.S. Using the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Forecast System. Carlos Carrillo, a postdoctoral researcher in Ault's laboratory group, applied additional parameters to the data by using a novel statistical approach that improved early spring predictability.

Scientists found two challenges with the Springcasting tool: communicating uncertainties and issuing forecast updates. Ault is collecting feedback on the site at ecrl@cornell.edu. "To improve the models, we want to hear from people out in the field and on the farms," he said.

<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2018/01/new-tool-forecasts-springs-arrival-months-advance>

Member Business Meeting Minutes - No Dec. meeting

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for January Events

Feb. 9: Garden Expo Bus Trip, Madison

Feb. 16: Winter Escape~Summer Dreams, LaSures, Oshkosh

Feb. 19: Education Committee, Benvenuto's 5:30 PM

March 9: Potato Workshop

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

June 8: Willow Creek Iris trip - leaf casting class

June 17-21, 2019: International Master Gardener Conference, Valley Forge, PA

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am red twig dogwood. Family: Cornaceae. Genus: Cornus. Other common names are red-osier dogwood, American dogwood, and creek dogwood. I am an ornamental shrub that is stunning in the landscape in the dead of wintertime. Cut branches can add color and interest to your holiday greens or can add a festive touch by filling a tall vase.



Resources: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Continuing Education Opportunity

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is proud to announce its 2019 plant identification and sampling workshop series dates. These workshops are taught by field experts and are designed to provide the skills and experience necessary for advanced, habitat-specific plant identification.

https://www.uwsp.edu/conted/ConfWrkShp/Pages/plant_series.aspx



Woodland Plant Identification and Sampling Workshop

May 17, 2019
Amherst Junction, Wis.
Instructor: Sophie Demchik



Grasses and Sedges Identification and Sampling Workshop

June 13-14, 2019
Stevens Point, Wis.
Instructor: Stephanie Lyon, Ph.D.



Wetland Plant Identification and Sampling Workshop

July 11-12, 2019
Stevens Point Wis.
Instructor: Sophie Demchik



Prairie Plant Identification and Sampling Workshop

July 25-26, 2019
Stevens Point, Wis.
Instructor: Sophie Demchik

Milestone Hours of Service - Congratulations!	
1000 Hours	Donna Kudlas
750 Hours	Jean Reed Patty Schmitz
500 Hours	Julie Miller Matthew Miller Gerald Schaefer Kathy Schultz Valerie Stabenow
250 Hours	Vicki Daniels Nancy Karuhn Jan Wetterau-Houge
150 Hours	Anna Abraham Jay Birschbach Edward Dombrowski Ruth Retzlaff Deborah Voyles

Basket Raffle Winners at Awards Banquet	
<p>Vicki Sever Jeanne Callen Mary Wiedenmeier Bob Kneepkens Linda Petek Linda Baeten Melissa Weyland Tom Weber Kay Senderhauf Diane Iott Barb Pressley Eric Kropp</p>	<p>Joyce Emery Brennan Julie Gutschiedl Becky Chirhart Matt Miller Bob Potter Linda Werner Sue Paulick Janet Priebe Ginny Slattery Bob Kosanke Jan Wetterau-Houge Donna Kudlas Stan Meyer</p>

Spring Trip to Philadelphia - Join Us!

The public is invited to join Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteers on a spring trip to the Great (and Beautiful) Gardens of Philadelphia, **Sunday, May 5, 2019 through Friday, May 10**. The trip begins with a flight to Philadelphia on **SUNDAY**. Flight times to be determined. Time permitting, we will have a group dinner at the hotel restaurant on Sunday evening. We'll spend **MONDAY** in the historic **Philadelphia City Center** which offers a wide variety of tours, museums, river trips and much more. More information will follow so that you may choose how to spend your day.

On **TUESDAY**, we'll have a 60-minute tour of the world-renowned **Longwood Gardens**, as well as plenty of time to wander the majestic gardens on our own. In late afternoon we will visit historic and quaint **Kennett Square**, full of unique independent shops, restaurants & galleries. Dinner will be on your own in Kennett Square, the mushroom capital of the world. Be sure to taste the mushroom soup!

WEDNESDAY will see us visiting the naturalistic gardens of **Winterthur** and **Mt. Cuba**, both originating from the private estates of DuPont family members.

- Mt. Cuba has evolved into a center that "inspires an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to protect the habitats that sustain them".

- Winterthur Gardens "are not a botanical collection maintained for scientific purposes but, rather, an artistic composition that captures a significant period in the history of American horticulture. This landscape is a significant cultural artifact, and its components--plants, architecture, and decorative objects--are preserved and managed as a collection." Great gift shop here, too!

THURSDAY, we visit **Morris Arboretum** of the University of Pennsylvania and **Chanticleer**, a Pleasure Garden.

- Morris Arboretum began in 1887 as *Compton*, the summer home of John and Lydia Morris, sibling heirs to the iron-manufacturing I.P. Morris Company. Through the stewardship and vision of this Quaker family, Compton became the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in 1932. Science, art, and humanities are pursued through a variety of research, teaching, and outreach programs that link the Arboretum to a worldwide effort to nurture the earth's forests, fields and landscapes. Many champion and former champion trees are at the arboretum.

- Chanticleer has been called the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America. The garden is a study of textures and forms, where foliage trumps flowers, the gardeners lead the design, and even the drinking fountains are sculptural. It is a garden of pleasure and learning, relaxing yet filled with ideas to take home. This garden was voted number one on our previous trip to Philadelphia gardens.

Friday we will fly home. Time TBD.

We will stay at the Best Western Plus Concordville Hotel. A hot breakfast with an omelet station is served every morning and is included in the room cost. A restaurant, bar, pool and exercise facility are available on site. We stayed at this hotel on our previous Philadelphia trip

and everyone was very pleased with the accommodations. The hotel cost is \$73.03 per person, per night based on double occupancy. **Total cost of 5 hotel nights is \$365.15 per person including taxes.**

Motor coach transportation in Philadelphia will be provided by Werner Bus Lines, Inc., chosen again due to excellent service provided during our last trip. **The cost of all transfers in Philadelphia will be \$255 per person which includes the driver's tip.**

Entrance and tour fees for all gardens listed above, as well as a group dinner on Sunday totals \$118 person. We are working to have tours at all gardens, but have not been able to confirm as some gardens are closed for the season. Fees for any tours we are unable to confirm, will be deducted from final payment. Any tour or entry fees incurred in Philadelphia City Center will be paid by you.

Airfare is not included in the trip cost at this time. We are unable to finalize that cost until reservations are made. To reserve seats for group trips, all airlines require a \$50 non-refundable deposit within 2 weeks after a firm quote is provided. Therefore, we can tell you the cost of airfare today, but unless we pay the \$50 non-refundable fee per seat (a total of \$1500) within two weeks, the amount quoted is no longer valid. Based on current quotes (December), **we estimate round trip airfare will be approximately \$500.** We will either fly from local airports or provide coach transportation to Chicago, depending on seating availability, cost and timing of flights.

The trip per person cost **WITHOUT AIRFARE** now stands at **\$738.15. Air transportation to Philadelphia is expected to be about an additional \$500.00 for a final trip total of approximately \$1,238.15**

A deposit of \$250 will be required by March 1 to hold your trip reservation, but participants are encouraged to register early as the trip's capacity is only 30. See details on registration form at <http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org/> On homepage, click on "Classes, Seminars and Trips" to find registration form. Contact Roy Anne Moulton at royanne@new.rr.com or 920-915-9731 for more information.

We hope to share the Great and Beautiful Gardens of Philadelphia with you.

WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

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

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

January 2019

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Business Meeting 6:00	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Education Committee Benvenuto's 5:30 PM	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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