



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

January 2020

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.

"Happy gardening in 2020!"



What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a Great Lakes region native evergreen shrub or sub-shrub which grows in a dense mound that is 2-3 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide in zones 4-7. I have blue green foliage and produce bright yellow flowers in July and August. My stems and seed heads appear varnished in fall and often persist on the shrub until spring, adding great winter interest. I prefer part shade to full sun and am tolerant of many soils, moisture levels and temperatures.

I am an adaptable shrub that works well as a mass, border, wildlife garden, naturalizing space or on pond peripheries. I am an excellent nectar source for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds and provide a seed source for finches in the winter.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Vice President: Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Deby Voyles

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



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

Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

With the winter solstice just a few weeks behind us, it is a good 'season' to start planning our future gardens. The arrival of seed catalogs and the schedule of seminars signals spring will eventually be arriving. Some upcoming seminars include:

The WCMGA Winter Escape~Summer Dreams seminar is set for Saturday, February 15th. There is an outstanding selection of speakers, including Ben Futa, Executive Director, Allen Centennial Gardens, Madison who will present Brown is a Color Too and Principles of Planting Design with Perennials, Anita Carpenter, Biologist an Oshkosh native will present Native Naturally and Jim Nienhuis, Professor of Horticulture, UW- Madison, will present Seeds of Change. We invite and encourage all of you to consider attending this wonderful educational day. Door prizes, silent auction & raffle winners will be announced at the end of the seminar.

Another interesting seminar, sponsored by the Wild Ones, is scheduled for Saturday, January 25th with a theme of Toward Harmony with Nature. This is the Wild Ones 24th Annual Conference, in Oshkosh.

The PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo is scheduled for February 7-9. This is a wonderful experience for anyone needing their education hours for certification. There are always a wide variety of seminars and demonstrations for everyone to enjoy.

We are your new co-presidents and we want to welcome all new members to the board. We also wish to extend our very sincere thank you to all outgoing members who have done a great job over the last few years. We hope to continue this excellent leadership and we encourage all members to assist us along the way. A special thank you goes out to **Linda Loker** and **Kathy Schultz** for helping make a smooth transition.

Our sincerest wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year,

Ed Dombrowski and Bob Kneepkens

Plant a Winter-Themed Garden

By Lawanda Jungwirth

It's hard for many people to understand, but there are some of us who love winter. If you are one who would rather think about winter from a distance of six months or so, or if you'd like to experiment with a unique theme garden next year, here are some plants you might include in a winter/snow/ice-themed landscape. Perhaps it will provide a psychological cooling effect on those 90° July days!

'[Heavenly Angel Ice](#)' Daylily blooms mid-to-late summer and again in early fall. Its 8" spider-shaped blooms are pure white with green to yellow throats held on stems 36" tall above grass-like foliage. Like most daylilies, they do best in full sun or light shade. They will tolerate clay, loamy or sandy soils. Spent flower stems should be trimmed after blooms are finished. They are easily divided in fall or early spring but it won't be necessary for several years.

Another perennial plant, '[Snow Drift](#)' Astilbe has bright green fern-like leaves and white feathery plumes of flowers from early June to July. Partial or full shade is best and they prefer a rich, moist soil with regular watering. Plants are 20-23" tall and spread about the same distance. They do well in flower beds as well as large tubs or mixed containers. Dried seed heads may be cut or left in place for winter interest. Divide in early spring every 2-3 years.

'[Snow Princess Alyssum](#)' is an annual plant for growing in part to full sun. Thousands of fragrant, tiny, star-shaped white flowers cover the plant which grows 10-16" tall and spreads 24-48". It is also a good plant as a "spiller" in containers, but requires generous watering. Be prepared to water twice a day or use an extra-large container. If the soil does dry out though, the plant will be quick to recover once rehydrated. Alyssum will bloom from planting time in spring until hard frost in fall. No deadheading is necessary for continuous bloom but it may easily be cut back with a shears if it begins to spread out of bounds.

'[Snowstorm](#)' [Spirea](#) is a hardy shrub that grows 3-5' tall and wide. Numerous tiny pristine white flowers in 6-8" wide dome-shaped clusters appear from May to June. Deadheading the flowers encourages some re-bloom. 'Snowstorm' is attractive the entire growing season with pretty blue-green summer foliage and bright red and orange fall color. It prefers full sun and average, well-drained soil. Pruning is done in late winter to early spring. Use a large shears to lightly shape the plants, or cut them back hard to just a few inches tall. Spireas are good for borders, informal hedges or foundation plants. Pollinators love spireas but deer pass them by.

There are many other plants that you could include in a winter-themed garden. Here are a few: Snowberry, 'Snow Thimble' Foxglove, 'Summer Snowflake' Viburnum, Snowdrops, 'Annabelle" Snowball Hydrangea, Winterberry Holly, Winter Aconite, 'Yuki Snowflake' Deutzia, and 'Snow Fairy' Blue Mist Shrub.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am [Kalm's St. Johnswort](#). Order: Theales. Family: Clusiaceae / Guttiferae – Mangosteen family. Genus: Hypericum L. – St Johnswort. Species: Hypericum kalmianum L. – Kalm's St. Johnswort. St. Johnswort is named for the feast day of St. John the Baptist, which occurs during the plant's heaviest flowering. Wort is a historical word for plants which were known for medicinal properties or food. The specific epithet Kalmianum is named after Peter Kalm who discovered the plant in the mid-18th century. I can be seen in the raingarden located at the entrance to the Coughlin Center.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.



Master Gardener Program in Winnebago County 2019

At the end of 2019, **109** Master Gardener Volunteers

reported **7,293** hours of volunteer service for an estimated

value of **\$175,026** (Independent Sector). They also

reported **2,009** hours of continuing education and reached an estimated

5,116 individuals with various outreach projects.

Good Job Winnebago County Master Gardeners!!



PBS Wisconsin **GARDEN & LANDSCAPE EXPO**

PBS Wisconsin's Garden & Landscape Expo is a midwinter oasis for people ready to venture out and dig their hands in the dirt. Now in its 27th year, this three-day event celebrates the latest trends in gardening and

landscaping, and attracts more than 20,000 people from across the Midwest. Join other gardening enthusiasts to share ideas, gain inspiration and connect with professional landscapers. All proceeds support PBS Wisconsin.

Things to do at the Garden Expo:

- Learn something new at one of more than 150 free educational seminars and stage demonstrations.
- Connect with dozens of landscaping professionals who can help deliver your landscape dream.
- Visit with hundreds of businesses, independent contractors, nonprofits and artists to share ideas and learn about the newest in gardening, landscaping and local foods.
- Discuss innovative gardening techniques with Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Horticulture experts.
- Relax with a casual walk through the beautiful garden displays—courtesy of [Wisconsin Nursery & Landscape Association \(WNLA\)](#).
- Purchase seeds, tools and everything else you need to be ready when the trees bud and the ground thaws.
- Cultivate a love for gardening and the outdoors with your entire family in [Nature Cat's Backyard!](#)
- Attend the Sunday [farmers' market](#), featuring farmers, food artisans and local food retailers.

New Winnebago County Master Gardeners receiving their certificates at the Awards Banquet



Doreen Dittberner, Barbara Pressley, Sue Paulick, Sue Rogers, Bob Kneepkens, Karen Morton

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association
Bus Trip to Madison - PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo
Saturday, February 8, 2020
6:45 am– 7:00 pm

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual PBS Wisconsin Garden & Landscape Expo, on Saturday February 8, 2020 at the Madison Alliant Center. Garden Expo is presented by PBS Wisconsin and the UW-Extension and is a midwinter gardening oasis for people ready to share ideas, gain inspiration and create something new. From 9:00 am until 4:30 pm, you can choose to sit in on over 50 seminars or demonstrations done by UW educators, UW-Ext. educators and gardening experts with topics like shade gardening, composting, food traditions and Wisconsin's Public Gardens: <https://www.wigardenexpo.com/seminars-saturday#sat>

Presenters include Mark Dwyer from Rotary Gardens, sessions with Melinda Myers and Megan Cain, and Larry Meiller who will host a discussion and answer session of Garden Talk. Usually you must preregister for the 'make and take seminars'. Spend time strolling among the many vendors offering everything from seeds to garden art to tools and even outdoor living spaces! Enjoy an exciting day of learning and preparing for a brand new year of gardening at Garden Expo! All details can be found at www.wigardenexpo.com

Departure Sites and Times:

Oshkosh at the Coughlin Center, Cty Rd Y. at 6:45 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 4:50pm and depart Madison Expo at 5:00 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, if you can't attend, please find someone else to take your place. Bring your own lunch, drinks and snacks or purchase 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.

2020 Madison Garden Expo Trip Registration Form (copy as needed)

Name: _____ Email _____(confirm reply)

Address: _____ Phone _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Cell phone _____

Pick Up Locations:

- o Coughlin Center leaving at 6:45 am
- o Penney's parking lot in Oshkosh leaving at 7:15 am
- o Fond du Lac (Old Home Depot)leaving at 7:30am

WCMGA Scholarship

By Jane Kuhn

The WCMGA is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a current high school senior who resides in Winnebago County. The applicant must be planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution to pursue a program related to the following areas of study: Horticulture, Landscaping, Agriculture, Forestry, Agronomy, Arborist, Conservation, Natural Resources, or other areas approved by the Scholarship Committee and the Board. The scholarship recipient will be based on a completed application including a typed essay and letters of recommendation.

Applications are available from counselors at high schools where Winnebago County students attend, on the WCMGA web page (<http://winnebagomastergardeners.org/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>), and from members of the Scholarship Committee (Vicki Daniels, Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn). The deadline for applying is March 1, 2020. The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient at the May membership meeting of WCMGA.

Farmer's Market News

by Synda Jones

Thank you, **Dorothy** and **Janet!**

In 2019, **Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz** and **Janet Priebe** decided to retire as co-leads of the Farmer's Market team. Janet and Dorothy have been a vital part of the market for many, many summers. They have helped numerous gardeners by answering questions, giving advice, or referring them to the Plant Health Advisors. The huge crowds of future gardeners on Kid's Day love planting flowers with the Master Gardeners, and numerous MG volunteers have always enjoyed learning from each other. Please join us in thanking these wonderful women for all they've contributed to the project. We will truly miss them every Saturday.

Patty Schmitz and I will continue as co-leads at the Market on every other Saturday, but there is an opportunity for any member to become a lead with us. Another team would allow us to expand our presence at the market next summer, as well as open up more opportunities for MGs to get volunteer hours. Please contact **Kimberly Miller**, **Patty** pschmitz21@gmail.com, or **Synda Jones** synda50@gmail.com if you are interested, or would like more information.

Master Gardeners Flower Arranging 2020

Monday, January 13
Monday, March 23
Monday, May 18
Monday, July 13 (Fair week)
Monday, Oct. 19

All times will be 1:30-3:00 PM at the Park View Great Room.

Member Business Meeting Minutes - No Dec. Mtg.

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for January Events

Feb.7-9: WPT Garden Expo, Madison - see our website for link

Feb. 8: WCMGA bus trip to WPT Garden Expo

Feb. 15: Winter Escape~Summer Dreams

Feb. 18: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

Mar. 17: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

Mar. 23: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room

April 21: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

May 18: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room

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

July 13: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room

Oct. 19: Flower Arranging, Park View Great Room



11th Annual

Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams

Sat., Feb. 15, 2020 * 8 AM - 3:30 PM

La Sure's Banquet Hall Oshkosh, WI

- **Cost: \$45 through February 11**
- **\$50 after Feb. 11**
- **Breakfast and lunch included**
- **Gluten-Free options available**
- **ATM available on site**
- **FREE onsite parking**
- **Confirmation will be sent via email or US mail**
- **Proceeds from this event support the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association's community projects and scholarships**



Registration Form	
Name	
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Email	
Amount Enclosed	
<p>Make check payable to WCMGA and mail to:</p> <p>WCMGA</p> <p>1112 Merritt Ave.</p> <p>Oshkosh, WI 54901</p>	

WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

Project	Project Lead(s)
Algoma Town Hall	Petey Clark
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow/Audrey Ruedinger
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 pakster0605@yahoo.com.

January 2020						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1 	2	3	4
5	6	7 Board Mtg. 6 PM	8	9	10`	11
12	13 Flower Arranging 1:30-3:00 PM	14 Business Mtg. 6 PM	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Education Committee, Benvenuto's 5:30 PM	22	23	24 Garden Visions, Wausau	25 Garden Visions, Wausau Wild Ones in Harmony with Nature, Oshkosh
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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