



# Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

January 2022

## 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.

*"Hello January!  
Please be  
AWESOME!"*



A mild day in December was perfect for gardening at Parkview. Beds were being prepared for spring - hoping any unwanted plants would be gone when the cardboard is removed in May.

*Submitted by Jane Kuhn.*

## 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 (Nominations Accepted)

Ed Dombrowski (4.30.22)

### Vice President

Open

### Secretary

Open

### Treasurer (Nominations Accepted)

Open

### Board Representatives (3 positions Nominations Accepted)

Ruth Retzlaff (12.31.22)

Grace Oliver (12.31.22)

Virginia Slattery (4.30.22)

Sandra Gollhofer (4.30.22)

### Advisor

Open

### Newsletter Compilation

Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing to a future newsletter by writing an article, submitting a photo, or sharing a story, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing [pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com). Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook  at [WCMGVA](https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA).  
<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>

# Letter from your President

## Ed Dombrowski

"Change is in the air, as old patterns fall away and new energies are emerging. Consciously release what needs to be released, and welcome with a full embrace the newness you've prayed for and so richly deserve."  
*Marianne Williamson, author, politician, activist*

Yes, there is change in the air. As we are feeling the lack of social contacts, it is important to note that if we are to survive our present situation, we will need to adapt to our new environment.

Looking at change, there is no question that effective leadership facilitates change in organizations through improvement and innovation. Leadership can be defined as the ability to influence others in their values, beliefs and behaviors.

I believe our Board, as well as past Boards, has done an admirable job influencing our beliefs and behaviors. Past Boards and our current Board members have operated by gaining the trust of our membership by improving the overall performance of the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association.

Our present Board has worked hard at trying to shape a culture for the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association despite the many setbacks we all have encountered. If you get an opportunity, give a shout out to a Board member and congratulate them for the work they have done during the past 2 years.

However, with the advent of change in culture, our environment and leadership, so too we must adapt. What has worked for us in the past has to be reviewed and re-examined. As we move forward, are we looking at a different leadership model or do we remain as is? Obviously, we and the Board have a lot of work ahead of us. This can not be done without your input and support.

Our leadership model plays an important role in helping determine the next directions we undertake. As we review our model it's possible that what we have now is not enough to sustain us in our new normal environment.

I, as well as our Board, would value your input as to Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association directions you would like to see us move toward or away from. Please contact myself or any Board members with your thoughts so that we can discuss them at our next Board meeting on January 4th, 2022.

Ed Dombrowski [skidoo5152@yahoo.com](mailto:skidoo5152@yahoo.com) 920.410.3012

## ***Attention all Master Gardener Volunteers***

***Co-Leads needed to head up the Oshkosh Farmers Market project.***

- ***This is an important project, fitting with our MGV community education priority.***
- ***The Oshkosh Farmers Market wants us back! "The information and activities the Master Gardeners have presented in previous markets have been enjoyed by both young and old." - Michelle Schmid-Schultz, Market Manager***
- ***Can participate as much or as little as you would like. Plan dates according to your schedule and interest; such as one Saturday morning a month, 2 or 3 times a season, every other week, or whatever works for you.***
- ***Materials all ready to go; tables, reference books, hand outs, posters, etc. Or, do something different; create &/or purchase new materials. Be as creative as you want!***
- ***A large source of volunteers (our membership) is willing to help out. Also, former leads are available to provide advice and guidance.***
- ***A fun and enjoyable morning; visiting with others, people watching, and shopping at the Market!***

***If interested in being a Lead or Co-lead for this project, please contact Kathy Procknow or Deb Butch. Thank you.***

### **Answer to What am I?**

*By Jane Kuhn*



I am red twig dogwood. Family: Cornaceae. Genus: Cornus. Other common names are red-osier dogwood, red-rod, 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.

## COVID-Approved Projects Open for Volunteers

The following is a list of projects that are COVID-approved and open to Master Gardener Volunteers:

- **Butterfly Garden at Miravida Living**
- **Park View Cutting Gardens**
- **Park View Vegetable Garden**
- **Park View Prairie Garden**
- **Oshkosh Area Humane Society Memorial Garden**
- **Rain Garden at Coughlin Building**
- **Morgan House**
- **Paine Art Center and Arboretum**
- **Octagon House**
- **Pollinator Garden at Neenah Public Library**
- **Carter Memorial Library, Omro**
- **Sullivan's Woods-invasive removal only**
- **Plant Health Advising-virtual**

Please see the **2021 Winnebago County Master Gardener Guide** and contact the Project Lead for more information.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

*By Linda Werner*

- **Toward Harmony With Nature 25th Anniversary Celebration, January 29, 2022:**  
<https://www.towardharmonywithnature.org/>
- **Gardening Visions 2020 Virtual Seminar, Saturday, January 29, 8:15-Noon.** Sponsored by Northcentral Technical College. Cost \$5. Presentations: Designing Plant Communities by Paula Westmoreland; Landscaping with Edibles and Pollinator Friendly Plants with Leigh Presley; Landscaping with Grasses with Lisa Johnson. To register go to:  
<https://files.constantcontact.com/4a96a53b001/9334ad00-ea66-40b6-844a-d425bacd06d1.pdf>
- **University of Illinois-Extension**
- **Introduction to Fruit Tree Pruning, Friday, Feb. 11, 3-5 p.m.** Cost \$5. Basics of pruning, which tools to use and strategies to consider. Presented by Grant McCarty, Local Foods & Small Farms Educator. Register at:  
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24795>
- **Spring Ephemerals, Tuesday, January 25, 1:30 p.m.** Free. Overview of the diversity of spring ephemerals and how to grow them in your yard. Presented by Horticulture Educator



Gemini Bhalsod. Register at:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24807>

- **Organic Gardening**, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m. Free. Learn what organic gardening is and how to implement organic practices in your vegetable garden. Presented by horticulture educator Ken Johnson. Register at:  
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24808>
- **Shade Gardening**, Tuesday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. Free. Learn how to increase color and add interest in your shade garden with perennials. Presented by Horticulture Educator Andrew Holsiger. Register at:  
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24809>
- **WPT Garden Expo 2022**, Live event at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. For more information and advance tickets, go to: <https://wigardenexpo.com/> As in past years, not all presentations will be eligible for Master Gardening continuing education hours. Look for further information from the UW-Extension in Madison as the date gets closer.
- **UW-Arboretum Winter Enrichment Virtual Seminars**
- Additional information and registration for all programs is at:
- <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/winter-enrichment-registration/>
- Cost: \$10 each
- **February 24 Longenecker Horticultural Gardens: Connecting People, Plants, and Place.** David Stevens, curator, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, UW–Madison Arboretum. Stevens will discuss the ongoing efforts to engage a wider public audience about the importance of plants through learning, art, science, culture, and remembrance. Register by February 20.
- **March 17 Water Advocacy in Wisconsin: Watershed and Statewide Approaches.** Allison Madison, sustainability and development coordinator, Wisconsin Salt Wise, and Alli Wenman, WATER Project outreach coordinator, UW–Madison Arboretum. The Arboretum’s Water Action to Encourage Responsibility (WATER) Project and the Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership work to address water quality issues at watershed and statewide scales. The WATER Project supports local nonprofits with grants, training, and outreach materials to implement stormwater initiatives. Wisconsin Salt Wise began as a local coalition in Dane County and now works statewide to reduce salt pollution into lakes, streams, and drinking water by providing training and promoting best practices. Learn about their work and how you can be a freshwater advocate. Register by March 13.
- **April 7 Anticipating the Hydrologic Consequences of Emerald Ash Borer Invasion in Tribal Forested Wetlands through a Sapflux Network.** Angela Waupochick, PhD student, UW–Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Tribal communities maintain significant landholdings, including black ash–dominated forested wetlands. These systems have not been a priority for management, but anticipated mortality induced by emerald ash borer has prompted tribal managers to seek strategies and prioritize areas for mitigation. Register by April 3

## Business Meeting Minutes, No December Meeting

## Keep growing all winter with hydroponics

Natalie Hoidal, Extension educator, local foods and vegetable production



*A deep water culture hydroponics system can be as simple as a bucket with a foam board top.*

**A**s our gardens freeze over, many of us still have the gardening bug. Hydroponics, or growing plants in water, is a great way to keep growing fresh greens all winter long indoors. You can build a hydroponics set-up for less than \$40, or with materials you may already have.

Our [small-scale hydroponics webpage](#) walks you through all of the things you need to build a successful hydroponic system at home. You'll need a light source, a container to hold water and nutrients, and some sort of structure for your plants. This can be as simple as growing plants in a five-gallon bucket near a sunny window or as complex as an attractive shelving unit with grow lights.

### Some general tips for beginning hydroponics

- **Share materials.**

It can be hard to find small-scale materials. For example, net pots (a very common type of plant pot used in hydroponics) are often sold in packs of 100, but you may only need a few. Finding a group of friends who want to share materials can help to keep costs and excess materials to a minimum.

- **Be realistic.**

While it's tempting to try to grow tomatoes all year, our Minnesota winters are better suited to growing plants like spinach, herbs, and other greens that can handle lower light levels. This is true even with supplemental lighting.

- **Start simple.**

You can always scale up and develop fancier systems. The simplest and most accessible method is the Kratky method or deep water culture. This system doesn't require any pumps or plumbing, and can be made with buckets or other containers you already have.

- **Learn more.**

Read more about types of set-ups, lighting requirements, plant selection, and more at our full webpage about [small-scale hydroponics](#).

## WCMGA Projects

*Check your Member Guide for contact information.*

Project	Project Lead(s)
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Jenny Breining
Coughlin Rain Garden	Ed and Jill Dombrowski
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Valerie Stabenow/Sue Egner
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Susan Forbes/Bette Hoytink
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Oshkosh Farmer's Market	NEEDS LEADS!
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Donna Kudlas/Jane Kuhn
Park View Prairie Garden	Carol Swannell/Ruth Eberwine
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche/Diane Thompson
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber (with assistance from Renee Donner)
Plant Health Advisors	Mary Shepard
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](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com).



# January 2022

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1 
2	3	4 MG Board Mtg. 6 PM	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 MG Business Mtg. 6 PM	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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