

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

JULY 2017-Issue 32



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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Photo by Maria Talin

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Dates to Remember

July 16 – Deb Voyles Garden Walk

July 27 – Bus Trip to Sheboygan

August 8 – Education Meeting at Benvenuto's

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



Happy Birthday America!

July is a month when our gardens are at their peak color - with the residual of spring blooms and the arrival of summer blooms...and we mostly have our home beds in shape for the season (notice the word "mostly"!).

We weathered through June, and gardens in our projects are shaping up nicely. We visited Octagon House - roses were beautiful, and the vegetable garden was looking good. The project team is working with the Neenah Historical Society, and their plantings reflect the current educational series.

The annual picnic was well attended - the food was good and plentiful. And the give aways were wonderful as well! Thank you to the organizing team for their efforts in making a memorable evening. Thank you also to Sally Lindo, Tom and Bill Weber for sharing your Parkview garden histories. Members were able to stroll each garden and admire the work that has been done. Tom and Bill mentioned needing help with watering in the vegetable and cutting gardens so if any of you have some time to spare, please let them know.

The Farmers Market is in full swing again this year. This is always a good way to obtain your community ed hours (teaching others) and is a nice time to share your knowledge...or pick up some new information yourself!

Garden walks are now on the calendar of events, so hopefully you can find time to visit a few. 2 members are opening their gardens in July; then we will visit 3 projects in August. Watch for email reminders. And if you want to add your garden, please let us know!

Winnebago Co Fair is set for August 2-6 this year. We will be hosting a booth at the fair again this year so watch for an email requesting volunteers sometime in July.

Lastly, this is our month of no meetings! However, if you need to contact anyone, please feel free to call on any board member.

Have a wonderful summer!

Kathy and Linda



WHAT AM I?

BY JANE KUHN

My genus consists of 120 species of perennial flowering plants which grow from tubers. My species blooms from May-June, growing 12-18 inches tall and 9-12 inches wide, with a white, fragrant, 1½-2 inch flower having yellow stamens. I grow in zones 4-8, preferring partial shade and moist but well-drained soil rich with humus. I will tolerate some sun but not a great deal of heat and I am easy to care for.

Propagation of my plant is by division either in spring or fall. I am deer and rabbit resistant and have no serious diseases or insect problems. I am perfect for naturalizing a woodland or any area of dappled shade. I am useful as an overplanting for spring bulbs like tulips or narcissus as my foliage will cover the declining bulb foliage.



Photo by Val Stabenow

The News Crew- Editors; Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Mary Jo Maher
Jane Kuhn, Lawanda Jungwirth, Renee Doner, Lynne Slat, Marge Bolding, Anne Murphy, Eric Kropp and Maria Talin

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

BY LAWANDA JUNGWIRTH

Catalpa Tree is for Large Spaces

There was one northern catalpa tree in my neighborhood when I was a child. I didn't know what it was, but I loved that tree. In June, it had clusters of large bell-shaped, ruffled white flowers with yellow stripes and purple spots inside, kind of a combination of petunia and iris and orchid, not at all the usual flower you find on a tree. In summer, the tree developed long thin pods, up to 2 feet long that we called "beans." In fall, the pods turned brown and after the leaves fell from the tree, the pods crackled in the wind like wooden wind chimes, sometimes remaining on the tree through winter and looking like brown icicles.

Catalpa is a deciduous tree that grows 50–80 feet tall and up to 40 feet wide with an irregular shape. Massive trunks support multiple crowns of large upward reaching limbs. Catalpa wood is a light weight, soft wood that doesn't rot.

Catalpa is native to a very small area north and south of the confluence of the Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash rivers. It grows just fine in our area though, surviving to USDA Hardiness Zone 4. Lifespan is approximately 60 years.

Heart-shaped tropical looking leaves are 12 or more inches long. Catalpa is one of the last trees to leaf out in spring and one of the first to lose its leaves in fall. At the first hard frost, leaves turn brown and fall off.

Catalpa is a survivor. It tolerates flood and drought, sun or part shade, and pretty much any soil pH. It can suffer from several diseases and pests, but most are minor. Only one insect might become a problem. Catalpa's leaves are the sole food source of catalpa sphinx moth larvae. If you are a fisherman, you won't look at this as a problem – the large spotted caterpillars are considered prime fish bait and require no digging. There isn't enough space to go into detail here, but in the long run, an attack by catalpa sphinx moth larvae actually benefits the tree.

Although the wood is decay-resistant, it is brittle, so branches do break in wind and with ice cover. As it is a relatively large tree, it is best for rural areas, or larger city yards. Catalpa should not be planted near buildings, fences, sidewalks or septic systems. It is going to get big and cast a broad shadow, so plan for that if you decide to plant one.

Young tree trunks should be protected from rabbit damage. Flowering begins at about 7 years. Flowers attract hummingbirds and are a nutrition source for bees early in the summer before most other sources are available.

As a child, I saw only the beautiful flowers and the bean-like seed pods of the catalpa. I wasn't the person responsible for cleaning up the fallen flowers, small twigs, seed pods and the winged seeds inside them. However, if I had the space, I'd still plant one today.

Editor's Note: Pictures of [catalpa flowers](#)



THE LATEST DIRT

July 16 – Deb Voyles Home Garden Walk – 6992 Spiegelberg Rd, Larsen

July 27 – Bus Trip to Sheboygan

August 8 – Oshkosh Area Humane Society Garden Walk

August 8, September 18, October 17 – Education Committee meeting @ 5:30 at Benvenutos

WCMGA Workshop at Oshkosh Area Community Pantry

By Jane Kuhn

Our Winnebago County Master Gardeners collaborated with the UW-Extension FOODWISE staff and the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry in planning and holding a vegetable container gardening workshop for customers of the pantry. With the goal of introducing the joys and benefits of growing and eating freshly grown produce, members of our education committee presented a power point on container gardening and the following week led a hands-on session on planting container gardens. At that session our Master Gardener volunteers assisted customers in plant selection and planting, providing useful tips for growing success. Each customer was able to plant and take home two container gardens. UW-Extension educators hosted workshops before and after the planting to discuss the health benefits of vegetables as well as food preparation ideas. This project was funded by Wisconsin Master Gardener Association.



Master Gardeners Linda and Jane present the process of container gardening with vegetables to workshop participants.



Workshop participants choose and plant vegetables and herbs in their containers under the guidance of Master Gardener volunteers.



Mike Maddox, Master Gardener Program Director, was the instructor for the Horticultural Therapy workshop held recently and attended by seven members of WCMGA.



The workshop included hands-on activities with role playing as leaders or individuals with various disabilities.

ANSWER TO WHAT AM I

By Jane Kuhn

I am snowdrop windflower. Order: Ranunculales. Family: Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family. Genus: *Anemone* L. – anemone. Species: *Anemone sylvestris* L. – snowdrop windflower. *Anemone* comes from *anemos*, the Greek word for wind, thus giving *Anemone* the name windflower. All anemones are poisonous if ingested.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Master Gardeners were asked to attend the Oshkosh Garden Club's Garden Walk on June 25 to answer questions about composting at one of the gardens. Linda Loker, Jo Helf and Anne Murphy volunteered and enjoyed the beautiful day while learning about the Shoreline Restoration garden at Menominee Park and sharing information about composting.

The Shoreline Restoration garden can be found at the north end of Menominee Park along the shoreline.



One of the favorite plants in the Shoreline Restoration garden is the Rattlesnake Master.

JULY 2017



Photo by Lawanda Jungwirth

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Deb Voyles Garden walk	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Bus trip to Sheboygan	28	29
30	31					