



# Winnebago County Master Gardener

June 2014

## Volunteer Newsletter

### 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.

### PRESIDENTS' LETTER

The warm weather has finally arrived and this time it feels like it is going to stay and not just tease us! Thanks to all the master gardeners who turned out to help at the Paine "Festival of Spring" on Saturday. We met many fellow gardeners and answered a multitude of questions - many about invasives. I was amazed that so many people were aware of buckthorn, garlic mustard, nettle, and many of the other newer invasives. We must be doing a good job spreading the word! It was a bit chilly out there, but all in all an enjoyable day!

Don't forget to sign up for our **master gardener picnic** on Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Parkview Health Center. **Bring a dish to pass** and WCMGA will furnish pulled pork sandwiches and drinks. Let Donna Kudlas (233-0367) or Kathy Daniels (233-0410) know. Hope to see everyone there! Feel free to bring a guest.

We have some great educational opportunities coming up this summer. A garden walk at Linda Christensen's home and her neighbor's Betty Humphrey's on Tuesday, July 1 at 5:30 p.m. Linda's address is 2943 Manor Drive, Oshkosh. There is a bus trip scheduled for Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> to Allen Centennial Gardens and Olbrich Botanical Gardens along with a private garden tour at Kleinheinz Shade Gardens. (See newsletter for further information.) We are planning a trip to the Butterfly Gardens in Appleton for sometime in August and Val Stabenow has volunteered her garden for a tour of her Irises in June. (Information to follow). Don't forget the Oshkosh Farmers Market opens on June 7<sup>th</sup>! Looks like busy summer to me!

We have planned a workday on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. at Omro Public Library to help them get started on revitalizing their landscape. There are many bushes that need to be trimmed or torn out, general cleanup of flowerbeds, and weeding. We would like to get them started and they will take over. Bring pruners, rakes, shovels, and trimmers. The address is 405 E. Huron. It is left off of Main Street. This is a great way to work with fellow gardeners and get some hours in.

*Happy Gardening,*

**Mary and Linda**



*June 10*

*Master Gardener Picnic*

*6:00 pm*

*Parkview Health Center*



## Tomato Success

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Tomatoes are the most popular vegetable garden plant. Even gardeners who have space for nothing else often put a tomato plant in a pot on their porch or in a flowerbed. Tomatoes are easy to grow, but here are some tips to make them even more successful.

There are a few things you should know before buying tomato plants. They are either determinate or indeterminate. Determinate plant tomatoes ripen all at once and then no more tomatoes are formed. If you are planning on canning tomatoes, you want determinate plants. Indeterminate plants continue growing and producing throughout the season. These are good for extended use, but you'll probably still get enough to can, freeze or give away.

The tags in the plant pot may not say whether the tomato is determinate or indeterminate. You may have to ask. Better yet, look at a mail order catalog, which does tell you, and make a list of which varieties of tomatoes you want to buy before you go to the nursery.

The plant tags might have letters like V, F, N, T, A, St., and TSWV on them. These are various diseases to which that variety of tomato has been bred to be resistant. This doesn't mean that you should avoid buying tomatoes without any of these letters listed. Some of the best tasting tomatoes haven't been bred for disease resistance and with a bit of care and a little luck, you'll have healthy tomato plants.

When you get the plants home, take a few days to acclimate them to being outdoors. Keep them in shade and protected from the wind for a few days, gradually exposing them to a little more sun and wind each day until they can withstand the conditions in your garden.

Most plants are planted at the same soil depth as they were in the pot in which they were purchased. Tomatoes, however, should be planted much deeper. Remove the bottom few leaves that grow from the stem and sink the plant in the hole up to just below the "canopy" of leaves. Roots will form all along the stem making for a sturdy plant.

Adding a scoop of compost, crushed eggshells and a sprinkle of dried non-fat milk to the hole will help the plants throughout the season. Eggshells and milk provide calcium to help prevent blossom-end rot, a condition where the bottom of the tomatoes turn black and mushy.

Another help in preventing blossom-end rot is to make sure that watering is consistent throughout the season.

Leave plenty of space between plants so air can flow between them. This helps to prevent fungal diseases.

Use good, strong tomato cages so the plants don't flop over onto the ground. Mulch around the plants with straw, leaves or pine needles to prevent bacterial, viral and fungal diseases from splashing up from the soil.

Extended high temperatures cause tomato blossoms to stop forming fruit. A spray called Tomato Blossom Set ensures that fruits form even in high temps.

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### DID YOU KNOW?



Both *Stein's* and *Lowe's* accept plastic plant trays, pots and packs for recycling. We can finally get rid of those stacks of pots in our garages and basements!

# GARDEN TOURS



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association  
Saturday, July 19, 2014  
7:00 am– 6:30 pm

**Departure Site/Time:** Aviator's Plaza in Oshkosh ( very south end of the parking lot) at 7:00am prompt! The bus will begin loading at 6:45am.

## **Schedule:**

**Allen Centennial Gardens (tour with Ed Lyon) approximately 9:00-10:30am**

**Lunch (at your own cost) at various locations (UW union) 10:45-11:45am**

**Olbrich Botanical Gardens (tour with Jeff Epping & gift shop as well) 12:00-2:00pm**

**Kleinheinz Shade Gardens (private gardens) 2:00-3:00pm**

**Jungs Nursery 3:30-4:30pm**

**Arrive Home no later than 6:30pm**

**Cost is \$38.00 (includes cost of bus plus admission to all sites). Bring your own lunch (or purchase at one of the sites offered), drinks and snacks. Bring your Master Gardener's card if you have one as we *may* get a discount. Since we will be doing lots of walking, wear comfortable shoes and layers of clothes—who knows what kind of weather we will have then!**

**Please direct any questions to Linda Loker at [lloker@att.net](mailto:lloker@att.net) or call 920-420-2978 or Alice Graf at [agrafj@gmail.com](mailto:agrafj@gmail.com) or call 920-203-8252.**

**Send your checks payable to WCMGA c/o Alice Graf, 2530D Havenwood Dr, Oshkosh, WI 54904**

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## **Garden Tours Registration Form**

(copy as needed)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$38.00 made to WCMGA**

## New Core Project

### The Winchester Area Historical Society

The WCMGA Board of directors approved a new Core Project for restoration of The Winchester Area Historical Society's John J. & Ethel Keller Local History Center and Library at its May 6 Board Meeting.

Mary Rebman, 920-836-2209, [mrebman@centurytel.net](mailto:mrebman@centurytel.net) and Sandra Mathison 920-778-0019, [rmathison2@new.rr.com](mailto:rmathison2@new.rr.com) are the co-leaders of the project.

#### History & Background

The Winchester Area Historical Society's John J. & Ethel Keller Local History Center and Library located at 5186 County Road II, Winchester, WI. The WAHS serves Winnebago towns of Clayton, Vinland, Winchester, Wolf River, and surrounding areas. The WAHS facility was formerly the property of the Art Larsen family and includes a house, barn, fruit orchard, perennial flowerbeds and a farm field all located on 6.5 acres in the village of Winchester. The local History Center and Library is located in the house and is open to the public. Facilities are available for use by local organizations. WAHS programs welcoming the public are held at the Winchester Town Hall (next door to the property) at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of the months of April, May, June, September, October, November & December.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Winchester Area Historical Society's John J. and Ethel Keller Local History Center and Library is to provide a library facility along with research and educational materials to the community for the purpose of researching and preserving area history and family histories. Materials in the library will include information on the Towns of Clayton, Vinland, Winchester, Wolf River, and the immediate surrounding communities. The library will also provide resources on American and world history and literature, Scandinavian and German collections, information on Wisconsin, Winnebago County history and family histories.

#### WCMGA Key Goals

The gardens, orchards, & grounds planted by Art Larsen and his family beginning in 1942 were widely known in the area for their beauty. Following Mr. Larsen's passing in 1998 at the age of 83; the property was purchased by WAHS and has been maintained by volunteers of the organization. Given the size and number of gardens, restoration has become increasingly difficult. The WAHS approached WCMGA about two years with a request that we consider the grounds for restoration.

We envision the renovation will be a multi-year project. This summer's goal is to continue overall clean up of the perennial gardens, orchards, & grounds. Raking, quack removal, pruning or removal of existing shrubs will improve the overall appearance and allow us to begin development of an overall planting plan. The WAHS has a grounds budget and will require no funding by WCMGA.

#### Work Days

Tuesday's 9 am-noon has been scheduled to coincide with The Society's Library hours. (Restrooms available.) The grounds are open 7 days a week and weeding, raking, general clean up can be done anytime you may have a free hour or two. Be sure to bring your favorite garden tools. Everyone is welcome!

Two photos of the grounds we believe were taken in the late 1960's are attached to provide just a glimpse of the original beauty.





**You and your guest are invited to  
attend the Winnebago County  
Master Gardeners Annual Picnic**

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

6:00 pm



Parkview Health Center—Great Room

Meats, beverages and utensils provided

**Bring a dish to pass**



RSVP with names of attendees to:

Donna Kudlas at 920-233-0367 or [dfkudlas@yahoo.com](mailto:dfkudlas@yahoo.com)

**Please Wear Your Name Tags**

**Plant Exchange**

If you wish to participate, bring a labeled,  
potted plant to the picnic and  
take a new one home.



## Bouquets From the Herb Garden

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Herbs are often defined as “useful plants.” This means they are used as food or medicine or in crafts. But many herbs have an additional attribute – beauty - and can hold their own in gorgeous bouquets.

Take basil for example. When growing basil for food, leaves are harvested before flowering for best flavor and flower stalks are clipped off to extend the harvest season. But by August, it’s pretty hard to keep ahead of those flower stalks even with continuous cutting back. In just a day or two, the plants develop pretty flowers. Different kinds of basil present variously colored flowers and if you let them go, the stalks grow into tall spikes. They add lovely color and scent to bouquets, and can be hung upside down to dry for use later in dried arrangements. Their fragrance will linger for up to a year or more.


You might think that an herbal bouquet would have to be casual or folksy, but some herbs have elegant flowers suitable for formal décor. Common sage produces purple flowers on sturdy stems. Before the flowers are fully open, they are reminiscent of iris flowers just before bloom and could be cut at that point for a decorous bouquet. Allowed to fully open, the purple spikes combine well with other cut flowers.



Lavender is an herb for smaller formal bouquets. Fragrant purple, pink or white buds are held tightly on stiff stems. This is another herb that is easily dried by hanging upside down. Fragrance is retained for years.

For an even smaller bouquet in a tiny vase, thyme flowers form on stiff wiry stems. Flowers are purple, white or pink.

Germander is an herb often used as a neat edging in herb gardens. While it is mentioned as a cure many things in folk medicine, today its usefulness is mostly in its prettiness. Like thyme but slightly more substantial, purple to light pink flowers form in whorls at the top of stems and would work in both formal and more relaxed bouquets.

Many herbs do a wonderful job as big bouquet fillers. The yellow umbrella-shaped flowers of dill and fennel are perfect additions to a vase of zinnias. White-flowered fillers include anise and caraway. 

Fragrant and pretty greenery can be added to bouquets with mints, lemon balm, lovage, parsley, sweet wormwood, rosemary, sweet Annie and catnip. Most of these herbs eventually produce flowers, and though they are insignificant, they will add a lovely casualness to the bouquet.

Some herbs stand on their own in easy bouquets. These include calendula, feverfew and bee balm. That’s not to say these lovelies can’t be combined with other flowers or a few greens though.

Back to basil again, nothing is prettier or simpler than a few non-flowering basil stems in a water glass on the windowsill. In fact, this is the best way to store basil if you can’t use it immediately. Just change the water daily and snip leaves as needed.



### Festival of Spring at the Paine

People were lined up to ask the experts--Master Gardeners!

Linda Baeten, Renee Donner, Sandy Mathison, Audrey Ruedinger, and Valerie Stabenow gave great advice to many!

At the MG booth, Bette Hoytink, Joseph Jares III, Linda Loker, Cindy Meszaros, Linda Petek (who set up the booth, bought the tables and pamphlets), Mary Rebman, and Kathy Schultz informed everyone about worm castings, MG classes, Emerald Ash Borer, and many helpful bits of info. Three people signed up for info on classes. They sold about 7 bags of worm castings. Many thanks to all above and any one else not mentioned.

Special thanks to all MG's who spent Friday from 8-noon assisting Sheila with the plants for the Paine Sale. These are some of the names: Lori Berndt, Bette Hoytink, Kathy Gore, Mary Rebman, Jerry Schaefer, Dara Sitter, Valerie Stabenow and her husband, and I think I missed a couple names--sorry.

Cheers to everyone for a wonderful festival!  
Pat Behm and Dara Sitter

### Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to [dldoug5@charter.net](mailto:dldoug5@charter.net)

### DID YOU KNOW? ...

One of the most common questions Master Gardeners answer is "Can you identify this plant for me?"

However, UW-Extension, and therefore Master Gardeners, are **prohibited** from identifying mushrooms. There's too much chance of making a fatal mistake!



### 2014

#### Flower Arranging schedule at Parkview Health center

Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30

June 16 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from our gardens
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	their fair flowers from our gardens
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from our gardens
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	flowers from our gardens
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate

## Back to Basics at Planting Time

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Last winter was brutal and this spring has been ugly, but the calendar says it's planting time, so let's review some shopping and planting basics.

When buying annual flowers, veggie packs, or containerized perennial flowers, shrubs or trees, first pick up the container. It should feel solid, not too light for its size. A too-light container or one with roots growing out the bottom means that the plant has been in the pot too long and is root bound. You'll find very little soil inside the pot so the plant has had no way to get nutrition for quite a while.

Next, inspect the plant's leaves and stem. They should be a strong and healthy green, not wilted or yellowed and should have no brown or yellow spots. Check under the leaves to be sure there are no insects or egg masses.

Don't buy a plant looks too tall and leggy for its pot. No matter how nice they look at the moment, these plant are on their way out. Don't be seduced by bedding plants already in full bloom. Same goes for tomatoes and peppers. Unless you need your flower beds to be at peak bloom for an event tomorrow, look for plants with plenty of unopened flower buds. These younger plants are better prepared to survive transplanting, and you won't miss out on any bloom time.

Before you buy any plant, read its label. It will tell you if the plant does best in full sun, part sun or shade. It will also tell you how tall and wide the plant will grow, so you can calculate the distance it should be planted from other plants. Believe what the label tells you or your plant will struggle throughout its shortened life.

When you get plants home, give them a good watering. If you can't plant immediately, set them in the shade until planting time.

Dig planting holes before removing the plants from their containers so the roots aren't out in the air any longer than necessary.

To remove plants from plastic containers, spread your fingers on each side of the stem, turn it upside down and let it fall into your hand. If it doesn't fall right out, for small plant packs gently squeeze the plastic to push the plant out. For stronger containers, tap the edge of the upended pot on something to nudge it out.

Use your fingers to gently loosen the roots. Place the plant into its hole so the soil is at the same level it was in the pot. Fill in around the plant with soil and press the soil gently but firmly around the plant. Water well.

A note of caution about the weather. Just because the plants are available in stores doesn't mean it is safe to plant. Watch the extended weather forecast. If forecasted lows are anywhere near the mid-thirties, wait to plant or be prepared to cover the plants at night.

### \*\*\* July 1<sup>st</sup> Garden Walk \*\*\*

#### **Garden 1:** The Garden of Betty Humphrey 2950 Manor Drive

It's just amazing and beautiful. Lots of large Hostas, unique shrubs, and a pond. Betty's garden has been on many garden walks and will be again for the Midwest Hosta Conference on June 29th. Betty has gardened for many years and is very creative and artistic.

#### **Garden 2:** The garden of Linda Christensen across the street from Betty Humphrey at 2943 Manor Dr.

This garden has a collection of about 260 different Hostas, weeping shrubs, and several types of hydrangeas. Linda's husband, Ron, cares for the fish in the pond and the several water features in the yard.

You may walk through the gardens at your leisure and end at Linda's for coffee/tea and cookies.

The garden tour begins at 6:00



## Master Gardeners Business Meeting

May 13, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### Presentation:

Jack Voight of the Butterfly Gardens of Wisconsin gave the presentation. The gardens were started three years ago and consist of seven acres, which include a butterfly maze, a butterfly house and an event center. They are located on highway 47 in Appleton. They also have a community garden where they grew produce. Last year they grew over one thousand pounds that they donated to Saint Joseph's pantry last year. Monarchs are in every state. The population of the Monarch is decreasing and Jack has reached out to our legislation to make them aware of the situation. The population has decreased from a billion to approximately thirty million. Jack has been working with legislation to make them aware of the situation on the Monarch. He is involved in several organizations that are watching the Monarchs, tagging them and educating the public on the butterflies. Monarchs need host plants and nectar plants. Many of the plants the butterflies are attracted to are; milkweed, new England aster, purple coneflowers, black eyed Susan's, stiff goldenrod, and meadow blazing star. Jack recommends making sure you do not use chemicals or buy plants that have been chemically treated as this deters the butterflies. They also like fruits as bananas and oranges. Jack also suggests putting out a sponge with water on it to supply moisture for the butterflies. Jack talked about the life cycle and habits of the Monarch. There were plants for sale that Jack brought in. These plants were purchased through Prairie Nursery and will attract butterflies. Jack's Butterfly Gardens of Wisconsin will be open May 31. The hours will be 10:30-4:00.

### Treasures Report: Sue Egner

Report for April was presented

### Secretary report

The minutes are now up to date on the web site

### New Business

The picnic is scheduled for June 10 at Parkview Nursing Home. Members should bring a dish to pass. Volunteers can come early to help set up.

The Newsletter is going to be the "go to place" for information. Project leads looking for volunteers should email Diane Dougherty with the information. The cut off day for the newsletter is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Gardening articles are appreciated for the newsletter.

### Project Updates:

All projects are open to the members. New members are welcome at all projects. All projects are submitted to the board for approval. The project forms are on the website. The Community Gardens in Menasha are looking for volunteers. Winchester project is looking for volunteers. There will be major clean up of the gardens this year. There are looking for volunteers on Wednesday morning from 9-12

**Project Presentations: Parkview Prairie Gardens- Ken Hawk**—The prairie was started in 1980 and the Master Gardeners took on the project in the 1990's. This is a shrub and woodland setting. The maintenance there is keeping the invasive under control, fall and spring clean up. Volunteers are always needed.

### **County Fair- Sue Bohn**

There is a booth that the master gardeners sponsor at the county fair. If you volunteer there you have an opportunity to interact with the public, answer their plant questions, educate them on the master gardeners program and community involvement. Sue is looking for volunteers. **Theda Clark Hospital- Diane Ott** The Theda Clark gardens are about 15-20 years old. There are two gardens. Diane does have hospital volunteers that help out. Diane is looking for help with spring and fall clean up. **New Opportunities** Omro Library- Work day will be May 31 at 9:00. Volunteers are needed. Bring your trimming tools. Menasha Maplewood School- working with the kids with seed planting and etc.- No volunteers, project was declined Habitat for Humanity- advice and educate the new home owners on gardens

### **Education Committee Report:**

There will be a trip on July 19 to Madison to visit Allen Centennial Gardens, Olbrich gardens, and a private garden

### **UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller**

A reminder the mandatory reporting of child abuse must be completed before you submit your hours on Sept 1. There are currently 55 members who have not taken the training. You cannot renew you're your membership without completing this training. Level two is Branching Out

The fall will have a workshop on tree identification. Dates to be determined Nick's position is still being pursued. The extension is hoping to have it filled sometime between September and December.

### **Other News**

The organization did give out a scholarship to a student attending FVTC Horticulture program.

Next business meeting will be in September

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## Winnebago County Master Gardeners Board of Directors

### Co-Presidents

Mary Shepard 235-9242

Linda Petek 233-5730

### Co-Vice Presidents

Ivan Placko 721-9394

Jane Kuhn 231-3993

Secretary Mary Jo Maher 915-2506

Treasurer Sue Egnor 231-1729

### Members

Linda Baeten 232-1224

Pat Behm 410-3290

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Donna Kudlas 233-0367

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Roy Anne Moulton 915-9731

Anne Murphy 379-7132

Dara Sitter 420-0620

## Committees

Education and Trips	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education - Meetings	Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	Donna Kudlas	233-0367
	Kathy Daniels	233-0410
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Linda Baeten	379-8377
Membership	Linda Baeten	379-8377
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	Sue Egner	231-1729
SOP & Bylaw Committee	Ivan Placko	721-9394
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012

## Core Projects

Community Gardens	Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
	Synda Jones	233-3228
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Matt and Julie Miller	233-8370
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Pat Behm	410-3290
	Dara Sitter	420-0620
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
ThedaCare	Diane Iott	379-4176
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467

## June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 MG Brd Mtg 6:00  Parkview /Noon Winchester/ 9-12	4	5	6	7 Farmer's Market
8	9	10 MG picnic 6:00  Parkview /Noon Winchester/ 9-12	11	12	13	14 Farmer's Market-Children's Day
15	16 Parkview Flower Arranging-130	17  Parkview /Noon Winchester/ 9-12	18	19	20	21 Farmer's Market
22	23	24  Parkview /Noon Winchester/ 9-12	25	26	27	28 Farmer's Market
29	30					

## July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Garden Tour  Same as June	2	3	4 	5 Farmer's Market
6	7	8 Same as June	9	10	11	12 Farmer's Market
13	14	15 Same as June	16	17	18	19 Farmer's Market  Bus Trip to Madison Gardens
20	21	22 Same as June	23	24	25	26 Farmer's Market
27	28 Parkview Flower Arranging 1:30	29 Same as June	30	31		