

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

June 2017-Issue 31



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

June 11 – Octagon House Garden Walk

June 13 – Picnic

June 17 – Outagamie County MG Garden Walk

June 22/23 – Bus Trip to Rockford IL

June 25 – Oshkosh Garden Club Garden Walk

July 16 – Deb Voyles Garden Walk

July 27 – Bus Trip to Sheboygan

August 8 – Oshkosh Area Humane Society Garden Walk

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



The fair-weather gardener, who will do nothing except when wind and weather and everything else are favourable, is never a master of his craft. Gardening, above all other crafts, is a matter of faith, grounded, however (if on nothing better), on his experience that somehow or other seasons go on in their right course, and bring their right results. No doubt bad seasons are a trial of his faith; it is grievous to lose the fruits of much labour by a frosty winter or a droughty summer, but, after all, frost and drought are necessities for which, in all his calculations, he must leave an ample margin; but even in the extreme cases, when the margin is past, the gardener's occupation is not gone.

- Canon Ellacombe, In a Gloucestershire Garden, 1895

So...with that said, and with the May frost nipping our precious perennials, yes, we gardeners are troopers. We will plug along in this season of temperature fluctuations. But June will now bring us less variations in climate and a promise of a beautiful summer!

June also brings our projects into full swing. There is much to do and much to see this time of year. We hope that each of you has found a home in one or more of the projects and will have a fulfilling experience, learning about our community and keeping it looking its finest!

June is also our time to celebrate each other as master gardeners and enjoy spending time with one another at our annual picnic on June 13 at 6:00 PM. Diana Dougherty and her team have been planning a great night so please set this day aside to come and join in the fun. Come early and take a garden walk through the Parkview Prairie, the Parkview Cutting Garden and the Parkview Vegetable Garden.

MG booth will again be at the Farmers Market each Saturday. This is always a favorite place for market attendees as we have an abundance of information to share.

Education Committee has now 2 bus trips planned for the summer. There is a full bus going to Rockford IL in June for an educational experience in this northern Illinois community. This is a Zone 5a area for hardiness and has a Heat Zone of 1. Another bus trip is now planned for July 27 traveling to Sheboygan to visit Christopher Farms, Story Book Gardens and the Wreath Factory. Christopher Farms has a unique story and can only be visited by appointment. Thank you Marge Menacher for organizing both of these amazing trips!

We are excited about our garden walks this year - we will be coordinating a night in Neenah in July, visiting 3 of the projects and maybe we can coordinate this on a Concert in the Park night! In August we will be visiting the Oshkosh Humane Society. We also have invitations to homes this summer.

Keep watch of your email or mail for your updates and reminders.

See you at the picnic!

Kathy and Linda

WHAT AM I?

By Jane Kuhn

Although my genus contains over 300 species, some of which are annual, biennial, or subshrubs, I am an herbaceous perennial. I grow in a wide variety of garden climates from zone 3 to 9, have a height from 6 to 18 inches, a width from 4 to 18 inches, and prefer part to full sun. I bloom in spring, summer and fall, with deadheading helpful for continual bloom. Most of my flowers are pink with white, red or cream colored accents, a frilled margin and a spicy fragrance. My blue-green, fine-textured foliage is often evergreen or semi-evergreen and adds garden interest. I prefer fertile, fast draining, slightly alkaline soil.

Propagation is by seed or division. I grow and bloom best in cool climates. I require good air circulation around my stems and must be kept free of lingering moisture to prevent mildew or rot. I am deer resistant, drought tolerant and good on slopes for erosion control. I am effective in the cottage garden, in containers, as a cut flower and for attracting butterflies and birds.

TRIVIA

There are more than **3,000 varieties** of heirloom or heritage tomatoes in active cultivation worldwide and more than 15,000 known varieties.

Source: Heirloomtomatoes.com



Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

It's Tomato Planting Time!

Tomatoes are the most popular vegetable garden plan and one of the easiest to grow. Even people who don't have a dedicated vegetable garden often plant a tomato or two in flower beds or containers.

When buying young tomato plants, look for sturdy plants with healthy green leaves. Avoid leggy plants and those with yellowed or spotted leaves.

Tomato plants 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, you want determinate plants. Indeterminate plants continue growing and producing throughout the season. Check the tag or ask at the nursery to make sure you purchase the right tomato for your planned use.

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. Don't avoid buying tomatoes without these letters though. Some of the best tasting tomatoes haven't been bred for disease resistance and with a bit of care you can avoid disease problems.

When you get the plants home, give them a good watering. Put them in a protected spot outdoors and take a week or two to gradually introduce them to the sun and wind by exposing them to both for just a few minutes at first and working up to several hours at a time. Set a timer if you think you might forget to move them out of the sun.

Don't plant too early! Wait until mid-May and then take a look at the long-range forecast to make sure the weather will be staying warm. Even then, have a plan in place to protect the plants from a late frost, perhaps by covering them with five-gallon buckets or wrapping old curtains or blankets around their supports.

On planting day, dig a hole deeper than the tomato sits in its nursery pot. Use your thumbnail to snap off several of the lower leaves, even almost all the way up to just below the canopy of leaves at the top of the plant. Throw some crushed eggshells or powdered milk in the hole to provide calcium along with some compost if you have it. Remove the tomato plant from its pot and place it deep in the hole. Roots will form at each below-ground stem node to help support the plant.

Fill the hole with soil and firm it around the plant. Water well and place a sturdy tomato cage or other support around the plant immediately. Place mulch such as leaves, straw, or pine needles around the plant, not allowing it to touch the stem. Spread it out from the stem as far as you think the plant will spread . . . and then a little further because you'll probably underestimate! Mulch protects the plant from bacterial, fungal and viral diseases that splash up from the soil, keeps soil moist, and shields roots from soil temperature fluctuations.

The Invasive Grapevine

(The Invasive Grapevine features a short and easy fact about invasive plant species each month)

Governor Jim Doyle proclaimed Wisconsin's first Invasive Species Awareness Month in June 2005. This June marks the 13th Annual Invasive Species Awareness Month. Please take the time this month to learn about at least one invasive species. Here is a good place to start:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/speciesNR40list.asp?filterBy=Category&filterVal=Plants&addFilter=Classification>

Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

It was my own fault. In my defense, I didn't know any better at the time. Here's what happened that led to having to spend an entire afternoon digging every single plant out of one of my mother's flower beds.

Twenty-six years ago, my husband and I purchased a home that had many beautiful flower beds. One of the flowers had pretty purple bell-like flowers arranged up the side of thin, stiff stalks. I eventually identified it as creeping bellflower. I never understood the "creeping" part of the name because it stayed right where it was planted. My mother admired the plant, so I divided it and gave a clump of it to her.

Fast forward 24 years. My one clump of creeping bellflower was still just a clump. Never moved an inch. Unfortunately, the little clump that moved to my mother's flower bed found heaven there and spread like wildfire. It covered that flower bed and the next one and the next one, and somehow it is also growing way on the other side of the yard.

This is a perfect example of how an invasive plant can be completely harmless in one environment, but can explode in population when it encounters perfect conditions.

In 2009, the Wisconsin DNR produced an extensive list of Wisconsin's invasive plants, in NR40. Creeping bellflower appears on that list and is designated "Restricted." This means that people who have it on their property are not compelled to eradicate it, but are strongly encouraged to do so.

Creeping bellflower spreads by creeping along underground. Pulling causes the roots to break and new plants sprout from each little root piece so that's not a solution. At Mom's house, I laid two big tarps on the lawn alongside the invaded flowerbed. Just as the perennials were beginning to grow in spring, I dug each of them up and placed them on one of the tarps. I carefully pulled creeping bellflower sprouts and roots from among the perennial roots and threw all the creeping bellflower on the other tarp. When all the perennials were out of the bed, I dug the soil from the rest of the bed and carefully sorted through it, pulling out all the fine white bellflower root strands. Finally, I placed each perennial back in the bed and watered them well.

Attempting to compost bellflower results in further spread as each little root piece sprouts, so the creeping bellflower debris was left to dry on the tarp for a day or two and then placed in a trash bag destined for the landfill. As you know, you aren't supposed to put yard waste out for garbage pickup, but there is an exception for invasive plants. Place them in plastic bags labeled "Invasive Plants for Landfill."

So that's one flower bed cleared, although I will keep checking it in case I missed any root pieces. Unfortunately, there are several more creeping bellflower-invaded flower beds to go!

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

THE LATEST DIRT

June 11 - 1-3 Octagon House Garden Walk
June 13 - Picnic
June 22-23 - Bus Trip to Rockford
July 16 - Deb Voyles Home Garden Walk
July 27 – Bus Trip to Sheboygan
August 8 – Oshkosh Area Humane Society Garden Walk

Farmer's Market: If you missed signing up for the Farmer's Market at the business meeting, and would still like to do so, please send me an email. We especially need more volunteers on the following dates: July 15 (Kid's Day, counts as working with children), July 22, August 12, August 19 and Sept 2 (these hours will count toward your 2017 hours). Also any questions, feel free to contact me. Synda Jones synda50@gmail.com

Plant Health Advisors 2017

The season has begun and the calls are coming in. Your Plant Health Advisors have been busy researching questions and working with the community answering questions that come in via phone, email and in person. Training was held on a couple different dates and sign-up for every week, 2-3 days/week was filled. Advisors will answer calls through September. Another day will be added in July to help with the number of calls that are received. The nice thing about this project is that you learn about so many different areas and you don't have to know everything up-front.



You listen to the calls, research possible answers, contact the person who called and ask more follow-up questions which are all laid out for you beforehand. You can shadow a veteran Master Gardener until you feel comfortable doing it alone and then you can start answering and helping the community. It's a great way to get your hours all the while gaining knowledge for your own learning experience!

If you have questions related to the management of plants in your yard, or pests, please call the Winnebago County Plant Help Line and leave a message with your name and phone number. You can reach us by emailing: plantadvice@co.winnebago.wi.us or by calling 920-232-1986.

You can find a lot of publications here: <https://learningstore.uwex.edu/> or here: <http://hort.uwex.edu/>.

Patty Schmitz and Mary Shepard are co-chairs of this group.

Food for Thought

7 LAYER MEXICAN DIP CUPS



INGREDIENTS

1. 1 8 ounce package Sabra guacamole or
2. 1 cup [Easy Guacamole Recipe](#)
3. 15 ounce can black beans, rinsed and drained
4. 1 cup sour cream
5. 1 cup fresh salsa
6. 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar
7. 2 medium tomatoes, diced small
8. 1 8 ounce can sliced black olives
9. minced green onion, topping

INSTRUCTIONS

Line up all your ingredients and 6 small lidded jars or plastic cups. Layer about 2 tablespoons of each ingredient: guacamole, black beans, sour cream, salsa, shredded cheese, diced tomatoes and black olives inside every cup. Top with green onions and refrigerate.

Buzzing Around

Submitted by Mary Jo Maher

I recently learned of Echota Gardens while attending one of the states gardening conference. This garden center is located at 2668 Lost Dauphin Road in De Pere. It is owned by Chris Landwehr. In the Cherokee language, Echota means "peaceful haven."

The garden center is just south of De Pere, high on the riverbanks of the Fox River in a peaceful and serene environment.

I was delighted at the creativity of the garden center. It was most unlike any garden center I ever visited. I have never witness such creativity in container arrangements. You will see arrangements in antiques, shoes, tubas, typewriters, antique popcorn makers, Tonka trucks, telephones, and the list goes on.

The antiques are artistically displayed throughout the property and holds birdhouses and many creative garden art pieces.

The garden center is open from May - June. Daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Buzzing Around- *cont.*



ANSWER TO WHAT AM I

BY JANE KUHN

I am dianthus. Order: Caryophyllales. Family: Caryophyllaceae – Pink family. Genus: *Dianthus* L. – pink. Common names: pinks, cottage pinks. When you look at the variety of colors on the market, the common name “pinks” may be puzzling.

The name actually comes from the frilly edging of the flower petals. The verb “pink” dates from the 14th century and means “to decorate with a perforated or punched pattern.” This is how “pinking shears” came to be named.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

June 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Farmers Market
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Farmers Market
11 Octagon House Garden Walk	12	13 Picnic	14	15	16	17 Farmers Market
18	19	20	21	22 Bus Trip to Rockford	23 Bus Trip to Rockford	24 Farmers Market
25 Oshkosh Garden Club Walk	26	27	28	29	30	