



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

June 2021

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.

“In early June the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different.”

-John Steinbeck



All the different colors of green in the hosta garden for spring.

Submitted by Cindy Meszaros.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a hybrid, herbaceous perennial herb that grows in spreading clumps in zones 3-8. I grow to a height of 1-2 feet and a spread of 1.5-3 feet, blooming from May to September. My blue/purple, highly fragrant, small but showy and abundant flowers grow on tall spikes with oval, opposite, intricately-veined gray-green leaves that grow on square stems. Continued blooming is encouraged by deadheading. I grow best in full sun to part shade and prefer clay, loam or sandy, dry to medium moist soil. I am a low maintenance plant.

Plants can be propagated by division in spring or autumn and by softwood cuttings in early summer. I can be used in rock gardens, border fronts, cottage or herb gardens, and in containers. I attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. I tolerate deer and rabbits and have no serious insect or disease problems.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents

Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Vice President

Kathy Procknow & Debra Butch

Secretary

Anne Murphy

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, submitting a photo, or sharing a story, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Sara Coleridge's poem states that April showers "bring primrose sweet daisies at our feet ..." May brings flocks of lambs, hay fever..." June brings tulips, lilies and roses, filling children's hands with posies".

While the changing winds of time are upon us, those May flowers also bring BUGS. In particular beetles, JUNE BEETLES! Soon, we will be strolling through our backyards on a warm summer night, gazing at the stars, wondering when the "new normal" will begin. Suddenly, we hear that "engine like" sound of the "melonthinae" (June Beetle) looking for a light source. (Like inside our homes, the little buggers!)

Did you know there are 102 species of ground beetles? Names like the Sarab Beetle, Ox Beetle and the charging Rhinoceros Beetle can be found near sandy soils and pasture-like surroundings.

Those April showers may bring flowers is the common phrase we all know. The phrase signifies a relationship between plant life and rain. However, the original phrase reads, "March winds and April showers bring May flowers and June bugs."

In reality, not all parts of the United States have April showers. However, throughout the United States, May flowers do bloom along with those little underground June bugs. June Bugs are so named because they emerge from their underground homes during June when temperatures hover around 50 degrees.

These little "buggers" can ravage a garden, affect wildlife as well as other insects. Most of the foliage damage caused by the June bug is during the nymph and larvae stages not so much as during the adult stage. Once you see or hear an adult, you can rest assured the nymphs and larvae are around.

So the next time you hear that little engine buzz of the June Beetle intruding on the privacy of your home, have no fear, it will not bite. It has no teeth; it will just give you an unpleasant sensation of landing on your skin.

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/mayjune-beetles/>

Happy Gardening to All,

Bob and Ed

Take Advantage of Microclimates

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Have you ever walked along a country road and looked closely at the vegetation growing alongside? Most every country road I've known has distinct lines of differing vegetation between the road and the ditch and then another type of vegetation across the ditch. My road has a strip of about four inches of plantain in the gravel next to the black top. Next is a narrow ribbon of a weird grass that looks like some kind of fiber optic wire called common spike rush. After that is a mixture of violets, yarrow, purple vetch, hemp dogbane and reed canary grass. On the other side of the ditch is more reed canary grass and once in a while a few stalks of asparagus.

The reason for these strips of varying vegetation is that each prefers different environments, and conditions change rapidly roadside. Nearest the road the temperature is warmer and the soil is sandy and gravelly. Moving away from the road, the soil changes to clay and the angle of the ditch becomes steeper, so the plants get more or less sun depending on the time of day and more or less water as rain runs off the road.

These differing conditions are called microclimates, which is defined as "the climate of a very small or restricted area, especially when this differs from the climate of the surrounding area."

Every landscape has its own microclimates. It takes time to observe and become familiar with your own yard's microclimates or to create them where they don't currently exist.

Generally, the south side of a house or other structure is where to locate plants that need more sun or protection from the wind. The north side is where the shade-lovers go. North and west-side plants need to be able to withstand more wind than those on the east and south.

An example of one of the tiniest microclimates is the south side of a large tree trunk. It's common to see the very first trillium blooms snuggled up to the south-side base of an ash or hickory while nearby trilliums barely show flower buds.

You've probably heard the weatherman say, "cooler near the lake" in reference to Lake Michigan. This is also true of smaller water bodies in the summer months. Conversely, it is warmer near the water in spring and fall so the first and last frost might not happen the same as it does just a hundred yards away. Near water, you may be able to plant out earlier in spring or not have to cover plants in fall while your neighbors nearby are scrambling to protect tender plants.

A rock pile, cement foundation or large expanse of concrete driveway will absorb heat from the sun during the day and keep nearby plants warmer through the night. This might allow you to set out annual plants earlier, or even to grow a perennial plant that might be recommended for a colder USDA Hardiness Zone than Winnebago County's Zone 5a.



Largest Morel I've ever found!

Submitted by Valerie Stabenow



Ferns starting their unfurling.

Submitted by Kim Willman.



Lenten Rose.

Submitted by Kim Willman.



Spring snow on daffodils.

Submitted by Kim Willman.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am *Nepeta x faassenii*. Order: Lamiales. Family: Lamiaceae. Genus: *Nepeta*. Species: *N. x faassenii*. Binomial name: *Nepeta x faassenii*. Other names: Little Trudy catmint, Blue catmint, Faassen's catmint. Previously known as *Nepeta mussinii*, *Nepeta racemosa*. *Nepeta x faassenii* is a sterile hybrid (*N. racemosa* x *N. nepetella*) perennial catmint of horticultural origin (Dutch nursery of J. H. Faassen). Genus name comes from the Latin name for certain aromatic plants that included catmint. Specific epithet is in reference to the Dutch nursery of J. H. Faassen. I can be found in the raingarden adjacent to the Coughlin Center.

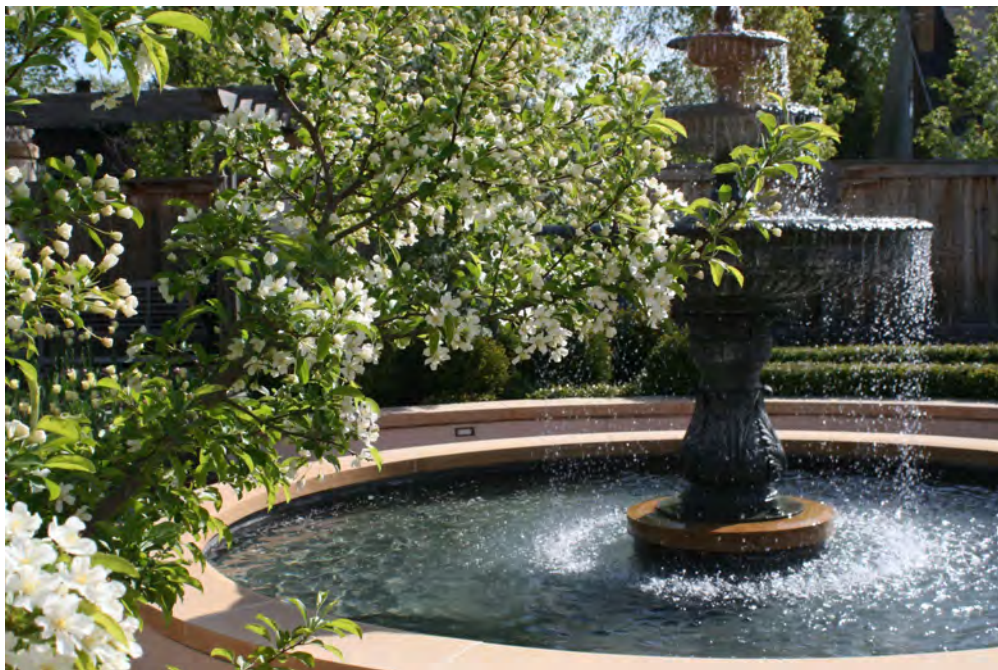
References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

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
- Parkview Cutting Gardens
- Parkview Vegetable Garden
- Parkview 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.



Flowering Crab at the Paine. Submitted by Kim Willman.

**Winnebago County Master Gardeners
Business/Membership Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021**

6:01 p.m. Meeting Start

Shannon Foust-Davis: Wild Ones President (How Green is Your garden)

7:01 p.m. Business/Membership Meeting

Treasurer's Report: **Deby Voyles** provided the treasurer's report.

Secretaries Report: No report

Project Updates: Covid approved projects were presented by **Deb B.**

Extension Update: New Covid guidelines will begin June 1, Kim thanked membership for working relationship, this will be Kim's last official WCMGA meeting.

Education Committee Update: No report

State Representatives Report: No report

New Business

Monarch Migration: No report

Education Chair Vacancy: Chair will be vacant as of June 1. Interested members in position should contact Co-Presidents Bob or Ed

State Representatives Vacancy: Interested members should contact Co-Presidents Bob or Ed

WCMGA Questions: All WCMGA questions should be directed to Co-Presidents Bob or Ed.

On Boarding Canvas/On boarding Lite: NetID invitations were sent to members. The Canvas program provides one site for all learning. If you need help with the program, contact the help desk or **Valerie S.**

Breakout Session: "What Do You Like about Being a WCMGA member?"

The following was shared by the breakout groups: Working with others, interactive learning, learning from each other, training science based, state resources/contacts, learning in a group, sharing ideas, networking, field trips, Zoom programs, garden Expo, fresh ideas from others, camaraderie, service to the community, education, friendships, speakers, continuing education classes, projects, meeting people and a strong support system

June Business/Membership Meeting/Picnic: Will not be held in 2021. Next business/membership meeting will be September 14, 2021 at 6:00p.m. Details will be forthcoming.

WCMGA/UW Relationship: WCMGA and UW are separate entities but keep a working relationship.

UW is not part of the WCMGA but certain WCMGA activities are governed by the UW

The UW does not govern the association, just those activities that are in direct relation with the Extension Master Gardener Program.

Membership Thank You: The WCMGA thanked **Kimberly** for her dedicated service to the Association. Members wished her well in her new position.

Adjourned: 7:48

Continuing Education Opportunities

Linda Werner

Those listed on the WCMGA website and Facebook page are approved for MG continuing education credit.

How Do Pesticides Affect Pollinators and Songbirds in Your Yard?

Presented by Lynn Markham, UW-Extension Land Use Specialist, Tuesday, June 1, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (CST). Free, but registration required at: <https://go.wisc.edu/6w5uae>
Insect Pest Management in Small Gardens presented by PJ Liesch, UW-Extension Entomology Specialist, Thursday, June 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. (CST). Free, but registration required at: <https://go.wisc.edu/7nnt91>

Illinois Extension Webinar:

Protect Water Quality From the Comfort of Your Home, presented by C. Eliana Brown, Kate Gardiner and Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension, Thursday, June 10, 2021, 1 p.m. (CST). Free, but registration required at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23429>

New and Emerging Plant Diseases: June 7, 2021 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm via Zoom.

This talk is sponsored by UW-Madison Division of Extension La Crosse County. Come learn about plant diseases that have recently arrived in Wisconsin and have potential economic and/or regulatory impact, as well as more established diseases that have the potential to significantly impact the state in the near future.

To register, visit

<https://uwmadison.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpduGrrjMrHNRSFc5Qg1uXHMIaXdW6fpvg>

“Learning never exhausts the mind.”

-Leonardo da Vinci



Who said green isn't beautiful?

Submitted by Cindy Meszaros

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
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)
Farmer's Market	Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
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.

June 2021

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

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