



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MARCH 2010 - NEWSLETTER

(click here to go directly to website) www.winnebagomastergardeners.org 920-232-1986

JANUARY PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello All,

March is a great month with daylight savings time beginning on March 14, 2010 at 2:00 a.m. and the start of the spring season. Spring begins with the Vernal Equinox occurring on March 20, 2010 at 1:32 p.m. EDT. Both of these events mean longer daylight hours and time to begin planning our gardens.

It's the time of the year when everyone seems to be getting spring fever, as evidenced by over 200 people attending our educational event, Winter Escapes Summer Dreams. Many thanks to Roy Anne Moulton, the Education Committee and all who helped make the day a success. This was a huge undertaking and kudos to all for a job well done!

A big thanks to Karen Wedde for organizing the bus trip to Madison for the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo.

In late January, my husband, Joe and I (Mary) attended Garden Visions 2010 in Stevens Point sponsored by North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners. The keynote address, given by Paul Tukey, was about creating lawns naturally. Mr. Tukey is dedicated to reducing pesticide use on landscapes making them safe for children and pets. He has created a non-profit organization called Safe Lawns. Be sure to check their website www.aboutsafelawns.org for more information. I persuaded Joe to enter 5 of his photographs in their Photo Contest and to our surprise, he won a Second, Third and Honorable Mention in 2 categories.

Please try to attend our business meeting on March 9. Many of our Project Leads will be giving reports and have sheets available to sign up to help with their projects. Remember you need to get 24 volunteer hours to maintain your certified master gardeners status. This is the time of the year when we begin to get busy. Please check the calendar and website to keep up with everything,

Happy gardening!
Mary and Kathy

NICK'S NOTE

The Shared Harvest brought many tons of fresh produce to food pantries last year. As part one of the Winnebago County Master Gardener sanctioned projects, the Association purchased over \$100 of seed in 2009. We still have a considerable amount of seed left from last year. We attempted to do a variety trial, but there was not enough replication to create a legitimate summary. Here is what we have for 2010.

Cucumbers: Diva and Marketmore 76

Kohlrabi: Kolibri and White Vienna. Kolibri is a purple skinned variety. Kolibri was the better variety for plant health and productivity. The problem with kohlrabi is people aren't familiar with how to use it.

Muskmelon: Ambrosia and Goddess. A few melons did ripen in time last year.

Bell Pepper: Bell Boy and Fat N'Sassy.

Snap Beans: Espada and Speedy. There is a lot of seed left of both.

Sweet Corn: Ambrosia and Delectable. Sweet corn is very popular at the food pantry. Also very popular with the deer which means we had none left to donate from this project.

Tomato: Empire and Mountain Fresh. Mountain Fresh had much more yield and better quality tomatoes last year. It was cool so maybe Empire will be better next year.

Winter Squash: Honey Bear and Table Ace. Table Ace was an excellent yielder. Honey Bear had very poor germination and low yield.

Zucchini: Black Beauty and Spineless Beauty. What can I say? They are zucchini so they yield very well. The problem with zucchini is there appeared to be more donated than picked up.

There will be two plots at the Sherman Road Community Garden this year for growing Shared Harvest produce for those of you that want to grow for Shared Harvest and don't have the room at home.

I could use some help at the Community Garden. Don't forget it counts toward your hours.

Please give me a call or email if you want to pick up some seed.

Thanks, Nick

WHERE IS IT?

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BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

LINDA BAETEN
DAVID LEONARD
MARTY SACKSTEDER

SAVE THE DATES

Week ends in March, 2010

Room of Blooms @ Paine - Oshkosh

Saturday March 6, 2010

Navy Pier Flower Show in Chicago

Saturday March 6, 2010

Outagamie County Seminar "The Nature of Things"

Saturday March 13, 2010

Fond du Lac Seminar – "A Day in the Garden"

JUNE 15 - 19 2010

MASTER FOOD PRESERVER TRAINING

Watch the newsletter each month for more info
on these events and more.

Garden Plant of the Month: Daffodil

by Dr. Susan Hamilton



Few garden plants give as much pleasure with as little effort as daffodils. Daffodil, narcissus or jonquil? Much confusion has existed over the proper name for these plants. Actually, both daffodil and narcissus are correct. Narcissus is the correct botanical name. Known as the "poet's flower," Narcissus is named after the mythological Grecian youth who was so captivated by his own beauty that he turned into a narcissus flower.

Daffodils are easy to grow. You can pretty much plant them and forget them. They blossom freely year after year with a minimum of maintenance and actually multiply in numbers over the seasons. With good drainage they thrive in most soils, although they prefer a medium-heavy loam. Bulbs planted in poorly drained locations become weakened, fail to flower and often develop bulb rot. Bulbs in locations that remain moist during summer rot easily. If drainage cannot be improved, raised beds should be built.

Daffodils must have sunlight to continue to flower year after year. Since much of their growth is completed before trees fully leaf out, they may be grown beneath trees. In such locations, they may need additional water and fertilizer to compete with tree roots. Plant them where they get at least a half day of sunlight. Avoid the north sides of buildings.

Where should you plant daffodils? They are suitable for a variety of locations including the shrub or perennial borders, among groundcovers, along roadsides, open fields and meadows, and interplanted with pansies and snapdragons in outdoor containers. They are especially suitable for

planting in front of evergreens that provide background. For daffodils to make the most impact, you should plant dozens -- even hundreds -- of bulbs in a single planting. They should be planted in groups of three to a dozen bulbs of one variety for the best effect.

When should you plant daffodils? If you haven't already planted your daffodils, you may have to forego them in your yard this season. As spring-flowering bulbs, daffodils must be planted in the fall. The bulbs require time to develop a good root system before cold weather sets in and the soil freezes so for this reason, planting before the end of November is generally best.

How should you feed daffodils? Daffodils do not require heavy fertilization. When preparing planting beds, incorporate from 2 to 3 pounds of a complete garden fertilizer such as a 5-10-5 into 100 square feet of soil. Packaged bulb food is convenient to use, and it can either be soil incorporated or applied over the soil surface after planting. Never place fertilizer directly in the bottom of the hole. A high fertilizer concentration can kill newly emerging roots and promote rot. Shy away from using organic fertilizer such as bone meal when planting bulbs as it can attract rodents. For established plantings, apply fertilizer in the fall over the soil surface to give the bulbs a boost as they develop their new roots.

How should you care for daffodils after flowering? After flowering, the leaves manufacture the food that is stored in the bulb and helps produce flowers the following year. The longer the foliage lasts; the better will be the blooms the following year. The foliage should not be cut until it dies down naturally. Tying the leaves together cuts down the amount of light they receive and reduces food production. When planted in borders, mix daffodils with daylilies, hostas, ferns, pansies, snapdragons or other plants that partially hide the foliage but still allow it to manufacture food for the bulb. Flower heads should be promptly removed to prevent seed production.

Do you need to dig and divide your bulbs? If bulbs have not been planted too close together, daffodils need digging only about every 5 to 10 years. Usually, when flowering is reduced or flower size becomes smaller, the time for digging and dividing has come. Dig the bulbs while the foliage is dying and can still be seen so bulbs can be located. A spading fork is best to prevent bruising. Do not let bulbs lie in the hot sun after they have been dug.

Remove all loose soil and allow bulbs to dry in shallow trays, onion sacks or old nylon stockings. Never pile up bulbs while drying or those on the inner part of the pile will be ruined. Allow bulbs to dry in a cool, well-ventilated place for several weeks. Discard any that rot. After bulbs are dry, the "splits" may be removed from the mother bulb, provided they can be separated easily. Remove old, dried skins and roots. After division, place them in a cool, dry location in shallow trays or porous sacks until planting time in the fall. Burlap sacks do not give enough ventilation.

How do you choose daffodils? The genus *Narcissus* is divided into 12 distinct divisions by flower type with more than 70 species and 25,000 cultivars. In addition, daffodils are classified as to when they bloom, either early, mid-season or late-season. Because daffodil blooms last two to three weeks, you can extend the blooming season by judicious selection of varieties from each grouping. If you didn't choose daffodils last fall for this spring's bloom, begin now to plan for next year. Select planting sites in advance, so you will be ready when planting time comes this fall.

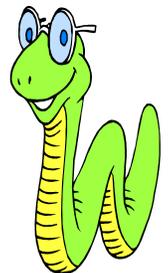
The daffodils are in bloom this month at the University of Tennessee Gardens in Knoxville, and you can also enjoy many other plants including Snow Drops, one of the first bulbs to bloom in late winter/early spring, and Jasmine, one of the first shrubs to bloom in late winter/early spring. The pansy and viola trials are blooming profusely now and many of our fall through spring containers are full of color as well. Several magnolia species and our forsythia have also put on their spring attire.

Dr. Susan Hamilton is an associate professor of ornamental horticulture in the University of Tennessee Department of [Plant Sciences and Landscape Systems](#) and director of the UT Gardens.

RENAME THAT WORM CASTING PRODUCT CONTEST WINNER!

Wonderful Wormiculite,
submitted by Karen Frittitta

Check page 12 to see all of the names submitted and meet our new worm buddy.



ROOMS OF BLOOMS

The First Annual Greater Fox Valley Floral Show
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays in March 2010



The Paine Art Center and Gardens is pleased to announce the new annual event "Rooms of Blooms" planned for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays in March. Celebrating the art of floral design within the ornate rooms of the historic Paine mansion, "Rooms of Blooms" is the first annual greater Fox Valley floral show featuring over one hundred artistic fresh flower arrangements by twenty designers from the region.

The beautiful floral creations are inspired by favorite artworks in the Paine's collection and the exquisite décor of the mansion. See the historic interiors bursting with bouquets that are artworks themselves and enjoy the amazing splendor and spectrum of fresh flowers.

"Rooms of Blooms" also features six elaborately designed table settings by area designers similar to those seen in popular magazines like *Martha Stewart Living*, *Oprah Magazine*, and *Town & Country*. Wander each table setting, marvel at the ingenuity and creativity, and vote for your favorite.

For more information, please visit the Paine's website at www.thepaine.org or call (920) 235-6903. The Paine is located at 1410 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh.

Seeds of Hope Garden Talk

Fox Valley Technical College is holding a garden talk event featuring Jim Beard, FVTC Horticulture instructor, as keynote speaker, on Saturday, March 6 from 9:00 - 3:00. If you haven't heard Jim Beard speak, well, you should!

More information can be found at www.fvtc.edu/seedsofhope. Click on "March 6 Garden Talk Event".

Webster & Washington Schools STILL NEED YOUR HELP

The Webster and Washington School Garden Committee is looking for volunteers to help teach after school enrichment classes on gardening and plant biology. This would be on either Mondays (Webster) or Thursdays (Washington) for 5 weeks starting on March 29th. You do not need a teaching background, just enthusiasm!!!!

It works best to have 2 or 3 people working together in each classroom and you will be working with about 12 - 15 children for that hour. We will need about 24 people between the 2 schools to have good coverage. Also if you would like to work at both schools that would be fantastic!!!!

Please contact Marge Menacher marmen4105@sbcglobal.net ASAP as we would like to start preparing materials and curriculum soon. Thanks for helping to enrich these kids' lives and making my day easier too!

"GOT DIRT" TRAINING



A "Got Dirt" training will be at the Coughlin Center on Wednesday, March 10th from 6 - 9 PM. The "Got Dirt" training is set up to help get more gardens in schools and to help to improve children's eating habits by having them grow and eat nutritious vegetables and to develop life long skills of growing veggies in a garden.

Training sessions will include a discussion of various gardening techniques, such as cold frame gardening, raised bed gardening, container gardening and micro-farms, which can easily be planted at local educational facilities. Micro-farms, in particular, provide a solution to Wisconsin's short growing season. Micro-farms are gardens built on the top of a table or wagon with a light source to help grow vegetables indoors. The micro-farm can easily be pulled from classroom to classroom allowing multiple teachers to create an active learning environment and integrate the same garden into a variety of subject areas, such as math, science, English composition, and nutrition. The training sessions will include a hands-on section, allowing participants to transplant seedlings or learn how planting depth varies with seed sizes.

Project of the Month - March

33rd ANNUAL
HOME & GARDEN SHOW
TRI COUNTY ARENA
700 E. Shady Lane Neenah, WI 54956

MARCH 26, 27, 28, 2010

WCMGA will have a booth at the show with Master Gardener volunteers available to the public to answer questions, and share gardening information.

Come and visit the various vendors displaying home improvements, landscape ideas, foods, garden related classes, and, of course, our MG booth. We have display boards on "how to" grow vegetables, tree planting, conquering invasive species, and the 2010 annuals, perennials, and hostas. Our Wonderful Wormiculite and MG cookbooks will be for sale also.

Thanks to all the MG contributors we have a wonderful display of our current projects and activities.

Reminders to our volunteers will be sent out two weeks prior to the show. If you are working the booth please remember to wear your WCMGA name tag as this also gives you admittance to the show.

This year WCMGA is sponsoring a speaker at the show. Andy Krueger is going to do a presentation on bees and gardening. All of the arrangements have been made through Ken Esslinger, the Home & Garden Show manager. We're eager for this event to take place and if it's reviewed positively we may do something similar for future shows.

It's time to start thinking of our favorite season, Spring--and that begins with the Home & Garden Show. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Co Chairs: Cindy Meszaros 233-3550
Joni Pagel 233-6619



What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am popular with gardeners because, as one of the first flowers to bloom in spring, it signals the end of winter. I am a hardy perennial with flowers that are delicate and cup-shaped in shades of yellow, white, purple and lavender, with many bi-colored. My buds have an inverted tear-drop shape formed by six petals in two whorls of three. The outer whorl's petals are slightly larger than the inner whorls. I have grassy leaves that usually have a white stripe along the center which is due to some cells having no chlorophyll. I grow two to six inches tall with a spread of three to six inches.

I grow from corms which are short, compressed stems similar to bulbs. Corms are more flattened and have eyes, or buds, at the top from which shoots emerge. Each year a new corm forms on the top of the old one, and tiny corms, called cormels, form around its base. Each corm produces from one to five blooms. When planted in proper conditions most self-sow and produce plentiful offsets. I should be planted in full sun to partial shade, prefer well-drained soil and have good drought tolerance. My spring-blooming varieties should be planted in fall and fall-blooming in late summer or early fall.

I can be used in various ways including flower gardens, naturalizing and forcing. I am beautiful planted in drifts in flower beds or allowed to naturalize in lawns. Because I like well-drained soil, I work well in rock and wall gardens. Enjoy my flowers soon as I often emerge long before the danger of snow and freezing weather has passed.

Did You Know - About Take Root in Oshkosh?

Last year, over 2,400 participated in a community visioning process. The process revealed a strong consensus for moving Oshkosh towards a greener, more beautiful, more environmentally friendly city. The majority of visioning survey respondents indicated that they wanted to see a community with more trees, wider terraces and unified streetscapes.

Now, the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation, the Kuenzel Foundation, the City of Oshkosh and community leaders are making this happen! The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation just announced "Taking Root," hopes to raise \$500,000

for beautification projects like trees, flower beds and signage. We're already off to a great start, with a \$150,000 matching grant from the John E. Kuenzl Foundation.

The first project will be a campaign to plant 1,000 trees in Oshkosh this April and May. Please join a community information session to learn more about how you can get involved, donate and volunteer.

Community Beautification Event
Monday, February 22, 2010
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Oshkosh Convention Center
2 N. Main Street
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

This event is open to the community. Please extend this invitation to anyone who is interested in community beautification or betterment. Join us and see how your input is making a difference in Oshkosh! In particular we are looking for people who want to help plant trees in Stevenson and Riverside Parks, Westhaven Circle and in their own neighborhoods..

Contact -Samantha Zinth, Marketing Coordinator
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Call - (920) 426-3993
Click - www.OshkoshAreaCF.org
Twitter - OACF
Visit - 230 Ohio Street, Oshkosh WI 54902

920-231-1500
920-231-5426 (fax)
email: friedman@oshkoshattorneys.com
blog: www.lawyersonsawyer.blogspot.com
web: www.oshkoshattorneys.com



Organic Gardening Tip of the Month

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The best way to avoid having to deal with pest problems is to prevent them in the first place. Do this by making your plants as healthy and strong as possible. Build your soil by adding organic matter, test your soil and correct any imbalances, use mulch to prevent soil diseases from splashing up onto plants, remove and dispose of garden waste,

keep weeds in check, clean your tools regularly, disinfect stakes, plastic mulch, and tomato cages before storing and locate plants so that air can circulate freely between them.

MASTER GARDENER BUSINESS MEETING

January 12, 2010
COUGHLIN CENTER, 6:15 PM

Members Present:

Ken Hawk, Becky Gratz, Karen Frittitta, Linda Baeten, Cindy Meszaros, Joni Pagel, Linda Loker, Bob Potter, Ivan Placko, Kathy Daniels, Mary Wiedenmeier, Debbie Quandt, Jane Kuhn, Diana Dougherty, Phil Horejs, Mary Haave, Linda Christensen, Marge Menacher, Alice Graf, and Dara Sitter.

The Meeting was called to order by Co-President Mary Wiedenmeier.

We welcomed Phil Horejs to the Winnebago Master Gardeners. Phil has been active in Outagamie County, and has recently transferred his membership to Winnebago.

Treasurer's Report – Alice Graf

The balance as of 1/31/2010 is:

Cash On Hand	\$ 100.00
Checking	\$ 10,992.21
CD Renewal 2/22/10	\$ 5,072.34
Total all Accounts	\$ 16,164.55

A handout was available with the details. A proposed budget for 2010 was written on back, and needs to be worked on by the Board before it is finalized. The CD comes up for renewal at the end of the Month.

Secretary's Report:

There were no corrections to the January Minutes as printed in the February Newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was brought up.

NEW BUSINESS

SOPs – A committee was formed to update the Standard Operating Procedures. Stan Meyer, Ivan Placko, and Alice Graf, are on the committee. If any other members are interested, please let them know. We are hoping to get some fresh eyes.

Vote for worm castings – Mary had a handout of submitted names. Members were asked to take a moment and read through the list, then circle their favorite. Bob & Ken did the tally. The winner of worm casting name contest was **Wonderful Wormiculite**, submitted by Karen Frittitta.

Congrats! Karen was awarded 20 lbs of worm castings.

Home & Garden Show – Cindy & Joni are the leads. The show is March 26, 27, & 28. A sign-up sheet was passed around. They have updated display boards and are hoping to have guest speaker, Andy Krueger, give a talk on bee keeping. This will give us more presence at the show. The Boards include information on perennials, annuals, vegetables, invasive species, children's projects and more. A new bee board was developed. They plan to sell worm castings, answer questions and provide handouts. If enough people sign up, to work the show, there will be time to browse and see the seminars too. You would need to wear your MG name tag for admission. This project counts for Community Education hours.

It was mentioned that Phil Horejs will also be doing a talk on rain barrels, March 6 at the Outagamie event, The Nature of Things.

Got Dirt Program– Marge Menacher is the lead. Nick and Marge went to Green Bay for training. One idea they learned about was growing sprouts and then harvesting them with a scissors for a school project. A training session will take place at the Coughlin Building on Wednesday, March 10, from 6 to 9pm. Go to the website and look for the link to gotdirt.com to sign up. This is a free training. Mary will be sending out an e-mail to the membership. Help is needed working with kids after school from 4-5 at Webster and Washington Schools. The time frame is March and April. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Education committee- Linda Loker reported 172 have signed up for Winter Escape/Summer Dreams. Melinda Myers' books will be on sale at the event for 10% off. We could use more help selling books that day (February 27). There has been a good response for this event and everything is going well.

There is still room on the Bus to the Madison WPT Garden Expo.

Other New Business
Project Reports:

Prairie Garden at Park View – Ken Hawk
Ken has been involved in this project for 5 years. The main job is spring and fall clean up. Most plants are donated. Plants are identified with stakes and an index. There are invasives to contend with such as turf grasses, Queen Ann's Lace, and Buckthorn to name a few. Some of the

more aggressive natives need to be thinned as well. Some new plants that came in voluntarily were identified this year. Some liatris and cactus were added this year. Ken and Lawanda have been trying to get permission for a burn, but so far have been unsuccessful. It is under the jurisdiction of the Oshkosh Fire Department. They have had no response from their latest requests. Lawanda Jungwirth, Dara Sitter, and Marti Norton are the volunteers involved. Ken thanked them for all their work. A sign-up sheet was passed.

Paine Gardens – Bob Potter.

Master Gardeners are welcome to volunteer in the Paine Gardens and have those hours count. An April date for clean-up will be in the newsletter. Arbor Day events will be on April 28 & 29 during the day. Look for Rooms of Blooms coming in March, a new carriage house addition and a new circle driveway. They are booking wedding dates even though there is a dispute with the neighbors. The Festival of Spring will be from 8am – 4pm, May 22. Ken Hawk runs the MG booth at the Festival. The Paine will need people to work on vines and ground huggers that day, or you can sign up to work our booth.

Raffle Prizes were announced and meeting was adjourned, 7:09.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten
Secretary

Perennial plant of the year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The Perennial Plant Association has chosen blue false indigo, *Baptisia australis*, as its 2010 perennial plant of the year. Other common names for the plant are wild indigo, baptisia, indigo weed, rattleweed and rattlebrush.

The Perennial Plant Association describes the plant as follows: "Newly emerging shoots produce violet-blue, lupine-like flowers in erect 10- to 12-inch racemes atop flower stems extending well above the foliage mound of clover-like, trifoliate, blue-green leaves." Many of several sources researched mention the dramatic combination of leaf and flower color in the early blooming season.

Blue false indigo grows three to four feet tall and four feet wide, making it a good plant for the back of the border. The first few years, the plant will have just a few stems and appear sparse. It will take three years or so for the plant to reach full

size, so keep that in mind when placing other plants around it.

Blue false indigo is a native prairie plant. It grows best in full sun and is drought tolerant. Plants grown in shade may become floppy and require staking and produce fewer and less vibrant flowers.

This plant has a taproot, a single root like a carrot, so decide where you want it and plan to leave it there as it is almost impossible to transplant and cannot be divided. With luck you can expect indigo to live for 20 years or more.

Blue false indigo blooms in spring and early summer and then produces large pods which turn charcoal black when ripe. The dried pods are beautiful in flower arrangements and rattle in the wind, thus the common names rattleweed and rattlebrush. In earlier times, children used the pods as rattles. The name "indigo" refers to use by early Americans as a dye, although it was inferior to the true indigo of the West Indies.

Blue false indigo is a good plant for cottage gardens, native plant gardens, prairies and meadows. Since it has a shrub-like habit, it is also useful as a specimen plant or planted in small groups.

Butterflies are attracted to the flowers. There are no serious insect or disease problems and deer seldom bother it due to its bitter taste.

Blue wild indigo is propagated by seed. You may find seedlings growing under your plant that can be transplanted when very young. If you collect dried seed to grow on your own, the outside of the hard seed must be scratched with a metal file or sandpaper or nicked with a sharp knife to weaken the seed coat to allow it to germinate.

Think Heirloom

While our supermarkets offer limited varieties of vegetables, consider growing heirloom vegetables for their wonderful flavor, historical significance and the sheer joy of home-grown produce. Seed Savers Exchange is a great source.

Watch the newsletter for more local sources for heirloom seeds.

Answer to What Am I?

I am a crocus. Order: asparagales. Family: iridaceae. Common name: crocus. The most commonly grown bloom in spring, but others bloom in fall. The name is derived from the Latin *crocatu*, meaning saffron yellow. The spice saffron is obtained from the stamens of the *Crocus sativus*, a fall-blooming variety. It should be kept in mind, however, that most varieties of crocus are extremely poisonous.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

MG OF THE MONTH – MARCH

Synda Jones

Having been in Miles Kimball's Christmas card design area for over 30 years, I really look forward to spring, and getting my mind off "Christmas things" for a while. (Ironically, my busiest work season is in the spring to mid-summer). Gardening comes naturally: I grew up in a home with a huge vegetable garden. My love of flowers was nurtured by my grandmother. Her Wild Rose river property was a fairyland of wildflowers in the spring, and her rock garden came alive every summer with a rainbow of sand country blooms. I am really enjoying my second season of being a Master Gardener and the joy of learning from others

wonderful organization in which to become involved.

WELCOME



We are welcoming two new members into our Master Gardener Family as well as one returning member. Here is their information to add to your MG booklet and lets all give them a warm welcome.

Returning: Anne Murphy
2475 Arcadia Ave,
Oshkosh, WI 54904
murphya@uwosh.edu

New: Rebecca Evers
2587 Edgewood Ln
Oshkosh, WI 54904
Reyers520@msn.com

Phil Morejs
1327 Ceape Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
fliphorejs@hotmail.com



Planning Ahead

February 26 Wisline Brown Bag Program on Emerald Ash Borer

February 26. Emerald Ash Borer: Planning Ahead
Emerald Ash Borer was discovered in Michigan in June 2002, Wisconsin in 2008 and Minnesota in 2009.

It is a species of metallic wood boring beetle (Buprestidae) that attacks ash trees (*Fraxinus*), usually killing trees in one-three years. Since the find in Wisconsin, many printed educational resources and web sites have been developed.

Join Phil Pellitteri and others in a discussion about the pest biology, where information can be found at the DATCP Emerald Ash Borer website, sources of educational materials, Landscape Replacement Trees and what you can do to assist your community.

Some seeds need help to break dormancy

By: Lawanda Jungwirth

Have you ever bought a packet of special seeds, maybe something a little unusual or more expensive than you'd normally buy, only to plant them and find that not one seed germinated?

Some seeds, especially those of prairie plants, woody perennials and trees and shrubs, need help in breaking dormancy before they germinate. This characteristic, called "innate dormancy" helps insure their survival in nature. The seeds know to wait out the winter or a dry season before sprouting. And if their pre-germination requirements aren't met, they just won't germinate.

For some seeds, this means exposure to cold, also called stratification. This is most easily accomplished in the refrigerator. Mix the seeds with an equal volume of moist, clean sand, vermiculite or sawdust and place them in a sealed plastic bag. The mixing medium should be barely wet as too much moisture will cause the seed to rot. Most seeds need three to four weeks of refrigeration, but some need much longer. A reputable seed company will have this information on the seed packet. If you've collected the seeds yourself, some internet or library research will be necessary to determine stratification time. Count backward on the calendar and start the cooling period so that it ends when you are ready to plant.

Another option is to plant the seeds in fall and let winter do the stratification for you. This may work, but realize that your valuable seeds may be subject to extreme temperature fluctuations, excessive wet or dry conditions, and damage by birds, rodents or other animals. Also, note that some seeds, lilacs and arborvitae for example, are double dormant and require a period of cold stratification followed by a period of warm, moist stratification, so if planted outdoors, they may take a year or more to germinate.

Other seeds, like morning glory, sweet pea, okra and others have very hard seed coats that inhibit water absorption. They need something to help soften or break the seed coat before they can germinate. This is called scarification. In nature, freezing temperatures or soil microbes soften the seed coat in winter. Scarification can also occur as seeds pass through the digestive tracts of animals.

There are several methods home gardeners can use to scarify seed coats. Large seeds can be nicked with a sharp knife or cut with a razor blade. Be careful not to damage the embryo inside the seed. Medium and small seeds can be rubbed

between two sheets of sandpaper. To scarify large numbers of seeds quickly, slip a sheet of coarse grit sandpaper inside a jar, add the seeds, screw on the lid and shake the jar until the seed coat wears down. The seed coats will look dull when they are sufficiently scarified.

Even seeds with thin seed coats can be helped along. Soaking large seeds like peas, beans or nasturtiums in lukewarm water for several hours before planting will speed germination.

HERB OF THE YEAR



The International Herb Association's Herb of the Year for 2010 is Dill – *Anethum graveolens*. Dill is native to Europe particularly the Mediterranean. Dill is used prolifically in Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Russia, as well as Scandinavian countries and Middle Eastern

countries, such as Egypt and Iran. Dill is an annual that freely re-seeds itself with its leaves, flowers and seeds used primarily for culinary purposes. It's seeds have been used medicinally in tea to ease digestive upsets or help insomnia.

Dill grows easily from seed which can be sown in early spring. It requires sun, well-drained soil and light fertilization. It prefers cool weather and will bolt in hot, dry conditions. Dill needs lots of room, as it can reach 18-48 inches in height (depending on the variety) with taproots of 12-18 inches deep. It has beautiful, deep green feathery foliage. Bright yellow flowers are borne on umbels that become heavy with seed later in the season. Its foliage attracts the swallowtail butterfly caterpillar and many other beneficial insects.

Dill (the seeds, leaves, and sometimes the flowers) is found in many baked goods including breads, crackers, cookies, cakes and pies. It is commonly used in sauces for fish, poultry and vegetables. Dill springs are used fresh as a garnish, in salads, egg and potato dishes. And what would pickles be without dill? It's easy to see why this versatile herb was named Herb of the Year for 2010.

WINTER ESCAPE/SUMMER DREAMS



CONGRATULATIONS, To Roy Anne Moulton and the entire Education Committee. You all out did yourselves.

Roy Anne you were truly able to help us escape from the embrace of winter with the wonderful picture tour of the beauty of England. Malinda Meyers gave us ideas to try this summer. You both made us believe that our Summer Dreams can come true.

The Education Committee ran like a well organized machine making all of us proud that you are our members. Thank You!



SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
Community Gardens	
Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Lincoln School	
Karen Wedde	231-9696
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Judy & Al Harms	688-5523
Park View Prairie Garden	
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Barbara Kuhn	426-2920
Rushford Town hall	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Carol Dorsch	589-5936
Shared Harvest	
Ken Friedman	235-6766
Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity	
David Leonard	379-5860
Washington & Webster Schools	
Marge Menacher	223-3467

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Ivan Placko (VP)	721-9394
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Historian	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Membership	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Hours	
Bruce Abraham	231-3747
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

March 2 - Board Meeting – 6:00PM
March 9 – Business Meeting – 6:15PM

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service & environmental stewardship for our Community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.



WE HAVE A WINNER

As you know, we have sold worm castings from the prison as a fundraiser. This year, we decided to step up our sales by giving the worm castings a more marketable name. We had a contest to name the worm castings. We received names from Linda Tobey, Janet Priebe, Ivan Placko, Lawanda Jungwirth, Karen Frittitta and Mary Wiedenmeier. The following were submitted:

The Fertile Doo
Wonderful Wormiculite
Natures Own Fertilizer
Nature's Work
Nature Made Vitamins
Grow Magic
Wigglers Magic Grow Worm Wealth

Wigglers Soil Enrichment
Wormorganite
Nature's Original Fertilizer
Naturally Produced
Worm Magic
Black Magic

Worm Treasures
Wigglers Treasures
Plants Friend Fertilizer
Nature Made
Plant Magic
Natural Magic
Winnebago Wiggler Wollop

And, the winner is . . . Wonderful Wormiculite, submitted by Karen Frittitta. She will receive 20 pounds of Wonderful Wormiculite for her efforts!

Check out the promotional poster to be used at the Home & Garden Show, Farmers Market, Paine Spring Event and whenever we sell Wonderful Wormiculite.





2010

Flowers are like human beings. They thrive on a little kindness.

Fred Streeter

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1 Fresh Flower Arranging @ PV 1:30	2 BOARD MEETING 6:00 pm	3	4	5	6 Outagamie MG Seminar ***** Chicago Flower Show ***** Seeds of Hope
7	8	9 BUSINESS MEETING 6:15	10	11	12	13 Fond du Lac MG Seminar
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME STARTS 	15	16	17  Happy St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20  Spring Begins
21	22	23	24	25	26 Home	27 & Garden
28 Show ***** Palm Sunday	29	30	31			

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