



# Winnebago County Master Gardener

 March 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.

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers,

I would like to wish you a heartfelt farewell as I depart UW-Extension to become an Agri-Business, Farm Operations, and Soils Instructor at Fox Valley Technical College. I would like to congratulate you for many years of successful community education and service in horticulture.

The Winnebago County Master Gardener Association is one of the most active in the state. As a teacher, there is a sense of pride in seeing your group accomplishments. You are already in great hands with Kimberly as advisor so my departure will be seamless.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact the UW-Extension office at 920-232-1971.

Sincerely,  
Nick Schneider



**37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**HOME & GARDEN  
SHOW**

**TRI-COUNTY ARENA**

**700 E. Shady Lane  
Neenah, WI 54956**

**MARCH 21, 22, 23, 2014**

...from our advisor

As Nick departs UWEX, I would like to "Thank" him for all his support in the Master Gardener program in the years that he was here. Although, we hate to see Nick go, we wish him the very best in his new adventures. Fox Valley Technical College is lucky to be getting such an exceptional instructor. Nick's departure has happened quickly, however everyone in the office is working hard to make the transition as smooth as possible.

*Kimberly*



For those who do not have access to a computer or would prefer to conduct the training in a group setting, we are scheduling sessions for you to come to the Coughlin Bldg to meet this requirement. Dates are as follows:

**Tuesday, March 18 at 1:00pm**

**Tuesday, April 8 at 4:45pm (prior to the business mtg)**

If you would like to attend one of these sessions please contact Michelle so that we can ensure we have enough room.

For those that would like to conduct the training from home, it can be found at <http://wcwpds.wisc.edu/mandatedreporter/>. Please remember to print a certificate of completion

### Buckthorn Removal Dates

May 10th and 24<sup>th</sup>

For more information contact

Sue Egner 231-1729

**37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
HOME & GARDEN SHOW  
TRI-COUNTY ARENA**

**700 E. Shady Lane Neenah, WI 54956**

**MARCH 21, 22, 23, 2014**

**Have you had enough of the snow, ice, polar vortex, frigid temps, broken water mains, and a frost line approaching five feet deep? It's time to rally for spring at the 2014 Home & Garden Show.**

**WCMGA will have a booth at the show with MG volunteers available to the public to answer questions , and to share gardening information. Come and visit the various vendors displaying home improvement products, landscape ideas, foods, garden related classes, and our MG booth.**

**We welcome our new MG members to join in the fun while also earning hours toward the community education category. You'll be in good company with fellow certified master gardeners.**

**Reminders to our volunteers will be sent out two weeks prior to the show. Please remember to wear your WCMGA name tags as this is also your admittance to the show.**

**We're eager to see you at the show where we can set the winter doldrums aside and perk up with our shared thoughts and ideas for the 2014 gardening season.**

**Co Chairs: Joni Pagel 233-6619**

**Cindy Meszaros 233-3550**



## St. Patrick's Day Cookies

- Prep Time 60 min
- Total Time 2 hr 15 min
- Servings 36

### Ingredients

1 cup butter, softened  
1 cup powdered sugar  
1 ½ teaspoons peppermint extract  
2 egg yolks

16 drops green food color  
2 ¼ cups Gold Medal® all-purpose flour  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
¼ teaspoon salt  
¾ cup dark chocolate chips

3 tablespoons whipping cream

3 tablespoons butter  
18 thin rectangular crème de menthe chocolate candies, unwrapped, cut in half diagonally



### Directions

- 1 Heat oven to 350°F. Line cookie sheets with cooking parchment paper.
- 2 In large bowl, beat 1 cup butter and the powdered sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in peppermint extract, egg yolks and food color until blended. On low speed, beat in flour, baking powder and salt.
- Shape dough into 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on cookie sheets. Using end of handle of wooden spoon, press a deep well into center of each cookie.
- 4 Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until set. Reshape wells with end of handle of wooden spoon. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 15 minutes.
- 5 In medium microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate chips, cream and 3 tablespoons butter on High 1 minute, stirring frequently until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Fill each well with about 1 teaspoon chocolate mixture; garnish with candy piece. Let stand about 1 hour until chocolate is set.

**Linda Loker**

## Artemisia is 2014 Herb of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The International Herb Association makes an annual selection for Herb of the Year based on the herb being outstanding in at least two of three categories: culinary, medicinal, or ornamental. IHA has selected Artemisia as its Herb of the Year for 2014. This is a rather unusual selection, because there are about 400 different species in the genus Artemisia! You are probably already familiar with some of them.

The ubiquitous 'Silver Mound' Artemisia was used everywhere in formal landscapes in the 1990s and early 2000s. The mounded clumps of soft silver foliage are perfect for edging beds and in rock gardens.

In your spice cabinet you might find tarragon, also one of the artemisias. Tarragon can be grown as a perennial plant in our Wisconsin herb gardens. If you grow tarragon from seed, be sure to buy those of French tarragon, *Artemisia dracunculoides* var. *sativa*, rather than the Russian variety that lacks strong aromatic oils. Most gardeners buy tarragon plants or get cuttings or divisions from friends. Tarragon is not an especially attractive plant and is grown primarily for its culinary value.

Another of the well-known artemisias is wormwood, *Artemisia absinthium*. Perhaps you can guess from its Latin name that it is used to make the alcoholic drink absinthe. This perennial plant grows 2-3' tall and has deeply lobed aromatic, silvery-gray leaves covered with silky hairs.

White sage is another artemesia. 'Silver King,' 'Powis Castle' and 'Valerie Finnis' are some well-known cultivars. These shrubby plants grow 2-4' tall and have lance-shaped leaves 4-6" long.

White mugwort, *Artemisia lactiflora*, is the only artemesia grown for its flowers rather than its foliage. In late summer, plumes of small, cream-colored flowers are held atop erect leafy stalks 3-6' tall, similar to astilbe. The flowers are excellent in fresh arrangements and can be hung upside down to dry for use in dried displays. Foliage is dark green with silvery undersides.

In general, artemisias thrive in average, well-drained soil in full sun. A soil too fertile will cause them to flop. They are good for hot, dry areas and once established are quite drought tolerant. Because most of them are so aromatic, deer tend to avoid them.

Fast-spreading, clumpy types – especially the white sages - need dividing every few years in spring or fall to keep them in place or to rejuvenate old clumps. To prevent them from taking over the garden, consider planting them in large, sunken, bottomless flower pots. Woody types are not as aggressive.

Prune all species back hard if they start to lose their shape or become scraggly.

In the landscape, artemisias are good weavers, plants used to unify more colorful perennials. The silvery foliage makes nearby pinks, reds and oranges look even brighter, or presents a cool, relaxing feel when combined with blues, purples or soft pinks. The tallest species provide a good backdrop for the border, while the shorter ones make a neat edging.

## Master Gardeners Plant Health Advisors

Hello Everyone and welcome to the Master Gardeners Plant Health Advisors (PHA) new season!

Plant Health Advisors play a vital role in our community as we assist people with questions via phone/email/walk-ins about a wide range of gardening/environmental subjects. You will have the freedom to volunteer from the office at the Coughlin Center and/or from your home. You may also sign up to work with more experienced PHA members to "get the hang of things". We have found this very fun and educational to BOTH new and experienced members as we all have so much to learn from each other! There are excellent on-line resources through the UW Extension services and a great supply of reference materials located in the Master Gardeners office to help all of us answer questions. Don't worry! You don't need to know everything to be a PHA. You just have to be willing to "dig" up some information!

Kimberly Miller has reserved Wednesday, April 9th at 6 PM, room A at the Coughlin Center as the date/time/place for us to get together and go over the procedures for the Plant Health Advisors for the upcoming growing season.

This meeting is very important for new as well as current PHA's as the phone system has changed and we will have a new log sheet for recording all contacts. Also, with the departure of Nick Schneider, Kimberly is going to rely on the PHA group to take on more calls & emails. We will have a sign-up sheet that night for dates (BRING YOUR CALENDARS) and we will also go over how to use the microscope at this meeting.

If you are interested in working on this MG approved project please let me know and come join us on April 9th!

Thank you!

Ann Gratton  
[agratton@milwpc.com](mailto:agratton@milwpc.com)  
231-3015

## What are Plants Doing All Winter?

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

In winter, trees, shrubs and perennial plants go dormant. They stop growing and in some cases die back to ground level.

The single signal that leads plants to begin the process of going dormant is day length. When daylight hours shorten in fall, growth regulator hormones begin to build up in plants, slowing their growth. It happens consistently every year, regardless of temperature, rainfall or soil fertility because change in day length is constant from year to year. Once the dormancy process starts, cool temperatures, water stress and low fertility may speed the process. Warm temperatures, too much water and excessive fertilizer too late in the season won't stop the dormancy process, but it can slow it down so much that the plant is caught off-guard by an early hard freeze that it can't survive, or that parts of it can't survive. This is why it is important to stop fertilizing plants and to cut back on watering, except for evergreen plants, by mid-August.

There are two stages of dormancy. The first is called endo-dormancy. Endo is a Greek word meaning "inside." Thus, something inside the plant, those hormones, is causing dormancy. While the plant is endo-dormant, it begins counting chilling units, which are hours of time spent above freezing. Temperatures from 40°-50° are most effective. Each plant needs a certain number of chilling units before it can move on to the next stage of dormancy and wake up in spring. Chilling units needed range from 300 to 1500 or more, depending on the plant. Plants native to Wisconsin require an average of 1,000 chilling units.

Once the necessary number of chilling units is reached, plants enter a phase called eco-dormancy. If conditions are right, the plant could actually break dormancy and begin growing, but now something in the environment, usually freezing temperatures, are preventing it from growing. This is the most dangerous part of winter for plants. An early warm-up could prompt them to begin to grow, leave the dormant state, and lose their ability to adjust to cold temperatures. Then when cold weather resumes they are killed. This is also the part of winter, usually late February to late March, when you can prune branches of forsythia, crab apple, pear and other flowering fruit trees and bring them indoors to force them into early bloom.

Knowledge of the fact that daylight hours trigger dormancy has a practical application as you dream your way through seed and nursery catalogs this time of year. It's important to order plants and seeds grown in a latitude similar to Wisconsin's. Here's why: say you buy a tree produced in North Carolina and say this tree begins the dormancy process when daylight shortens to twelve hours. That happens much earlier in the south than it does here, so the tree will continue to grow late into the fall, failing to start the dormancy process in time for our cold winter weather. Without time to move into dormancy before winter, the tree will die.





**Fond du Lac County Master Gardener Association**

**Presents**

**“Day in the Garden”**

**March 1, 2014**

**8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Join us for a day of education and information.

Gardening experts will speak on a variety of topics.

Birdscaping

Ornamental Grasses

Floral Arranging by Haentzes

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

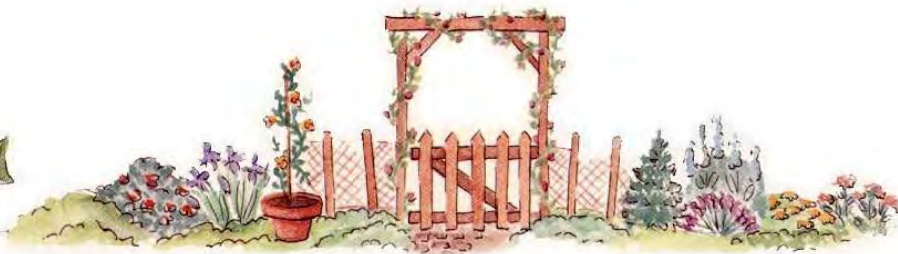
Meet other Gardening enthusiasts.

Share your gardening trials and triumphs.

Vendors, Raffle, Silent Auction

For more information and Registration Forms

**Call 920-929-3172 UW-Extension**





## The Mysterious Mushroom

Mushrooms are fungi and share the same species kingdom as animals-super-kingdom, **Opisthokonta**. The **Cordyceps** is Mushrooms can lay dormant for as much as a century and still start growing when the conditions are right.

In America we grow about 200 species of mushrooms, about 20 species are cultivated commercially. Growers produce about 854 million pounds/year. We consume about 4 lbs. per person per year. The most popular types are white button, Portobello and crimini. We like them because they are low in calories, fat & sodium. They are good source of dietary fiber, potassium, selenium, niacin, have no cholesterol and Vitamins B1, B2 & D. They are a good support for a strong immune system, are rich in natural compounds such as free nucleic (amino) acids, glutamate and ribonucleotides. Since the late 1980's new varieties have been cultivated including Golden Gourmet, Enoki, Brown Beech, White Beech, King Trumpet & Maitake. There is a very nice mushroom farm which is a family operation in Peshtigo, WI, **Field & Forest Products Inc.** ([www.fieldforest.net](http://www.fieldforest.net)) which cultivate their own spawn, in a controlled setting and grow a large variety of many species. They sell kits for growing your own fungi along with instructions and equipment. This farm was established in 1983, owned by Mary Kozak and has an annual revenue of \$500,000 to \$1 million. They also give tours of their mushroom farm. **This year they will offer two workshops- March 29, 2014 & April 12, 2014. The cost per person is \$100.00. You will have a terrific lunch at Blue Bike Burrito & go home with a log inoculated with Shitake spawn to start your own mushroom crop. Call 800-792-6220.** They can supply you with a very nice full color catalog.

The most surprising information that I learned is that they can combat climate change in significant way, they have the ability to drastically decrease the amount of carbon that gets sunk into the soil or released into the air by as much as 70%. The soil has the ability to trap huge amounts of carbon and has a very significant impact on climate change. It happens this way, Nitrogen in the soil is what feeds the microorganisms that break down dead matter & release its carbon back into the atmosphere. A mushroom is the fruit of a fungus. The EEM fungi that live in the roots of plants leach out some of the Nitrogen out of the soil and becomes nutrients for the plants. When plants die they return to the soil to be broken down but where the fungi are present the carbon is released more slowly into the atmosphere. This EEM fungi accounts for 85% of the soil and sequestering between 40 and 70 percent of the carbon in soil and it buries that carbon deeper down into the soil than ordinary decomposing plants and leaves.

No article about mushrooms would be complete without mentioning the spring hunt for wild Morel mushrooms. In Wisconsin the southwestern area is famous for their Morel mushrooms. This time honored tradition has supplemented the farm income for many in WI. The mystery of the Morel is something that is told about in folk tales. It is a very independent minded mushroom, just because you found them in one spot does not guarantee that you will find them there again. The spores float with the wind and drop to the ground where they are carried. These hard to see little pinecone shaped sea-sponge fungi colored from light to dark brown can easily be right under foot without you seeing them. The fantastic taste which I will describe as like steak fried in butter is what drives people into the woods for daylong hunts. Very often they grow in moist areas around dying or dead Elm trees, Sycamore and Ash trees occasionally you may find them in old apple orchards. If you are a rookie be sure to bring an experienced hunter with you because there are some poisonous varieties that can be confused with the Morels. Some companies also sell Morel mushroom growing kits. So this delicious nutrient filled, greenhouse gas fighting fungi is possibly the perfect food.

Colleen Klemp-Winnebago County Master Gardener-klempack@earthlink.net

Winneconne, WI

.....another good bye.....

It is time to take my butterfly net and go home. Friday, February 28 will be my last day running the UW Insect Diagnostic Lab.

This all started in May of 1978 when Dr. Chuck Koval convinced Dean Don Peterson into a three month trial of having an Extension Insect Diagnostic Lab to provide support to local Extension offices in handling insect samples and questions. The strong support of the county offices, UWEX administration and the Department of Entomology is why the lab exists today.

Over the years I have developed many friendships and have been constantly inspired by the dedication and hard work of my county and state extension colleagues. Many people I would love to say thank you to have retired or moved on. I do have to apologize that over 90 species of insects and mites (I am sure there are more) have become established in the state during my watch.

I am happy to announce Department of Entomology has brought P.J. Liesch on board in an interim position and a permanent person should be hired to run the lab sometime during the early summer.

I want to thank you for the opportunity of being you "bug guy" and getting to work in my dream job for the past 36 years.

May all of your future critters be small and beneficial.

*Phil*



## 2014

### Flower Arranging schedule at Parkview Health center

Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30

March 24 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
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

### Flower arranging at Parkview Health Center

A special thank to Janet Priebe, Helen Parker, Pat Behm, Kris Martin, Marti Norton and Lil Hansche for coming to Parkview on January 27th. The temperature was below zero but the atmosphere inside was warm and cozy. We made many bouquets for some very happy residents.

Our next date for flower arranging is Monday, March 24th at 1:30 in the Great room.

*Lil*

### 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)

## **Master Gardeners Business Meeting February 11, 2014**

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

### **Presentation: Roy Anne Moulton, British Columbia trip**

The trip included 30 people and we saw beautiful slides of the pictures that were taken. The University of British Columbia began in 1912 on 2 acres. Their goal was to collect native plants of B.C.

Butchart Gardens are 100 years old and was once a quarry. These were beautiful gardens that are owned and operated by a family.

Nitoke Japanese Gardens, Van Dusen Botanical Garden were a few more of the garden on the trip, along with some private gardens.

### **Project Reports:**

Project reports were given for Parkview Cutting Gardens and Parkview vegetable gardens by Bill Weber and Tom Weber. Both gardens benefit the members of the nursing home.

Dara Sitter and Pat Behm presented on the Paine Gardens. They are looking for volunteers to help with the spring festival, plant sales, and help in the gardens.

Tri-County Home and Garden Show project by Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel are also looking for volunteers. The show is March 21-23. Volunteers will help man the booth and help with the display.

Parkview Flower Arranging lead by Dorothy Bonnin and Lillian Hansche assist residence create beautiful flower arrangements. This is held on Mondays at 1:00 in the break room. Volunteers are always welcome.

### **Treasures Report: Sue Egner**

Report for January was presented

### **Secretary report**

Board minutes can be found on the website. The business minutes are in the newsletter

### **Old Business**

There are still some books available to sell for "Down the Garden Path." All the expenses for the books are paid, so these last sales will be all profit.

### **New Business**

There will be a new meeting cancelation policy. If there is a "Weather Warning" please check the website or call Mary or Linda for cancelation notices.

All members are asked to wear their badges to the meetings. There will be write on badges supplied at the meeting should you forget.

FVTC will be doing a class on landscape design class. This will be on Saturdays, February 15 and February 22 from 8:30 to 12:30.

## **Education Committee**

There is currently one opening for the Savannah trip. Winter Escape and Summer Dreams will count as 4 educational hours if you attended. The Madison bus trip went well. There was some discussion about some day trips for the future.

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

The 4-H Coordinator has resigned. This will leave the extension short handed. Michelle is helping out in the interim, so please ample time for your request involving her.

Letters were sent out with the requirements on doing the “Mandatory Reporter of Child Abuse and Neglect” The center will be offering two dates to do this online training at the extension office. Those dates are March 18 at 1:00 and April 8 at 4:45. This class is required for all Master Gardeners and must be completed before you turn in your volunteer hours

A class on “Growing Raspberries and Blackberries” will be held on February 20 at 11:30. This is a free class offered at the extension. There is a sign up in the extension office.

Level Two training will be offered through the web. This will include 4 sessions.

### **New Member Liaison Committee: Virginia Slattery**

This is a new group that will help assist new members as they transition into the Master Gardeners. This group will consist of a long-term member, Audrey Ruedinger, a new member, and Virginia will lead this. This group was designed to assist the members with any and all questions they might have about the program, hours, projects and any general questions. Virginia will be visiting the new classes and introducing herself and to get to know the new members. The group will assist in helping the new members weave into the organization and make them more comfortable.

### **Opportunities:**

Oshkosh Home Builder show is looking for volunteers. This will be on March 7-9

WIMGA State Meeting in Appleton is March 28-29. We are looking for volunteers to man a booth. For our organization.

### **Other Items**

We will be doing another apparel order and will continue with the current logo. There are still membership packets to be picked up

Project Leads meeting will be help on February 25 at 5:00. Project reports will need to be completed for Core and Individual projects.

Please mark down one hour of educational training for tonight’s meeting.

### **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
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Treasurer	Sue Egner	231-1729
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### 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
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

## March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 MG Board Mtg 6:00	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 MG Bus Mtg 6:00	12	13	14	15
16	17 	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Parkview Flower Arranging	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 MG Board Mtg 6:00	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 MG Bus Mtg 6:00	16	17	18	19
20  Easter	21 Parkview Flower Arranging	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		