

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

March 2016

Issue 16



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.



Photo from Linda Beaten

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Board Meeting - March 1
- Hazelnut Conference - March 4-5
- Business Meeting - March 8
- Parkview Flower Arranging- March 21
- Marinette Northern Lights seminars - March 26
- Outagamie Master Gardener's seminars - April 2

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



The Ides of March.....March Madness.....March Into Spring

Yes it is already March - we waited a bit for winter to arrive, but now that we have had ample snow and cold temperatures, are we ready to think spring?! Some of us may still be engrossed in garden dreaming and planning, but we have also heard many mention that they are ready to say good-bye to winter. Mr. Groundhog predicted an early spring so we will just have to wait and see.

Our Education Committee did a great job with their February events. WESD was attended by 150 garden enthusiasts, and the Madison Expo bus was full to capacity. Thank you to this committee and all their helpers for making it another successful year!

Thank you also to our co-vice presidents, Eric Kropp and Bette Hoytink. They held a project lead training meeting in February, with great guidelines and suggestions shared.

Now is a good time to think about our volunteer hours and how we are going to achieve them for this coming season. Remember that in order to earn and maintain master gardener certification, everyone must have 24 hours of volunteering by September 1, 2016. Whether certifying for the first time or recertifying, the guidelines for the volunteer hours are detailed in our Standard Operating Procedures on our website. To help everyone decide how to obtain these hours, the project leads are presenting their long and short-term projects at the monthly membership meetings and are looking to the membership for help. There are a wide variety of interests to choose from, and new projects are becoming available each year. Along with the membership meetings, the monthly newsletter is a great resource for finding out what is going on in the projects.

Brian Pribbernow is our guest speaker at the March membership meeting and will share with us his creative abilities in container gardening. This should help us with our garden inspirations!

Happy St Pat's!

Kathy and Linda

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

Our Winnebago Master Gardener membership has grown since I became a new member in 2012. I was very interested in knowing how the members and records are accounted for. Linda Baeten is in charge of the Membership Committee, but there are a lot of others involved. She has written this explanation of her duties, which I know you will find informative and helpful to understand the process.

Membership Committee – Linda Baeten

Compiling the membership list each year takes coordination between me, the UWEX office (Kimberly Miller, Horticulturalist and Ashley Rolph, Office Assistant) and the Timekeeper (Patty Schmitz), not to mention loads of help from the Co-Presidents and Treasurer of our Association.

The UWEX is not in the business of handling Master Gardener Volunteer Association money, therefore, someone from the Association needs to keep track of membership dues. My background is in secretarial and office administration duties, so I am happy to take on the task.

As new membership forms and dues are mailed to me in September, I update last year's list and send the dues to our Treasurer.

At the same time, the Timekeeper compiles volunteer hours as they are sent to her. She coordinates with the UWEX office so it can be determined whether members meet the requirements to be certified.

This information is then shared with me so our current membership list can be accurate as to who is a voting or non-voting member, and whether anyone wishes not to continue.

Volunteer hours are shared with the State Organization by the UWEX staff. Our Treasurer makes sure our State dues are paid out of our Association membership dues. New trainees are also added to the list after completion of their training. Fees for Master Gardener training are sent to the state prior to training and include a first year membership to our Association.

After a reasonable time of waiting for dues to come in and tweaking of information, the new membership list that I maintain is shared with the Co-Presidents and UWEX staff. Final adjustments are made in order to have our membership booklet completed in time for our Awards Banquet.

Changes in addresses, e-mail addresses, or phone numbers should be sent to me to keep the list updated throughout the year. Ashley Rolph, Kimberly Miller, and the Co-Presidents coordinate and share this information so our lists are the same.

Even though this may sound complicated, my piece is quite simple. It's the coordination that counts!

Linda Baeten

IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE

BY VIRGINIA SLATTERY



Pat Behm has received the Golden Trowel award this year, along with Jerry Robak.

Life for me began at St. Luke's in Racine. Surviving a November snowstorm, we arrived home on a farm near Union Grove. From that childhood, I acquired my love of plants and some understanding of how to grow veggies and flowers. I have fond memories of digging up potatoes to find the weirdest shaped or heaviest, and about picking sweet strawberries from a 10x20 foot bed; memories of going along the line fence to find enough blackberries for mom to make a pie.

Dad had a 2 plus acre vegetable garden plus perennials and annuals. One of his favorites was gladiolas. Later in his life, he'd take them to nursing homes in Milwaukee. That's what started my fondness for taking flowers to Park View.

For 35 years I taught 1st and 2nd graders in Appleton and later subbed for 9 years. I have one daughter (Lisa) and two grandchildren (Sully and Lucy) who have lived in Colorado for about 13 years. My husband, Terry, and I had lived on a farmette of about 5 acres near Winneconne for about 12 years. A neighbor wanted us to dig an acre pond on our land to help with the drainage on his land. With this soil, fill, and a McKay representative, we surrounded our house with landscaping. After 3 autumns and springs, I learned the names of many trees and bushes. Later we moved to Oshkosh. After retiring from teaching, I attended the MG classes in 2005 and have volunteered for many projects.

For 7 years I worked on a triangle-shaped raised bed garden next to the UW Fox Valley in Menasha. This was part of the community gardens. It consisted of many different perennials. For 10 years, I have either been the lead or a helper for the flower arranging at Park View. Bringing in flowers, foliage, and redwood branches (anything that would look good in a vase!) brought smiles to the dear ones living there. Besides helping at the cutting gardens, I have also helped with their entryway pots and other courtyard gardens for the new building.

Other projects I've put my hands on have been: Lincoln Gardens (4 years), Farmer's Market (on going), Humane Society (1 year), Paine Gardens events, Plant Health Advisor (1 year), Washington/Webster school projects (4 years), Invasive Species, Neenah Library, plantings at City Hall, being on the board as member at large, and being on the Education Committee for a year.

A recent project has been the Omro-Carter Memorial Library. Thanks to Linda, Carole, Joseph, Wendy, and Lisa, we worked to prune, pull, and construct the gardens around the library. We added shrubs, perennials, bulbs, and annuals. We have received many positive comments.

I also have a personal project at a restaurant here in town. After 6 years of tearing down dead or unattractive shrubs and putting in 8 different flower beds (and soon a water feature I hope), I have tried to make an attractive place for people to look at while they are dining. Of course, this all started when Terry and I had lunch at the restaurant and I looked out the window at the bare spaces and empty pots!

Another personal project is helping with the pots at my church, Grace Lutheran.

What a very special surprise and honor to be given the Golden Trowel Award. I'm very humbled and grateful to be selected. Many thanks to the many MG's who helped to make all these long-term projects and committees beautiful and beneficial for the community.

IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE

BY VIRGINIA SLATTERY



Lynn also is on the newsletter committee and writes the article "WHO KNEW"

I was born in North Tonawanda, New York, a suburb of Buffalo. It seems rare for someone not to be born and bred in Wisconsin, but there it is! Later my family moved to a Rochester suburb. My husband and I love everything here except the cold weather. We actually get half the snow here and the summers are much sunnier.

We moved to Wisconsin in 2006 for my husband's work. We have two children—Andrew who is 34 and Emily, 31. We have a grand-doggy but no grandchildren yet.

I had worked as an RN for 26 years in a major medical center in the neonatal intensive care unit. Later I went to the University of Rochester for my master's in nursing qualifying me as a nurse practitioner. As an NP I was the unit educator. In 1996 I was diagnosed with young onset Parkinson's disease. So I have had PD for 20 years but only recently had more advanced symptoms.

I took the MG course as so many others have because it was on my "bucket list". I became certified this past December. My parents both loved to garden. We spent a lot of time outside when younger. Now I have an eternal passion for gardening—especially perennials. Like many other MG's, I find it to be my therapy.

I have helped at Park View flower arranging and am a regular contributor to our newsletter.

I am also a member of the Oshkosh Garden Club serving as the event chair for the annual garden walk. As a little PR, may I say that the walks are wonderful and have in the past included some of our Master Gardeners. In fact, Bob Potter and Sally Lindo will be participating this coming summer. It is always held the last Sunday in June. I encourage all to come!!!

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Peppers are 2016 Herb of the Year

The International Herb Association has chosen peppers as the Herb of the Year for 2016. Peppers seem an odd choice, given that past winners have included plants that we more normally think of as herbs: lavender, dill, sage, thyme, basil and rosemary. However, one of the many definitions of an herb is a “useful plant” and peppers are certainly that.

There are so many kinds of peppers! One seed catalog devotes ten pages to 56 varieties of peppers and divides them into five categories: sweet bell, greenhouse, sweet specialty, hot specialty, and hot southwestern.

Bell peppers are the large green or red ones you find year-round in the produce section of the grocery store. When you grow your own, you can choose green or red plus yellow, orange, ivory, purple and chocolate colors. Bell peppers can be sliced and eaten fresh or stuffed with various meats, rice, tomatoes and cheeses and baked.

Greenhouse peppers are those grown entirely in the greenhouse and varieties are similar to bell peppers.

Sweet specialty peppers are generally smaller and sweeter than bell peppers and come in a variety of colors ranging from light yellow to cherry red. Shapes range from mini-bell to round to long and thin. They can be eaten fresh, stir-fried or pickled.

Hot specialty peppers are mildly hot to mouth-blisteringly hot and come in a multitude of colors and shapes. They can be eaten fresh, added to salsas and sauces, or dried and ground for use as seasoning.

Hot southwestern peppers have thick, mildly hot flesh and are mostly green although there are some yellows. Some of the green ones ripen to red when left longer on the plant. They can be stuffed, grilled or roasted.

Peppers need warm weather and full sun to thrive. With Wisconsin's relatively short growing season, seeds should be started indoors in mid-to-late March, about 8 weeks prior to planting outdoors. If you're not equipped to start your own seeds, you'll have considerably fewer choices in variety of peppers to plant, but nurseries are offering a wider selection of already-started seedlings recently.

Transplant outdoors after the last spring frost when the soil is warm. Ideally seedlings will have buds but no open flowers.

Set plants in rows or grids, spacing them 18" apart. Dig holes a bit larger and deeper than the nursery pot. You might want to throw some dried milk to provide calcium and Epsom salts to provide magnesium into the bottom of the hole. Ease the plant out of its pot and hold it in the hole so that the soil is at the same level it was in the nursery pot. Fill in under and around it with soil and use your hands to pat the soil firmly but gently around the plant. Water well.

After transplanting outdoors, you'll harvest peppers 50 to 75 days later, depending on the variety. When the first peppers reach full size, harvest them promptly to encourage further fruit set.

The Invasive Grapevine

(The Invasive Grapevine is a new column that will feature a short and easy fact about invasive plant species each month)

42% of the species on the Endangered Species List are there because of invasive plants.

The Latest Dirt

Latest news of the Winnebago Master gardeners

Upcoming events:

The Oshkosh Area Humane Society (OAHS) Reflections Gardens will be sponsoring a Pruning Workshop on Saturday, April 2, from 9 am – noon, at 1925 Shelter Court in Oshkosh.

During the workshop, Kimberly Miller will be demonstrating the basics of Tree Pruning. Afterwards, we will apply our skills on the variety of trees in the gardens. Please bring your favorite pruning tools, gloves, etc. and join us.

In the event of unfavorable weather, the alternate date is Saturday, April 9, from 9 am – noon. Questions? Contact Matt or Julie Miller at 920.233.8370.

Park on the north side of the gardens or in the Oshkosh Surgical Center parking lot

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners Assoc. will be conducting its second free Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop in the Winchester Area Historical Society's orchard.

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016 (In the event of rain or snow, the date will be moved to Saturday, March 19.)

Our Instructor: Kimberly Miller, Horticulture Educator

Winnebago County UW Extension

Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteers, Winchester Historical Society Members, and all interested citizens of Winchester & surrounding area are welcome.

Time: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

Location: Winchester Area Historical Society

- 5186 County Road II
- Larsen, WI 54947

The WAHS Orchards & Vineyards were planted by the original owner of the property and had not been “formally” pruned for many years until last spring's workshop when phase one training was completed. The orchard has over 20 apple, pear, peach, & other fruit bearing trees. The workshop will be hands on with a goal of completing all spring pruning.

Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather. Also, bring along your favorite pruning tools, saws, & chain saws. If you have room in your vehicle, additional stepladders may also be needed.

The WAHS library will be open with rest rooms, coffee, & donuts available. This is a great continuing education opportunity and a fun way for all of us to meet our neighbors.

Contact Sandy 920-279-0136 or Mary 920-836-2209 with questions.

The Latest Dirt- cont.

Fond du Lac County “Day in the Garden” – February 27

Speaker- Jeff Epping from Olbrich Gardens on Proficient Pruning and Ron Zimmer on Fun Ways to Grow Food

Marinette County Northern Lights Spring Conference- March 26

Speaker Melinda Meyers and breakaway sessions

Outagamie Master Gardener’s seminars- April 2

Speaker Jeff Ebbing from Olbrich Gardens and Ron Zimmerman

- OCMGA Annual Plant Sale: Saturday, May 21, 2016.

- OCMGA Garden Walk: Saturday, June 18, 2016

Flower Arranging schedule at Parkview Health Center 2016-Mondays @ 1:30

****NOTE: CHANGES WERE MADE FROM PREVIOUS SCHEDULE DUE TO ORGANIZATION CHANGES AT PARKVIEW***

March 21st	flowers from Pick N Save
April 18 th	flowers from Pick N Save
May 16 th	cancelled by Parkview
June 27 th	flowers from our gardens
July 25 th	flowers from our gardens
Parkview’s fair	supplements from Pick N Save
August	no flower arranging
September 19 th	flowers from our gardens
October 17 th	cancelled
November 14 th	flowers from Pick N Save
December 12 th	cancelled

PAINE UP COMING EVENTS

- ***Joyce Moon Watercolor Exhibit- February 6- April 17***
- ***Rooms of Bloom – March 3-6***

Riverview Gardens Goes Indoor

Evergreen Storage donated the former Wichmann building at 513 W College Ave, Appleton to Riverview Gardens, a nonprofit urban farm. The first floor will offer winter crops of lettuce, basil, tomatoes, spinach, ,peppers and cookbooks. The produce is grown in the farmer’s hydroponic greenhouse . Bake goods and coffee are also sold

The Latest Dirt- cont.

7th Annual Upper Midwest Hazelnut Growers Conference

Friday- Saturday March 4-5

Kikapoo Culinary Center

16381 Hwy 131

Gays Mills, WI 54631

MIDWEST HAZLENUT GROWERS-

Questions about the conference can be directed to

jason.fischbach@ces.uwex.edu. Additional information can be found at

www.midwesthazelnuts.org.

UW-Extension invites you to the 7th Annual Upper Midwest Hazelnut Growers Conference March 4 and 5, 2016 in Gays Mills, WI.

Hazelnuts are an emerging crop for the Upper Midwest with potential to provide significant economic returns to growers while improving soil and water quality on our agricultural lands.

As in previous years, the goal of the 2016 Conference is to provide information on how to grow, harvest, and sell hazelnuts along with updates on the many exciting hazelnut research and development projects underway.

The focus on Friday, March 4 is hazelnut processing. The day is intended for experienced, beginning, or aspiring growers wanting to see prototype hazelnut processing equipment and to share ideas. Our speaker, Tera Johnson, will present on what it takes to build and run a profitable food business.

The focus on Saturday, March 5 is hazelnut production and starts with two presentations on the basics of establishing and growing hazelnuts. We'll then provide updates on the many research projects in the Upper Midwest. We'll have updates on efforts to develop proven genetics and attendees will have the opportunity to taste nuts from top performing genotypes. The UMHDI Hazelnut Performance Trials have been evaluating top plants since 2009 and select material for grower trial will be available soon. We'll provide all the details.

New Project Lead Needed

Please read even if you yourself are not interested!

The project to remove garlic mustard from the Wiouwash Trail is in its tenth year. There are areas where we've made great progress and cleared it, while it has popped up in other new spots. Overall though, we have been successful in keeping it at bay – controlling it, rather than eradicating it - which is all we can expect when up against such a fierce competitor. Comparing the Wiouwash Trail to other trails where no garlic mustard control efforts have taken place clearly illustrates the importance and success of our work. And when we see Solomon's seal, anemone, wild strawberry and other wildflowers where garlic mustard used to reign, we know we are making progress.

As many of you know, I've been the lead on this project since its inception. You may also know that I have recently moved quite a distance from the trail, making it impractical for me to continue leading the project as it would entail an hour round-trip in travel each time. It is extremely hard for me to let go of this project, but we are looking for someone new to lead the Wiouwash garlic mustard efforts this year.

This involves checking approximately 2 ½ miles of the trail in late April and tying fluorescent tape to trees or shrubs to mark infested areas, scheduling and publicizing a work date - usually the first Saturday in May - and scheduling follow-up work dates on weekdays or weekends until the garlic mustard is entirely removed. Depending on the season, this may be 5 – 10 additional dates. It also involves contacting the Winnebago County Parks Dept. to deliver trash bins and garbage bags to the trail ahead of the work dates and letting them know when the project is complete so they can remove the bags and bins.

You must also have the time and inclination to diligently walk the trail to re-check for missed plants, as one plant allowed to flower and set seed can result in 1,000 new plants the next year. This isn't difficult; taking a walk along the Wiouwash Trail on a nice spring day is pure pleasure.

The area of the trail that is most infested with garlic mustard is from ½ mile south of Brooks Road north to County GG. However, the trail should be checked north of GG up to one mile north of County T in Larsen as scattered small infestations have been spotted along this entire length.

By the second or third week in May, the project is over, so it's really only about three weeks in its entirety.

The Wiouwash Trail belongs to all of us in the state of Wisconsin. WCMGA does not control or own the trail, and we would be happy to have another group outside of our organization take responsibility for garlic mustard control. Even if you are not interested in leading this project, if you know of an outside group that might take it over, please let me know.

I will be happy to give as much or as little guidance as the new lead might want for this project. Please contact me if you are interested in leading, or co-leading with another person, or know of another group that might take over the project.

Lawanda Jungwirth

685-5349

ljungwirth@charter.net

News from the Extension Office

Submitted by Kimberly Miller

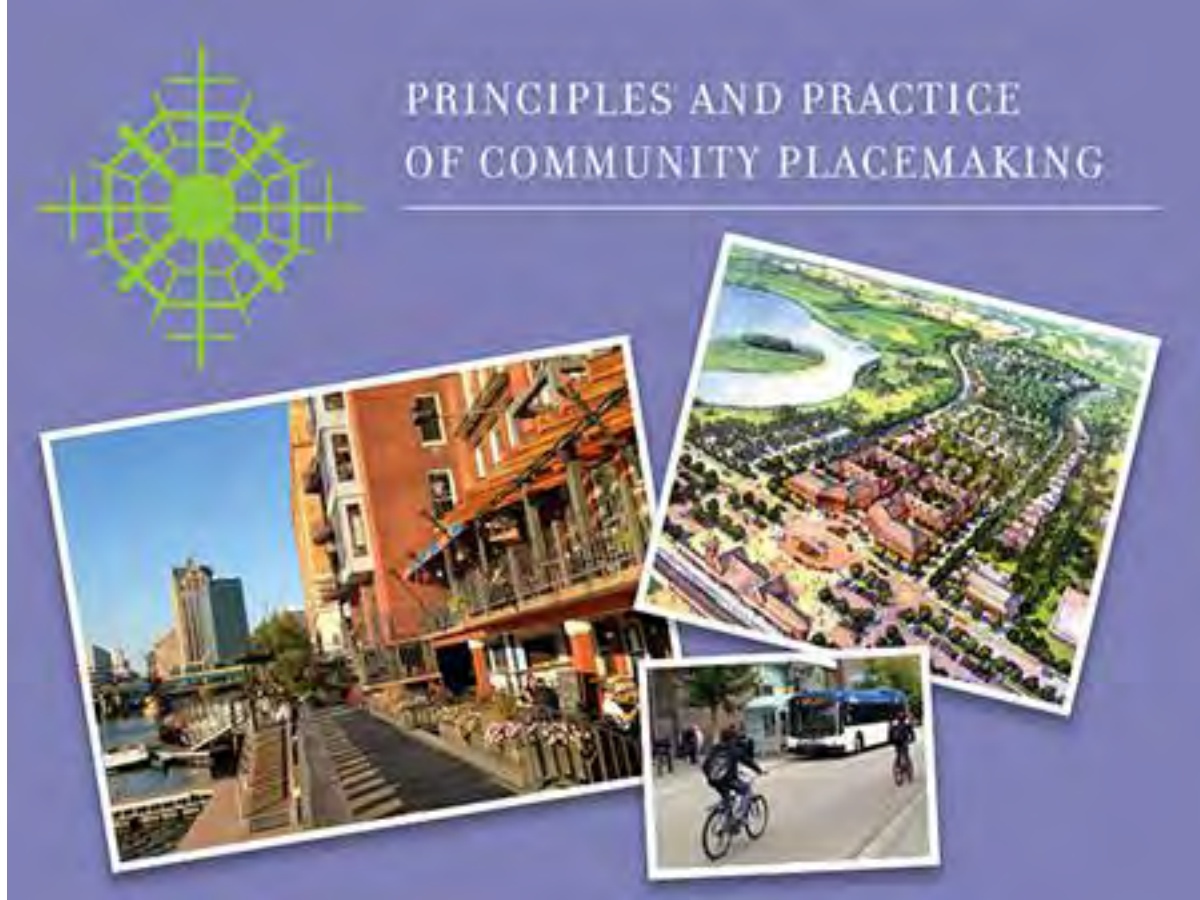


Commercial Vegetable Production in Wisconsin—2016 (A3422)

Authors: Jed Colquhoun, Amanda Gevens, Russell Groves, Dan Heider, Bryan Jensen, Glenn Nice, Matt Ruark

This guide offers the latest recommendations for disease, insect, and weed management in Wisconsin's most common commercial vegetable crops. Also included are lime and fertilizer recommendations as well as insect identification information and keys (296 pages; 2016).

Crops covered include asparagus, bean, carrot, celery, cole crops, cucumber, eggplant, horseradish, leafy greens, melon, mint, onion, pea, pepper, potato, pumpkin & squash, sweet corn, table beet, and tomato.



Principles and Practice of Community Placemaking (G4083)

Author: Steven H. Grabow

What makes a community special? *Principles and Practice of Community Placemaking* (G4083) serves as a guide for local officials, community development professionals, citizen groups and more who want to make their communities the best they can be. Includes many photos and real-life examples (56 pages; January 2016).

Visit [the Learning Store](http://www.thelearningstore.com) to view these publications and more!

Sullivan's Woods – An Outdoor Education Opportunity

At the February business meeting, Zaiga Freivalds gave a presentation on Sullivan's Woods. She is the volunteer coordinator for the Friends of Sullivan's Woods.

Sullivan's Woods, a 40-acre parcel near Fisk, was purchased by the Oshkosh Area School District in 1977 for its outdoor education program. The site offers a variety of experiences to help students appreciate the natural environment. Natural communities include a hedgerow, a lowland hardwood forest, an upland oak forest, a remnant oak savanna, a pond, a prairie, a creek a wetland and an old field in succession.

The "Friends" of Sullivan's Woods help the School District oversee the site and assist the teachers during their outing. All schools are required to spend a day learning about the different habitats and their inhabitants. Fourth graders visit in the spring and return as fifth graders in the fall. The "Friends" help the teachers by guiding small groups. Along the way they refer to interpretive signs and help students complete their assignments. Often there are teachable moments as birds, insects, snakes and other critters occur along the way.

The "Friends" enjoy assisting the teachers, because they strongly believe in sharing the joys of nature with children and promoting respect for the environment. If you are interested in volunteering at Sullivan's Woods to help with the student visits during the spring and fall or the maintenance of the property, contact Zaiga at zaigam@charter.net.

You may visit Sullivan's Woods on your own anytime. To learn a little more about the property you may want to view this link on YouTube – an episode from the show "It's Your Environment"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rk1gCgCpj4U>

CUTS AND CLIPS

By Marge Bolding

Source- Wisconsin Garden Journal

March Tasks

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

March is the leanest month for wildlife, so protect shrubs and vines with wire

Week 1. Begin fertilization of houseplants

Order perennial plants and schedule delivery for when the ground is workable

Do not remove mulch too early. Wait till mid- April, excepts for areas with spring blooming bulbs

Week 2. Start seeds for slow growing annuals. Transfer them in May to cold frame.

Make cuttings of houseplants

Week 3 Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds

Start tender bulbs such as calla lilies indoors- move outdoors after all danger of frost is past. They will bloom from June to August

Keep amaryllis foliage growing by watering and feeding

When snow melts, check perennial beds for roots heaved from frost. Gently step down any exposed roots and cover with mulch

Vegetables and Herbs

Start seedlings of cabbage, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce and parsley

Week 4. Start tomato seeds indoors. Research

Shows that seven-week old transplants produce earliest fruit for best overall results. Also start pepper seeds and broccoli.

If the ground is frozen and is fairly dry, rake off last season's mulches on vegetable garden soil so it can dry and be warmed by the sun. Remove any plant residue left from last year

Fertilize and cultivate established asparagus beds

Turn compost pile and add fresh kitchen scraps, composted manure, and dried leaves

Lawn, Trees, and Shrubs

Finish pruning of dormant trees

Sharpen lawn mower blades and have mower serviced before spring rush

Week 3-4 Cut old canes of climbing roses so that new shoots can grow

Show Us Your Bloomers!

Photos from the members



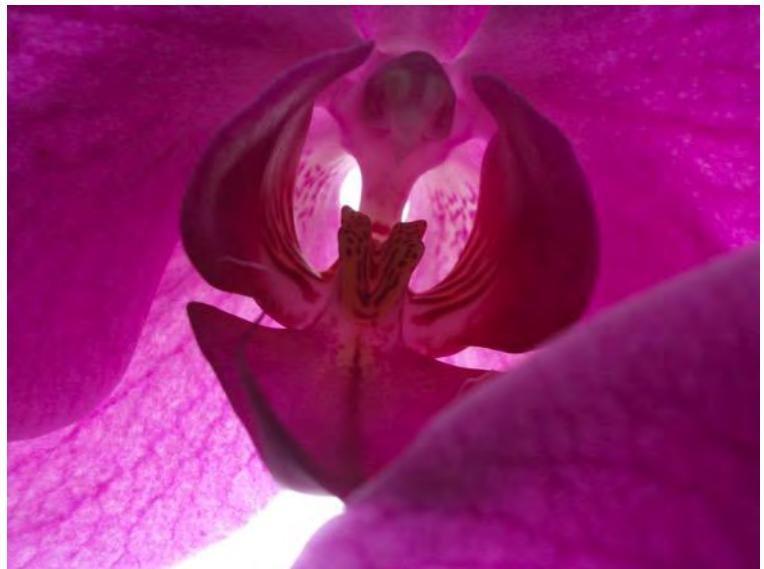
Linda Beaten



Lawanda Jungwirth



Linda Beaten



Linda Beaten

Food For Thought

By *Renee Donner*

Raspberry Cheesecake Brownies

2 cups frozen raspberries thawed
1 8oz cream cheese, room temperature
1/2-cup sugar
3 eggs divided
2 tbsp. flour
1 package brownie mix
2/3-cup vegetable oil

1. Preheat oven to 350, lightly grease a 13x9 pan. 30-35 minutes
2. Put the raspberries into a blender, and puree until smooth. Set a strainer over a bowl and pour the liquefied raspberries into it. Use a spatula to press the juice through the sieve, leaving the seeds behind. Measure out 1/3 cup.
3. Combine raspberry sauce w/softened cream cheese, sugar, 1 egg and flour until smooth.
4. In a separate bowl, combine brownie mix w/oil, 2 eggs and 2 tbsp. water
5. Pour 2/3 of the brownie mixture into prepared pan. Top w/raspberry mixture and spread evenly. Add the remaining brownie mixture in dollops. Use a knife to swirl throughout. Cut into squares when cooled, could sprinkle powdered sugar.

Source: George Duran Cookbook

WHAT AM I?

By **Jane Kuhn**

I am one of the first perennials to emerge and bloom in spring, often as early as late March in northern regions. My foliage adds interest in the garden from spring into fall, forming clumps or rosettes, covered in hairs, and green with white spots, looking like someone splashed bleach on them. My flower stems produce clusters of downward nodding bells which can be blue, pink or white and frequently may have two or more colors on a single plant. I grow to 6 inches tall and up to two feet wide, can be found in zones 2-8, and prefer shady and moist locations. If enough shade is provided, I can survive in drier locations.

I spread with slowly creeping rhizomes or by self-seeding, can be divided in fall, and once established need little extra care. I am one of the few plants immune to the effects of black walnut trees and so make a lovely underplanting for these trees. I am deer resistant, drought tolerant, and have no serious insect or disease problems. My fragrant blossoms attract bees and some species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species.

GOOD READS

By **LAWANDA JUNGWIRTH**

Grow a Little Fruit Tree

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Every once in a while, a book comes along that changes everything you've believed about a particular topic. "Grow a Little Fruit Tree" by Ann Ralph, is one that did so for me. Pruning is something I have fairly good knowledge of but I never questioned one of the basic tenets, the one that decrees that fruit trees are to be pruned when they are dormant in winter. Ralph advocates instead for pruning fruit trees at the summer solstice.

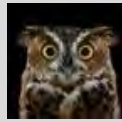
She says that the best size for a fruit tree is "as tall as you can reach, standing on the ground." Wouldn't it be nice to be able to harvest all the fruit with your feet planted on the ground instead of trying to maneuver a ladder and your body between branches that are intent on poking you in the eye or stabbing you in your side? And to prune without hauling the stepladder out in winter and trying to set it securely in deep snow?

Winter pruning makes a tree grow larger and increases its vigor. In winter, all the tree's resources are stored in its roots and trunk, and removing branches when it is dormant stimulates it to grow as fast as it can in spring to replace its lost limbs. By June, the tree will be as big or bigger than it was the prior year.

In contrast, summer solstice pruning curbs aggressive growth, creating a sturdier, smaller tree. In summer, tree nutrients have moved outward and are stored primarily in foliage, so removing branches with leaves slows the tree down. That's not normally what you want, unless what you want is a tree you can manage. Don't miss the late June pruning though – by July or August, the tree is already getting ready for dormancy and moving resources toward its roots. Pruning later in summer won't slow the tree down as much.

There are some pruning cuts that can be made in winter when it is easier to see the structure of the tree without its foliage. Remove branches that are diseased, crossing or touching another, or just look out of place. The center of the tree can be opened up to admit more sunlight. As an alternative, in winter you could paint or tie something around branches to mark which ones you want to remove the following summer.

You may think you can get a smaller tree by purchasing one labeled dwarf, semi-dwarf, or ultra-dwarf. These trees always grow taller than you think they will. They are shorter than the standard tree of the same variety but how much shorter is anybody's guess. The upper part of a tree labeled "dwarf" is grafted onto a rootstock that limits its size, but dwarfing roots are weaker than those of standard trees. You'll also sacrifice taste, overall health and disease resistance, so you are better off planting a standard-sized tree and controlling its growth yourself with pruning.



By Lynne Slat

GARDENING PREP DURING THE COLD WINTER MONTHS

<http://extension.psu.edu/plants/master-gardener/counties/lackawanna/news/2016/gardening-prep-during-the-cold-winter-months> **[This is an article for MGVS from Penn State University]**

Until recently, the temperatures through the beginning of January have been abnormally mild. But the days are still shorter, plants are dormant and most of us are not out in the yard gardening. Now is the time to start dreaming of your garden! Your plans for your 2016 garden, might include the latest annuals or perennials, a new hybrid of tomato or other vegetable.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't be preparing for another successful season of gardening this winter. Here are some tips to consider. Start by cleaning and sharpening your garden tools so they are ready for spring. Make sure to store your tools indoors to avoid them rusting. Drain garden hoses and store them away to avoid freeze damage. Sharpen hand pruners, loppers, and saws and make sure to oil moving parts. Make a note of tools and supplies you will need for the next growing season and get a head start on purchasing them while there are holiday discounts. Prepare to prune trees and shrubs during their dormant winter season. Cutting into live tissue during the winter will help prevent the spread of diseases such as fire blight, which is a bacterium that can be spread on pruning tools, and warm wet weather. Removing dead branches in the winter will allow for good wound closure when spring arrives. Make sure you know how to properly prune. Remember, once you cut it off, you can't glue it back on. Scout the landscape for signs of insects and diseases. Look for egg masses of gypsy moth and eastern tent caterpillar on trees and shrubs. Scout for 1 to 2-inch spindle-shaped silken bags, camouflaged with bits of leaves, bark, and debris that hang from the branches like little pinecones. There can be hundreds of bagworms on one arborvitae.

Plan your vegetable garden for the coming year, keeping in mind the need to rotate crops. Keep a record of your garden plans for each year to see what is growing well and what struggled. Also keep track of varieties of plants you are growing. Read seed catalogues to familiarize yourself with new plant varieties and determine which will work for your climate, and site conditions.

Vincent Cotrone, Extension Urban Forester, Northeast Region

DID YOU KNOW???

The newsletter is available for all to put in items of interest.

Nancy Karuhn is available to take pictures of noteworthy items that can be submitted to the newsletter. This can be your garden pictures or projects picture.

***We welcome articles on places you have visited or read about.
We welcome reports on good books or articles you have read.***

Are you a project lead? We welcome your information on work dates to publish

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL ITEMS BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE UPDATE

By ROY ANNE MOULTON

Thanks to all who helped make Winter Escape, Summer Dreams 2016 a huge success. This year's event was held at La Sure's Banquet Hall which has ample parking!! The facility worked well and the food was delicious.

Megan Cain, The Creative Vegetable Gardener, inspired us stop hiding our vegetable gardens in a corner of the back yard and move them front and center in our landscapes. Dr. Susan Mahr, our Master Gardener State Coordinator, presented "Bugs in the Backyard". Susan also presented "Tropical Treasures: lessons in horticulture, biodiversity, endemism, and more from Costa Rica". The pictures were so interesting and beautiful that many of us were ready to register for the annual MG trip to Costa Rica. DNR Avian Ecologist, Kim Grveles, presented, "Threats to Migratory Birds, Their Habitat Needs and How We Can Help".

Thanks to all for your donations to the Silent Auction. Eighty-four beautiful baskets of goodies were purchased. All proceeds from the auction help fund our WCMG community projects.

Roy Anne Moulton

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editors: Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Eric Kropp and Mary Jo Maher

Contributors: Lynne Slat, Lawanda Jungwirth, Anne Murphy, Jane Kuhn, Marge Bolding, and Renee Donner

Photographer: Nancy Karuhn

WINTER ESCAPE, SUMMER DREAMS



BUZZING AROUND



By Kathy Gore

My First Time at Madison Garden Expo

Sheila Glaske, the Curator of Horticulture at the Paine Art Center and Gardens, invited me to go with her on Saturday to the Madison Garden Expo. I had never been to this event, I was excited to go. I researched the seminars and demos on line and planed my day. We got there at 9:00 and after she gave me a short layout of the place, we went our separate ways to different seminars.

I was very impressed with the wide choices of seminars. I am a huge WPR listener so I wanted to catch Garden Talk with WNP's Larry Meiler. He had two guests, Lisa Johnson and Brian Hudelson. They answered questions from the crowd on garden problems.

My next seminar was Planting for Shade given by Errin Schlapbach and Bonnie Reichert of Ganshert Nursery & Landscapes. Learned about things to plant for shade, trees, shrubs, and vines. Nancy Nedveck of the Flower Factory gave a seminar on Great ideas for What Plants Harmonizing to make Your Garden Sing.

My favorite demos was given by Inga Witscher of Wisconsin Public TV, Around the Farm Table, "From Garden to Glass: Add a Garden-Fresh Twist to Your Cocktails and Mocktails. She was fun and took away a recipe for a rhubarb Martini and loved her sense of humor.

Walked the vendor area and found many interesting things. I resisted many large things that would not fit in car but took away information on many places I want to visit like the Janesville Rotary Botanical Gardens, Kleins Greenhouse, and Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

It was a great day and it went fast and time to catch up with Sheila and head home to Oshkosh. I plan on going back next year with hopes of learning more to add to my garden knowledge.

I found vendor booth to share with you. Students from UW Oshkosh were giving out information on organic composting and I want to know more about the product and hope to use it in my garden.

The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh produces organic compost called Titan Gold. It is a byproduct of North Americas first dry anaerobic digester. It collects food, farm and yard waste from local public and private sources and composts it to create organic compost. The Titan Gold is tested, bagged and sold by UW Oshkosh. They will be selling it local stores. Sales support student's scholarships through the UW Oshkosh Foundation. To learn more go to titangold@uwosh.edu or call 920-424-0657.



WHAT AM I?

By Jane Kuhn

Answer to What Am I?

I am lungwort. Order: Lamiales. Family: Boraginaceae – Borage family. Genus: Pulmonaria L – lungwort. Other names: cowslip, Bethlehem sage, spotted dog, soldiers and sailors. Lungwort gets its name from the fact that long ago herbalists thought the leaves of the plant looked like a lung and therefore would treat lung disorders with it. The supposed medicinal effects of the plant have long since been disproved, but the less than attractive name has stuck.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES-FEBRUARY 8, 2016

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

Zaiga Frievalds gave a presentation on Sullivan Woods and what volunteers do at Sullivan Woods. They are in need of volunteers in May and October when the 4th and 5th grade students go on nature hikes.

Joni Pagel gave the Treasurer's Report.

Linda Petek gave the Secretary's Report. The report can be found in the newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sign up sheet was passed around for members that are interested In signing up for the Speaker's Bureau.
2. Extension update – Kimberly Miller
 - a. New Sound System was installed in the conference rooms and we now have two microphones available to use.
 - b. Level II Training on Landscape design will be on line starting in March.
 - c. Just a reminder that politics should not be discussed at WCMGA's meetings and events.
3. Education update/WESD – Roy Anne thanked everyone for the success of Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams. We had 84 silent auction items and all of them were sold. Thank You to Diana for all her hard work.
4. A trip is being planned for around May 15 for five days to New York to visit the New York Botanical Garden, Wakehill Garden, Highline Garden, and Brooklyn Botanical Garden. Cost will be somewhere between \$2500-\$2800. Roy Anne passed around a sign up sheet for those that would be interested in going on the trip.

Project updates – Bette and Eric

There is a project lead meeting on February 16th at 5:30 pm. Let Bette and Eric know if you are planning to attend. Diana Dougherty is also project lead on Bethel Butterfly Garden along with Jane Kuhn.

Cindy and Joni gave an update on the Home and Garden Event. Attendance was not very good. They had 8 people sign up for our Master Gardener Training for fall.

Project Presentations:

Mary Shepard and Patty Schmitz, co-leads, gave a report on the Plant Health Advisors. There is an informational meeting on March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Last year they had 281 contacts with most of the questions being on trees.

Winchester Historical Society: Co-Leads are Sandy Mathison and Mary Rebman. Sandy showed pictures on the project and work they have done in the last two years. There will be a pruning workshop on March 12 (raindate is March 19). Kimberly will be holding it.

Any spring pictures can be sent to Mary Jo Maher for the newsletter.

Mary Shepard gave a butterfly update.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Petek, Secretary

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting	2	3 Paine Rooms of Bloom	4 Paine Rooms of Bloom Hazelnut Conference	5 Paine Rooms of Bloom Hazelnut Conference
6	7	8 Business Meeting	9	10	11	12 Winchester Pruning
13 Daylight Savings	14	15	16	17 St Pat's Day	18	19
20	21 Parkview Flowers	22	23	24	25	26 Marinette Conference
27 Easter	28	29	30	31		

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Pruning- OAHS Outagmie MG Conference
3	4	5 Board Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Time	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Parkview Flower Arranging	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30