

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

May 2017-Issue 30



Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

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Photo by Maria Talin

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Dates to Remember

May 2 – Board Meeting

May 2 – Park View cleaning

May 9 – Business Meeting

May 20 – Festival of Spring

May 22 – Vegetable Garden Workshop

June 13 - Picnic

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



May is a celebratory time of year!

The custom of dancing around a live tree dates back to Germanic customs of the 13th century. The Middle Ages hosted festivals in May intended to celebrate the return of spring, of warmth, of flowers, of singing birds and buzzing bees. These were outdoor frolics with trees and flowers, singing and dancing...And then there is the custom of May baskets that began in 1871 ushering in the rite of spring!

May is also bursting with activity in our organization - projects garden clean up, landscape design - or re-design, and the annual walk through our own yards with our morning coffee as we ask ourselves " what is that" or "did I plant this"!!!

We have many projects to choose from now and we thank all of our leads for hosting their projects at the business meeting in April. And again, special thanks to Anne Murphy for coming up with this idea! Hopefully everyone was able to choose an area of their interest. And if you are a newer member, the members in these projects have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share with you. Actually we all learn from each other regardless of years of membership! Watch for emails from the leads for dates and times of events in each project.

The Paine will be hosting Festival of Spring on Saturday, May 20. MG volunteers will be on hand in the "Ask the Expert" booth inside the plant sale area. Any non-certified member can work alongside the certified members for this event. May 19 will be the set up for the festival and many MGs are needed to help. Please consider a few hours of your time - and if not this day, Sheila Glaske from the Paine would appreciate your help any day between the hours of 8-3.

Our speaker for our business meeting will be Mandy Dornfield, Family Living Educator for Winnebago Co UW-Ext, and she will be presenting " Understanding the Adverse Childhood Experience Survey".

June 13 is our annual MG picnic. It will again be held in the great room at Parkview Health Center. We are hoping to be able to walk through the Prairie Garden and the Parkview Vegetable and Flower Gardens. Meat and beverage will be provided and we invite all members to bring a dish to pass. There will again be a sign up sheet at the May meeting. Plan to come and enjoy an evening of good food and great friends!

It is garden walk season and we hope to feature a few of the projects this year, as well as MGs inviting us to their personal gardens. As this unfolds, we hope that you will be able to come and enjoy the fruits of our labors in the community. There will be more information on this at our business meeting. If you would like to showcase your own garden, please let the presidents know.

Enough of the words, right?! Now we need to get ready, get set and dig!!!

Have a wonderful and colorful spring!

Kathy and Linda

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

After completing the Master Gardener class in 2011, I signed up to work on the Neenah Shattuck Park with Mary Jo as the project lead. We had a great group of Master Gardener volunteers. Julie Gutsmedl has taken over as lead for the last two years and I enjoy working with her and the other volunteers. It is a beautiful park with a lot of activity. I have asked Julie to explain the project to you and how to volunteer.

Shattuck Park is a beautiful three-acre site with panoramic views of the Fox River located at 210 E. Wisconsin Avenue in Neenah. Shattuck Park was donated to the City of Neenah by Clara A. Shattuck on August 26, 1915. It is a serene, quaint, fun little park full of activities throughout the summer from May-October, including evening concerts on Wednesdays, lunch concerts on Thursdays, Farmers Market on Saturdays, as well as meet-up groups to name a few. There is a place for fishing and mooring for boaters; an interactive fountain; a concert lawn; and a 2,900-square-foot pavilion with restrooms, a fireplace, an elevator, a drinking fountain, and a top viewing deck. Please take the time and visit this beautiful park!

This will be my second year leading the Shattuck Park gardens. The gardens consist of four flower beds, including Clara's Rock Bed, Rectangular Sign Bed, and two 28-square-foot turrets. This project works closely with the Neenah Parks Department to design, install, and maintain the flower beds used as a main attraction for a variety of public events held throughout the summer months.

Once the volunteers are established and the plants are available, the group usually gets together to install everything in late May and gets together again at the end the season in mid-October to put the beds to rest. Last year we had a successful year with an ample number of volunteers where we could set up a rotating schedule to deadhead and weed once a week (the city does all the watering). This year we have doubled our volunteer list! If you are interested in volunteering at Shattuck Park, we will certainly accommodate! I look forward to the coming growing season and volunteering with some new faces as well as being reacquainted with some familiar faces. If you are interested in volunteering at Shattuck Park, please connect with Julie Gutsmedl, referring to your Membership Guide for contact information.



Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Protect Oak Trees from Oak Wilt

Before European settlement, most of Winnebago County was an oak savanna. Oak trees were the main component of the plant community, but their density was low enough that grasses and other vegetation could thrive. For a variety of reasons, today the oak savanna is one of the rarest plant communities on earth.

While most of us don't own enough acres to help restore the oak savanna, many stately old oaks still grace our cities and rural areas and we should do everything we can to protect and preserve them. The Wisconsin DNR advises us to protect oak trees from a fungal disease called oak wilt by not pruning oaks from April through July. Oak wilt is a fatal disease that affects oaks in the red oak group – those with pointed leaf edges - most easily. Oaks in the white oak group – those with rounded leaf edges - are less susceptible but can be infected. The disease has been found in Winnebago County.

The oak wilt fungus blocks the paths inside the tree where water moves. When water can't reach the top of the tree, the leaves wilt and drop off and the tree dies.

The disease spreads several ways.

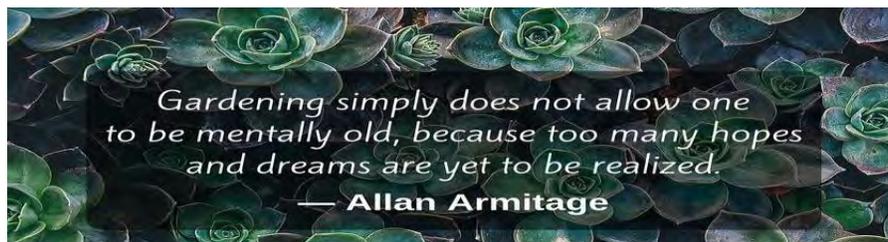
Above ground, pruning or any tree damage that exposes live tree tissue can attract beetles that carry oak wilt spores within just 15 minutes! Tree paint and wound dressing are no longer recommended for most pruning cuts or wounded tree surfaces, but if your oak tree is damaged or you are forced to prune between April and July, an immediate light painting of the cut or wound will help protect against oak wilt. Take note: immediate means right away. Cut. Paint. It doesn't mean make the cut and then go look for the paint, or take a break, or cut five other branches first.

Where do these beetles get the disease to start with? They are attracted to the sweet smell of fungal mats growing under the bark of oaks that have already died of oak wilt. The mats grow and force the bark to crack open and the beetles swarm to feed on the sap. The fungus gets on their bodies as they feed. When a healthy oak has a fresh wound, they flock to the sap flowing from that tree and spread the fungal spores.

Once a tree is infected with the fungus, the disease can spread to nearby oaks whose roots have become interconnected underground.

A final way the disease spreads is by moving contaminated firewood logs year-round. It is difficult to tell whether firewood is contaminated just by looking at it. Fungal mats may be hiding under the bark. So don't transport oak wood.

The DNR website has much more information regarding determining whether your oak has wilt, what to do if it does, how to prevent the spread to other oaks below ground, and safely harvesting the wood of an infected tree. Please see <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ForestHealth/OakWilt.html>. Additional information can be found at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Assets/pdfs/G3590.pdf>.



The Invasive Grapevine

No matter that you may feel your perfect grass lawn is under siege by weeds, none of the common lawn weeds – dandelion, creeping Charlie, white clover, thistles, chickweed, plantain, quack grass or crabgrass – are listed in the Wisconsin DNR Invasive Species Rule, NR40.

Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Tips for the Beginning of Gardening Season

Here are some things to remember as this year's growing season begins:

- Gently stretch every muscle and body part you can think of before you go out for a day of lifting, bending, digging and planting.
- Get a tetanus booster shot if it's been more than ten years since your last one. Tetanus bacteria can enter the body through a puncture wound or even a little scratch. Tetanus bacteria are found everywhere in the environment – in soil, street dust and animal feces. Immunization is very important. Tetanus is an extremely painful and often fatal disease.
- When growing food in plastic containers, choose those labeled 1, 2, 4 or 5. Avoid 3, 6, and 7 which can break down and leach chemicals into your food. Better yet, use clay, ceramic or metal pots for food crops.
- Don't use treated lumber for edging or raised beds in which food crops are grown. Instead, edge beds with untreated lumber, rocks, cinder blocks or logs.
- Don't walk on the soil while it is soggy. You will compact it, squeezing out air and water spaces between soil particles, permanently destroying its structure.
- Wait to plant until the soil dries out and warms up or your seeds will rot instead of germinating.
- If you can't immediately plant live plants that you bring home from the nursery, place them in a sheltered but bright location. Keep well watered and plant as soon as possible.
- Dormant woody plants awaiting planting should be kept in a cool, dark spot with damp newspaper covering the roots.
- Open bags of bulbs of plants like lilies and caladiums and store them in a shaded, cool, well-ventilated area if planting is delayed.
- Gradually introduce seedlings grown indoors to sun and wind by placing them outdoors in a sheltered spot. Slowly introduce them to bright light and breezes over at least a two-week period by extending the amount of time they spend in the sun and wind by a few minutes each day.
- Plant something new this year. It's always exciting to learn about and grow at least one new flower, herb or vegetable.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch. If the summer is dry, mulch will prevent much needed moisture from evaporating from the soil. If it is wet, mulch will keep soil from splashing up onto plants, which can cause disease. Either way, mulch prevents soil temperatures from extreme fluctuations.
- If you mulch around trees, remember "bagel," not "volcano." Mulch should not touch tree trunks, but should be placed in a ring several inches from the trunk to prevent rotting of bark and to thwart mice and other chewers who could hide in the mulch while they snack on the tree trunk.
- Spend some time outdoors every day, no matter what the weather. Studies show that people who experience nature regularly are happier, healthier, more creative, and respond better to stress than those who spend all their time indoors.

It's A Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery

Oshkosh Garden Club

We know that some of our members also belong to other horticulture-based organizations. We previously told you about the Wisconsin Hosta Society. The following article shares information about the Oshkosh Garden Club. Presently our member, Kim Willman (class of 2013), is president. Since the Garden Club is quite visible in our community we thought you'd like to learn more about what they do.

Oshkosh Garden Club

The Oshkosh Garden Club was organized April 20, 1966 and federated on September 14, 1967, which means we're celebrating our 50th anniversary this year!

With 26 members, our mission is to provide education, resources and national networking opportunities for our members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility.

Each year we have a theme, and that theme is carried out in the monthly meetings, which are held the second Thursday of the month. Past themes have included herbs, horticulture, floral design, and back to the basics. We have club members or experts in the field who share their knowledge and provide educational resources. New members and guests are always welcome.

The club has three fundraisers; a plant sale in May, garden walk in June, and scholarship luncheon in November. We give two \$1,000 scholarships to graduating Oshkosh area high school students who are pursuing a degree in a field of horticulture. To celebrate our 50th anniversary, we're pleased to announce that we're giving a third \$1,000 scholarship in 2017.

The garden walk is held the last Sunday in June, this year it's June 25th from noon until 5:00pm. We are featuring six gardens; one is of Master Gardener Ginny Slattery. Past Master Gardeners that were featured on the walk include Linda Christensen, Petey Clark, Marge Menacher, Lynne Slat, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, and the Prairie Garden at Park View. We try to get a variety of gardens, from small city lots to large country lots, some with water features, architectural elements, or unique plantings. As you know, many garden treasures are found in the backyards, so the walk gives you an opportunity to peek inside the creative minds of some of the best Oshkosh has to offer.

Check out our website: oshkoshgardenclub.org, it has a calendar of events and photos of past events.



What Am I?

BY JANE KUHN

I am an herbaceous perennial wildflower native to Eastern North America which grows to a height of 1-3 feet, a spread of 1-3 feet, and forms an arching clump of green willow-like leaves. Clusters of light blue starry flowers appear on the ends of the stems in late spring and early summer. I grow best in full sun to part shade, average, medium, well-drained soil in zones 3-8. I am drought tolerant as well as deer and rabbit resistant.

My habitats include rocky woodlands, shaded rocky ravines, borders of streams and moist sandy meadows. Because of my attractive foliage and flowers, I am also cultivated in gardens. For a neater appearance, particularly if grown in the shade, cut back my stems by 1/3 after flowering to promote bushy growth and a more rounded foliage mound. I spread by reseeding myself or can be divided in spring. The nectar of my flowers attracts hummingbirds, large carpenter bees, hummingbird moths and butterflies.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Renee Doner

Rhubarb Pie

- 9-inch pie shell
- 1 1/2 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 3 egg whites
- 3 cups rhubarb-cut up



Combine 1-cup sugar, flour, butter, egg yolks and salt. Mix well. Beat egg whites till stiff. Beat in 1/2 cup sugar. Fold meringue into the 1st mixture, fold in rhubarb, pour in pie shell. Bake 400 degrees for 10 minutes, then 325 degrees for 40-45 minutes.



Who Knew?

By Lynne Slat/Mary Jo Maher

Backyard composting guide

Deborah L. Brown and Carl J. Rosen

Laws that limit dumping leaves and clippings into public landfills have reawakened public interest in composting. Composting is a process that allows naturally occurring microbes to convert yard waste, such as leaves and grass clippings, to a useful organic soil amendment or mulch. Gardeners have used compost for centuries to improve the physical condition of soil and to add some of the nutrients needed for plant growth. Incorporating compost into light, sandy soil helps it hold both moisture and nutrients, while adding it to heavy soil improves drainage. To produce compost efficiently from yard waste several conditions must be met. The micro-organisms responsible for decomposition need oxygen, water, and nitrogen. Particle size also affects efficiency. The smaller the plant pieces, the more rapidly they will break down. Use a shredder or power mower to chop up leaves and small twigs before adding them to the pile.

Composting structures

To save space, keep your yard looking neat, and speed composting time; plan to contain your compost in some type of structure. Typical dimensions of a compost pile are 5' x 5' x 5'. Simple bin-type structures can be built from woven wire fencing and metal posts. More permanent and elaborate structures can be made from rot-resistant wood, wire, and metal posts. For a more detailed discussion of composting yard wastes, see [*Composting and Mulching: A Guide to Managing Organic Yard Wastes*](#), (University of Minnesota Extension)

Locating your composting pile

Locate your compost pile close to where it will be used so it won't interfere with activities in the yard or offend neighbors. The pile will work best where it is somewhat protected from drying winds, yet receives partial sunlight to help heat it.

What can be composted?

Many organic materials can be composted besides grass and leaves: nonfood shrub trimmings or twigs less than 1/4 inch in diameter, faded flowers, weeds, leftover plants at the end of the gardening season, lake plants, straw, coffee grounds, eggshells, fruit and vegetable scraps, shredded newspaper (black and white print), small amounts of wood ash, and sawdust. Sawdust requires the addition of extra nitrogen; wood ash raises compost alkalinity and may result in nitrogen loss from the pile. There should be little need to compost grass, since clippings may be safely left on the lawn if you mow regularly and remove only 1/3 of the blade length each time. If you do compost grass, mix it with other yard waste. Grass clippings, alone, pack down and restrict airflow, which limits the availability of oxygen that is needed for decomposition. Some things should NOT be composted. Pet feces can transmit diseases. Meat, bones, grease, whole eggs, and dairy products attract rodents and other animals. Diseased or insect-infested plants and weeds that are loaded with seed will not be destroyed if the compost pile does not reach the necessary temperature.

Preparing your compost pile

Build your compost pile in layers. Begin with eight to ten inches of leaves, grass, or plant trimmings. Water it to the point of being moist, but not soggy. Then add a nitrogen source, such as ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, or an inexpensive high nitrogen lawn fertilizer without herbicide. Sprinkle the pile with 1/3 to 1/2 cup of fertilizer per 25 square feet of surface area (a 5' x 5' bin). If you live in a rural area and have access to livestock manure, you can use a two-inch layer of manure as your nitrogen source. You may choose to add a one-inch layer of soil or completed compost over the nitrogen to increase the number of decomposing microbes in the pile. However, most leaves and plant scraps have enough microorganisms to get the job done without the addition of soil or compost. Repeat these layers until the pile reaches a height of five feet, watering each time you add new layers.

Liming

It is normally not necessary to add lime to your compost pile to improve the breakdown of most yard wastes. Finished compost is usually slightly alkaline. If you add lime during the decomposition process, it will probably be too alkaline when completed. If your pile contains large amounts of acidic materials such as pine needles or fruit wastes, you might add lime, but no more than one cup per 25 cubic feet of material. Excessive lime application can lead to loss of nitrogen from the compost pile.

Maintaining your compost pile

An active compost pile will heat to somewhere between 130° and 160° Fahrenheit. As the center cools, turn the pile to help speed decomposition and minimize any objectionable odors. You will need to do this once or twice a month. Continue to water your compost pile periodically to keep it moist but not soggy. You can add a little fresh material when you turn the pile, but generally, you're better off beginning a new pile. A well-managed compost pile will be ready in two to four months in the warm season.

Buzzing Around



Submitted by Mary Jo Maher

One of my favorite garden centers is Milaegers at 4838 Douglas Ave. in Racine. It has a huge variety of flowers, shrubs, garden accessories and much more. They have a gift store that is intense. The shrub area was displayed in a garden-like setting which was breathtaking. They also have a huge selection of ceramic pots in every size and color you can imagine. A great plus to this garden center is the coffee shop there. Places to visit in Racine; Bendsten's Bakery, O&H Bakery and Larsen's Bakery are places for the well-known Racine Kringle. If you love a waterfront restaurant with a great view, try the Reef Brew House.



THE LATEST DIRT

Garlic Mustard Pull

Garlic Mustard Pull at Oshkosh North High Conservancy-Sat. May 6th.

Arrive at 9:00am at 931 Park Ridge Ave.- Sue Egner's home - (behind North High School- 1100 Smith St). The areas are behind my home in the woods. Bring a weed digger, pail to sit on and gloves if you want. We should be able to finish by noon or before.

Education Committee

The WCMGA Education Committee will host a vegetable container garden workshop on Monday, May 22 for customers of the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. Our objective is to introduce people to the joys of growing and eating their own fresh produce. We will need several MG volunteers to help with instruction and the actual planting of the containers as well as set-up and take-down at the Community Pantry on Jackson Street in Oshkosh on May 22. The workshop will be from 3 to approximately 4:30 p.m., but volunteers will be needed starting at 2 p.m. for set-up. **This is a great way to get some community education hours. Please contact Linda Werner at 725-8168 or l Werner7@aol.com if you can volunteer for this event.**

This workshop was developed in conjunction with the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry and the UW-Extension FOODWISE staff. UW-Extension nutrition educators will host workshops both before and after our workshop to talk about the health benefits of vegetables and demonstrate ways to prepare the food participants grow. The project is being funded by the Wisconsin Master Gardener Association.

June 13- WMGA Picnic

The annual picnic for WCMGA is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13 at 6:00 pm in the Great Room at Park View Health Center. Members and one guest each are invited to this event. Please bring your favorite dish to share with gardening friends. The entrée, beverages and place settings will be provided. Watch for the sign-up sheets at the next membership meetings. If you have any questions, ask one of the co-chairs – Diana Dougherty, Kathy Daniels or Jane Kuhn.

2017 Flower Arranging schedule at Park View Health center

Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30 in the Great Room

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| May & June | cancelled by Parkview |
| July 24 th | flowers from our gardens - Parkview's fair - supplements from Pick N Save |
| August 21 st | flowers from our garden and supplements from Pick N Save |
| September | cancelled by Parkview |
| October 16 th | flowers from Pick N Save |
| November & December | cancelled |



THE LATEST DIRT- cont.

WORM CASTINGS for Sale

Jerry and I will be selling worm castings before and after the meeting on Tuesday, May 9. Castings are \$1.00 a pound. They will be in 5 and 10 pound bags. We would appreciate your order ahead of time, so that it will be ready for you and in a box if the order is large. Please email how much you would like to: mgardener4ever@yahoo.com.

Thank you,
Sue Egnor and Jerry Schaefer



ANSWER TO: "WHAT AM I?"

BY JANE KUHN

I am eastern bluestar. Order: Gentianales. Family: Apocynaceae – Dogbane family. Genus: *Amsonia* Walter – bluestar. Species: *Amsonia tabernaemontana* Walter – eastern bluestar. Common names: eastern bluestar, bluestar, blue dogbane. My plants are long lived. In addition to my charming clusters of flowers in spring, my upright, willow-like leaves add fall interest, as they turn clear yellow. I am used in rock gardens, beds and borders, and as a cut flower.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

May 2017



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------|----------|--------|--------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | | Board Meeting Worm Casting Fill Bags | | | | Garlic Mustard Pull |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Clean up Day Town of Rushford | | Business Meeting | | | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| | | | | | | Festival of Spring-Paine |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| Dane County MG Plant Sale | Vegetable Garden Workshop | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |
| |  | | | | | |

Business Meeting Minutes

Business Meeting Notes

March 14, 2017

Treasurer's Report: All in Accounts \$28,640.37, Total Receipts \$5698.00, Total Disbursements \$3186.68.

Secretary's Report: Board meeting notes have been submitted and will be in the newsletter.

Project Updates: Project lead training is next week. Anyone interested in being a project lead can attend.

Extension Updates: Restructuring is going into full swing. All Master gardeners who joined before 2014 will be doing a background check this year. Everyone will be checked every 4 years here after. You will receive a letter, then an email. You will have 5 days to complete the background check. Level 2 training is now under way. WIMGA is sending out a newsletter.

Education updates: 146 people attended the Winter Escapes/ Summer Dreams this year. \$2800 was made on the silent auction items. \$500 was made on the Madison Expo trip. The Rockford trip is now full with 2 people on the waiting list. Container workshop will happen, just waiting to see if we will receive grant money. 4H workshop is in need of volunteers to help youth.

State Representative Update: It was asked if other states or counties have a mentoring program and what they are doing.

New business: June 13th picnic – no meeting Paine Art Center clean up begins April 10th. 8am – 4pm. May 20th spring Festival. Tulip digging at the end of May. 70 containers need to be planted in early June. Help in August on the new gardens.

Tips for filling out hours: Fill the out every month makes it easier to keep track.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Diana Dougherty, second by Valerie Strebnow.

Business Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2017

Treasurer's Report was printed on the back of the agenda and was presented by Joni Pagel, Treasurer.

Secretary's Report – No report, Ann Abraham was excused from the meeting.

A question was asked as to why recent board meeting minutes were not available for review. Co-President, Kathy Schultz said we are catching up on publishing the minutes. She said that it has been held up because the board needs to approve the minutes prior to publication.

Education Committee Update – Linda Werner

We will be doing a plant container workshop – could use more volunteers. Master Gardeners will earn community education hours.

The June trip to Rockford, IL is full.

Planning for 2018 Winter Escape Summer Dreams has already begun. Next year the silent auction will be a little smaller. The committee is asking that members create and assemble baskets themselves. The current method of gathering all the items in one location has become too unwieldy. Another change will be the addition of a vendor there selling their product.

Marge Menacher has arranged a July 27 trip to the Christopher Gardens in Sheboygan and is arranging a trip to a Milwaukee area garden for August.

Project Update - instead of sending volunteer sign up sheets around at meetings, we are trying a “speed dating” night. Prior to the start of the business meeting project leads assembled in the back of the room and members were invited to sign up and ask questions. This was well received and will be tried again at the May meeting.

Kimberly Miller was not in attendance at the meeting so there was no Extension Update.

State Representative Update – Sue Egner attended the 3/18 in Hancock; the next meeting will be in West Bend in October. The 2018 conference will be in the Eau Claire area.

A strategic plan is being worked on and is almost complete.

Look for the revamped newsletter at WIMGA.org. All master gardeners are invited to write articles to be included in the newsletter.

A speaker’s bureau is being implemented – this is one of a kind as no other state has one. Master gardeners are encouraged to submit names of speakers who have impressed you so they can be added to the list.

The mentor program is still being worked on and will probably be approved at the April board meeting.

The Environmental Initiative program is also up and running – information on successful master gardener projects will be published on the WIGMA website so members can check the site and share ideas.

New Business

Sue Egner asked that you let her know prior to the May meeting if you want to purchase worm castings. She would like to have sufficient time to order and pick up the castings prior to the business meeting. The cost is \$1.00 per pound.

Summer picnic will be held at Park View on June 13.

Members of the board will be updating the by laws and standard operating procedures. It is anticipated that this project will be done by fall.

Please let Linda Loker or Kathy Schultz if you are interested in opening your garden for a garden walk this summer.

A reminder that you can complete your volunteer hours sheet on line – 2 options, PDF or Excel. Some members said that hard copies would work better for them. There will be forms available at the May meeting.

Linda Loker announced that there would be a clean up day at the Town of Rusford on May 7 at 5:00 pm. If you wish to volunteer the hours will be working with youth. Watch for an email on this subject.

Diane Dougherty moved to adjourn and Valerie Stabenow seconded. Motion passed.

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