

## Winnebago County Master Gardeners

### Newsletter

May 2018

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#### 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.

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“A flower blossoms  
for its own joy!”

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Photo by Pat Behm - Flower Arranging at Park View

## What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am an herbaceous perennial, a native woodland wildflower, which is an early bloomer in April through June in zones 3 to 8. I have intricate, drooping, red and yellow bell-like flowers with unique backward-pointed nectar tubes. My leaves are lobed and grouped in 3's. I can grow in full sun to part shade and will tolerate a wide range of soils as long as drainage is good. I grow from 2 to 3 feet tall and prefer medium moisture. Once I become established, I am easy to maintain.

I am easily propagated from seeds and will bloom the second year. Once started I will propagate for years and, although perennial, will increase rapidly by self-seeding. I occur naturally in woodlands, forests, cliffs, ridges, shores of rivers and lakes. I am popular in shade gardens, cottage gardens, borders and naturalized areas. I am deer resistant and am beneficial to pollinators, butterflies, hummingbirds and hawk moths.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

**Co-Presidents:** Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Nancy Karuhn & Eric Kropp

**Secretary:** Ann Abraham

**Treasurer:** Joni Pagel

**Advisor:** Kimberly Miller

**Newsletter Compilation:** Anne Murphy



Photo by Pat Behm, Silent Auction Donation

## Letter from your Presidents Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

**April Snows Bring May.....wait, what?!**

Are we sure that the snow has left us finally?! Where are the snowdrops?? Maybe under the snow! Oh well, at least the mid April ice storm did help us with some tree pruning!

The projects are in full swing so check your emails for meeting times of your favorite projects that you have chosen. This is always a wonderful experience to be with fellow MGs to learn from others, and to share your knowledge as well. Our project at the Paine will host a booth again on Saturday, May 19, for the annual Festival of Spring. An emphasis on educating the community about jumping worms will be focused. The Farmers Market will also be featuring this education each month. Both of these events are great ways to obtain your community education hours (did I teach someone?).

The Education Committee has confirmed a trip to Door Co. to the lavender farm on Washington Island, and to the UW Madison Agriculture Station which also has a lovely garden onsite that is run by the Door Co. Master Gardeners. These are all guided tours so education hours can be obtained on this trip - it's a win-win! The committee also has workshops scheduled - check the newsletter for details, or hear about it at the next business meeting. A thank you to the committee for the addition of book reviews at our business meetings. So informational and delightful!

We have had a good response so far for our June 12 picnic. This is on the second Tuesday in June - in place of our regular business meeting. Bring a dish to pass - meat and refreshments will be provided. It is a very nice time to relax and enjoy the company of your fellow members. This is also a good time to walk the Park View projects too! Our May business meeting will feature some exciting activities - our scholarship committee will present \$1000 to a very deserving high school senior from Winneconne High School. We will also have Mary Learman as our guest speaker - she will talk about herbs, focusing some of her talk on heritage herbs. This is of special interest to 2 of our projects as they are historical sites.

We are excited that we have 2 garden walks scheduled for the summer so far, but we would like to have a few more. We will have a detailed list of walks ready to share at our picnic. Please consider sharing your garden joys. Contact one of us if you are interested...and thank you for considering!

***"The Amen of nature is always a flower."*** Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

**Happy May everyone!  
Kathy and Linda**

## THANK YOU for your hard work Sue!



To the Winnebago County Master Gardeners. I have been your State Rep for the past 5 years. I am resigning from this position due to personal conflicts and find that I am not able to attend future meetings. I have enjoyed my time as your rep, but it is time for me to pass along this opportunity.

Some of the duties include :

- Attend two face to face meetings each year and download the summary report from the board's bimonthly meeting and report any news at our general meeting.
- Remind the project leads of the educational grants and to submit them by Oct 1st and, if granted, to send a report with picture of how the awarded money was used by July 31st.
- Make sure the annual accomplishment report is sent into the MG program by Oct. This is usually written by the president.
- The state dues and membership report are due by Jan 15th to the state treasurer. Make sure the local treasurer sends this in.
- Need to provide the WIMGA secretary a current list of officers, any change in addresses, phone numbers and emails and a copy of the by-laws when updated.

All of this is listed for you under your local rep responsibilities. You would be a go-between for our group and the state. You will learn a lot and meet many wonderful MGs from all over the state. Any further questions, just call me at 231-1729. Thank you for allowing me to be your State Rep.

*Sue Egener*

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## Ask a Plant Health Advisor



***“This plant was found along an old railroad way, now bike trail, while pulling garlic mustard last week. Looking for help in identifying it.”***

Find the answer later in the newsletter.

## Growing Ginger in Wisconsin

By Lawanda Jungwirth

[Ginger](#) is an exotic plant that grows in climates far warmer than we have here in Wisconsin. The good news is that we can grow it in containers either permanently indoors, or outdoors in full sun in summer and moved inside for the winter when night temperatures drop below 50° F.

The part the ginger plant that is eaten are the underground rhizomes, knobby root-like structures. You may be able to grow ginger from rhizomes purchased at the grocery store, but they are sometimes treated with anti-sprouting agents, so the best bet is to purchase organic rhizomes which are not treated. Easier yet, since the rhizomes do take quite a long time to sprout, is to purchase already growing plants from a nursery.

Choose a large pot because the plants produce long strappy leaves up to three feet tall. A deep 14-inch wide pot can comfortably support three ginger plants. Use a loose, rich, well-drained potting soil. Indoors, place the container in a warm room where the plant can receive indirect sunlight. Outdoors, morning sun is necessary, but on the hottest days afternoon shade is appreciated.

If you do choose to purchase rhizomes, look for plump pieces with many nubby buds. The rhizomes can be cut to make more than one plant as long as each piece has at least two buds. Let the sliced pieces dry out for a day, then soak them in warm water overnight before planting an inch or two deep with the buds pointing upward in the pot. Water lightly until you see growth. Once leaves develop, keep the soil evenly moist but not soggy. During the growing season, fertilize every six to eight weeks using an organic fertilizer.

When the days get shorter and cooler, the plants will go dormant, losing all their leaves. This is harvest time. Dig or pull up the rhizomes and use them fresh, dried, ground or preserved in vinegar or a sugary syrup. Save some for replanting next year by placing them in paper bags in a cool, dry place. Or overwinter them in the container in which they were growing in a warm, bright spot. Growth will resume in spring. Do not water the plants while they are dormant.

Ideally you would plant the rhizomes early in the year, about 8-10 months before the first fall frost, so they have time to develop fully before they go dormant. If you haven't allowed that much time, there is nothing wrong with harvesting younger rhizomes. If you need fresh ginger anytime during the growing season, you can dig up part of a rhizome to use as baby ginger. Protect the plant from hot sun and wind for a few days after the early harvest.

You can plant pre-sprouted rhizomes outdoors in the ground. A generous helping of compost every couple months will help them grow large. Mulching around, but not touching, the crown of the plants will make for a better crop.



# Garlic Mustard

Lisa Johnson, Commercial Horticulture Agent, UW-Extension

Milwaukee/Waukesha Counties

Revised: 5/10/2010

Item number: XHT1081 **INVASIVE PLANT**

**What is garlic mustard?** Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is a European woodland plant introduced to North America by early settlers for its culinary and alleged medicinal qualities. In North America, European insects and diseases that control the plant's population are not present. Garlic mustard starts growing earlier in the season than our native plants, and outcompetes them. It also produces large quantities of seed. For these reasons, garlic mustard spreads rapidly in wooded areas, forming tall, dense stands that smother native wildflowers, and native tree and shrub seedlings. It can overrun a forest floor in a few years, destroying a previously healthy ecosystem by eliminating many plant species. In addition, animals, birds and insects that depended on a diversity of plant species for food and shelter can then no longer live in the infested area.

**What does garlic mustard look like?** Garlic mustard is a biennial plant with a two-year life cycle. The first year, it forms a rosette of round, scalloped-margined leaves that stay semi-evergreen through winter. The second year, it sends up a flower stem with triangular toothed leaves that bears tiny white flowers with four petals. The plant dies after producing long narrow seedpods. At maturity, garlic mustard plants may be 3 to 4 ft. tall and bear up to 500 seeds per plant.

**How can I control garlic mustard?** Repeat any control method for several years since garlic mustard seeds can survive in the soil for up to 7 years. Hand-pull small infestations, but do not compost the plants because most compost piles do not get hot enough to kill the seeds. Dispose of pulled plants by burying deeply in an area that will not be disturbed, or

landfilling. Call the Bureau of Endangered Resources at 608-266-7012 if you need permission to landfill garlic mustard. To burn collected plants, burn them while still moist, because dried garlic mustard seedpods can burst open and spread the seed. If you use an herbicide, spray early in spring or late in fall, because our native plants are dormant at these times, but garlic mustard is still green and vulnerable to sprays. A 1-2% solution of a glyphosate-containing herbicide is very effective. Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide, so avoid spraying nontarget plants. Read and follow all label directions on the herbicide product. Encourage your community to scout for garlic mustard in your area and remove it, if found.



## Member Meeting Minutes - April 10, 2018

Treasurer's Report was read at the meeting by Kathy Schultz.

**Project Updates:** All projects have been approved by the board. Oshkosh Public Museum is being passed on because we were not able to secure a lead person. If you are interested in working on any project contact the lead in charge of the project. All projects are listed in the 2018 Winnebago County Master Gardener Association membership guide. Additional information will be found in the Newsletter.

**Education committee Updates:** Workshops coming up are, a youth workshop, a terrarium workshop on May 12<sup>th</sup>, Rain garden workshop at the Coughlin Center possibly June 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm. The salsa container workshop on June 7<sup>th</sup> in Neenah will need volunteers to work with the group to help plant the containers, advise and work with about 18-25 adolescents to adults with special needs.

**Trip updates:** There are 2 seats left for the aquaponics trip to Montello and the Princeton hosta farm. The trip to Door County and the Washington Island lavender farm is June 30 & 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost will be \$225.00 per person. This includes the coach fee, all entrance fees, ferry trip over & the DC Home and Garden Show. Also staying at Stone Harbor in Sturgeon Bay. No food will be provided on this trip so you may want to bring your own food. There are many restaurants in the area as well. There may be other stops as time permits.

2019 Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams planning has begun with it scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Epping is one of the scheduled speakers.

Master Gardeners June picnic is scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> @ Park View, with no business meeting for June. Make sure you get signed up and bring a dish to pass.

**State Representative Updates:** There is a new WIMGA website. Really nicely set up. State grants are available with a deadline of October 1<sup>st</sup>. With any grant awarded, a report and picture are required to be submitted by July 31<sup>st</sup>. For those who received a grant, please be sure to submit the required report and picture. If our organization misses the deadline, we will not be eligible for grant money for two years.

**New business Updates:** Garlic mustard pull at Oshkosh North High will be @ 10 am on May 5th, weather permitting. May business meeting we will meet the Master Gardener scholarship winner.

**Tips for hours:** Attending organization meetings and driving to and from the meetings go under support for the project. Fill it out now - don't wait.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mary Shepard. Second by Diana Dougherty.

## Events

**May 5: Garlic Pull, 10 AM, Sue Egner's home**  
**May 15: Education Committee, 5:30 PM, Benvenuto's**

**June 12: MG picnic - Park View**  
**June 30-31: Door County Trip - sign up now!**

## Flower Arranging - Park View - 1:30 PM

Monday May 14  
Monday July 23  
Monday September 10  
Monday November 12



### Answer to Ask a Plant Health Advisor:

*Brian D. Hudelson says:* "Definitely one of the [Lithospermum](#) species (i.e., one of puccoons). Railroad right of ways are great areas for prairie remnants. Have your client watch for other cool plants there."

## Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am [red columbine](#). Order: Ranunculales. Family: Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family. Genus: Aquilegia L – columbine. Species: Aquilegia canadensis L – red columbine. Other names: American columbine, Wild columbine. My genus name comes from the Latin “aquila” which means eagle and refers to the nectar spurs that resemble an eagle’s talons. Native American tribes used various parts of red columbine in herbal remedies for headaches, sore throat, fever, rashes, and heart problems.



References: *USDA Plants Database and associated links.*

### May 3 - NATIONAL GARDEN MEDITATION DAY

National Garden Meditation Day is observed annually on May 3rd. It is a time to forget about everything else, take some time for yourself, relax and meditate.

Working in the garden, tending to the plants and flowers or resting quietly on a bench on a beautiful day in the garden are both forms of meditation. Both can be restorative to the soul and a refreshing way to be out in nature.

## **Join the Winnebago County Master Gardeners for a 2-day motor coach trip to Gardens of Door County on Monday, July 30 and Tuesday, July 31**

**Cost is \$225 which includes motorcoach, travel expenses and tips, admissions to tours, and hotel (double occupancy). Meals are your expense.**

**Cost is non-refundable, but if you cannot attend you can find someone else to take your place.**

The bus will be at the Coughlin Center at 6:35 am, depart at 7:00 am and arrive in Sturgeon Bay at the Garden Door gardens and Wisconsin Extension Agricultural Station in Sturgeon Bay at about 9:00 am. We will divide into 2 groups: first group will have guided tour of the research station while the second group will have a tour with Door County Master Gardeners of the gardens they have developed there. Then groups will switch locations. After these tours, we will board the bus for our trip to Gill's Rock to take the ferry to Washington Island. Please bring your own lunch and snacks for the day as we won't have time to stop for lunch. I will provide bottled water, but if you want something else, please provide that. We will drive onto the Washington Island Ferry and take a leisurely ride over to the island and then drive to Fragrant Isle Lavender Farm to have a guided tour of the gardens and shop in their store. Then we will get back on the bus to tour Seaquist Orchard and Farm. We will have a 30-minute tour and some time for sampling their jams, fudge, and salsas along with an opportunity to shop. Next, we will travel to our hotel, Stone Harbor Resort in Sturgeon Bay. Dinner will be on your own either at the hotel or at one of the many restaurants within walking distance. A list and distances will be provided.

Breakfast will also be on your own at Stone Harbor or nearby bakeries. Tuesday will be spent touring homes and gardens on the Door County House and Garden Walk which will take us throughout Door County. I have a number of little places I would love to travel to as we wind around this area as time permits, like The Edgewood Orchard Gallery and Sculpture Garden and the Door Landscape and Nursery in Egg Harbor. The tour goes from 9:00 until 5:00, so it will be a full day. You will be able to purchase lunch at The Log Den in Egg Harbor. Return time to Oshkosh will probably be after 7 pm and I am still working on a dinner stop on the drive home.

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Make checks out to **WCMG (Winnebago County Master Gardeners)** and mail form to **Marge Menacher, 4105 Westview Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54904**. Questions contact Marge at [marmen4105@charter.net](mailto:marmen4105@charter.net) or call 920-420-8472. We need all **registrations completed and paid for before June 29<sup>th</sup>** to secure hotel rooms.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address to receive more information \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person I would like to room with \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer a room alone at an additional cost of \$70.00.

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 <p><i>Picture by Pat Behm.</i></p>	<p><b>Project Leads &amp; Committee Chairs</b></p> <p>Remember to get your information about when/where you're meeting with your group to Anne (<a href="mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com">pakster0605@yahoo.com</a>) so that it can be listed in the newsletter for everyone to know and come help out!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
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## WCMGA Projects

*Check your Member Guide for contact information.*

Project	Project Lead	Next Meeting
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn	
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek	
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak	
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow	
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz	
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson	
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller	
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery	
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	
Park View Prairie Garden	Sally Lindo	
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche	May 14, 1:30
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/ Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz	June 2018
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard	
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Julie Gutsmedl	
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker	

## May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Board Mtg. 6:00 PM	2	3	4	5 Garlic Pull 10 AM
6	7	8 Business Mtg. 6:00 PM	9	10	11	12
13 	14 Flower Arranging Park View 1:30 PM	15 Education Committee 5:30 PM	16	17	18	19 FDL, Waushara & Waupaca Cty Plant Sales Festival of Spring - Paine Art Center
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31		

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