



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

May 2019

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.

“Remember that children, marriages and *flower gardens* reflect the kind of care they receive.”

Over 179,000

Answer: What is the number of hours WI MG submitted for 2018?

(Equivalent to \$4,300,764!!)

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an herbaceous, clump forming, low-maintenance perennial that grows to a height and a width of 1½ feet in zones 4-9. I grow best in full sun to part shade, in normal, sandy or clay soil which can be dry, moist or normal. My plant has terminal, pyramidal clusters of star-like, dark lavender-blue flowers that bloom in late spring. My stems are leafy with narrow, willow-shaped, dark-green foliage which turns buttery gold in autumn.

Propagation is by division in spring although generally not needed for six years. Self seeding may occur but over-seeding can be prevented by removing mature seed pods. My plants can be used in containers, borders, rock gardens, cottage gardens, rain gardens and open woodland areas. I attract butterflies and am resistant to deer and rabbits. I have no known serious insect or disease problems.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

Vice President: Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Joni Pagel

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing in a future newsletter by writing an article or submitting a photo, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Thank you!



Need Education Hours?

Upcoming Paine Art Center and Gardens Educational Presentations of interest for MGs for educational hours, all held at 1:00 PM in the Conservatory:

June 24: Annual Garden Tour, Sheila Glaske

Letter from your Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

"The 'Amen' of nature is always a flower"
Oliver Wendell Holmes

At this writing we see a snowdrop, a crocus or two! And then, oh no! More snow! Hopefully we all made sure those precious plants peeking through were protected! However, we hope that by the time this letter reaches our members, there will be much more evidence that spring is really on its merry, colorful way!

Project time! We hope you have found yourself a home in one of the projects. Typically the project leads will send out emails to inform and report what is going on in their project, so watch your emails closely.

Kimberly, our advisor, **Nancy Karuhn** and **Britton Dake**, and the all the project leads, have been meeting this past year to gain a better understanding of our work, then compiling information so that we can better serve our community. Thank you to the three of you and all the leads for being a part of this major project!

We are gearing up for our annual picnic which will be held at Parkview Health Center in the Great Room on Tuesday, June 11. There will be a sign up sheet at the May business meeting. We encourage all members, and their guests, to consider attending - it is always a fun time to mingle with each other, eat great food that we all bring, and hear about our summer activities. There are also a few great door prizes as well! Please let **Diana Dougherty** or one of us know if you would like to sign up and cannot make the meeting.

We will have our Board meeting as usual on Tuesday, June 4. There will be no business meetings in June (picnic instead), July and August. There will be no Board meeting in July but will resume in August. This gives us time to visit each other's gardens. We do have a few things in store for your summer gardening entertainment! We will be touring the UW-Oshkosh campus grounds on June 13 with our hosts, Lisa Mick, Grounds Supervisor, and Anita Carpenter birding expert. There is much to see and hear about horticulture and ornithology from these experts! Check for the article in this newsletter for more information.

In addition to this, we have two garden/nature walks planned thus far, but we would be so pleased to have one or two more members open up their gardens. Please let us know before the picnic so that we can add you to the list of summer outings for our members. We will then have the list available at the picnic.

Our speaker for May business meeting will be the last in our series of member presentations -

Roy Anne Moulton will be presenting information on GMOs - Friend or Foe? Fact or Fiction?

It has been such a pleasure to have our own speakers for the first half of the year at our business meetings. We are so proud to have such experienced and knowledgeable members among us. We cannot thank you enough for sharing your passions!

The Education Committee is busy as ever - hope you were able to sign up for the cement leaf making class on June 8. These treasures look great in your garden! If not, please contact **Valerie Stabenow** to see if there is still room. The added bonus to this trip is to see lily gardens as well. A bus trip is also being planned - this will be an opportunity to tour EPIC gardens in Madison - EPIC is a company that specializes in computer systems, however, the gardens have been designed by Jeff Epping from Olbrich Gardens. They are massive and stunning! We may also be touring Jeff's beautiful work at Olbrich. Watch for details on this to be announced.

Doing the dance around the Maypole,
Kathy and Linda



Oshkosh Violet Society – 2019 Spring Show and Sale

The Oshkosh Violet Society spring show and sale will be on May 4 (10:00-4:30) and May 5 (11:30-3:00). It will be held at St Jude the Apostle Church Hall at 531 Knapp St; Oshkosh. The show violets will be in full bloom. There will be many plants and supplies to purchase. Other gesneriads will be in the show or available for purchase. We also have an education table to help people grow violets. This is the club's 39th spring show.

I will be there both days working at the education table. If you come by and it is not too busy, I will be happy to give you a detailed tour of the show and point out some of the things I talked about during my presentation at the April meeting. It tends to be slower Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. If you are looking to for a good selection of plants to purchase, Saturday morning is the best time.

Eric Kropp

Stachys “Hummelo” is Perennial Plant of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The Perennial Plant Association has named [*Stachys 'Hummelo'*](#) as its choice for 2019 Perennial Plant of the Year.

'Hummelo' is a colorful compact plant for a sunny perennial border, a specimen plant in a rock garden or massed as a ground cover. Striking midsummer spikes of rose-lavender flowers rise above a basal rosette of crisp green, trouble free foliage that remains fresh looking throughout the growing season. The glossy, dark green leaves are interesting themselves, having an oval shape with tightly scalloped edges and a crinkled or puckered texture. The wiry stems are mostly leaf-free, making 'Hummelo' great for cut flower bouquets.

'Hummelo' is a clump-forming plant that reaches 1 ½ - 2 feet tall and wide. Removing faded blooms encourages re-bloom for weeks on end. At the end of the growing season, allow dried flowers and stalks to remain in the garden to provide winter interest.

The genus *Stachys* is part of the mint family and like all mints, 'Hummelo' spreads over time to form a dense mat of underground roots. 'Hummelo' spreads much more slowly than other mint family members though and stays well in control. Plants can be divided in early spring every 4-5 years by using a shovel to slice down through the roots to separate out sections for replanting. New plants as well as divisions should be placed 12-18" apart.

Plants perform best in full sun with well-drained soil, but will survive just fine in light shade. They are good in combination with ornamental grasses, coneflowers, Russian sage, catmint, stonecrop, and last year's Perennial Plant of the Year, *Asclepias tuberosa*. 'Hummelo' can also be grown in containers, but container grown plants will need to be brought inside a garage and kept adjacent to an interior wall over winter.

'Hummelo' is relatively pest and disease free and even deer don't particularly favor it. It is one of few plants that can be successfully grown near walnut trees.

The spikey blooms are attractive to pollinators including butterflies, hummingbirds and bees. In fact, the word "hummel" is the German word for bumblebee. The genus name derives from the Greek word "stacys" which means "ear of corn" and likely refers to the way the flowers grow tightly on their spikes.

Are you wondering how a plant gets elected Perennial Plant of the Year? Perennial Plant Association members vote each summer on the following year's plant. At that time, each member is allowed to nominate two plants for future consideration. A committee reviews the nominated plants, which may number 400, and narrows the field to three or four to be placed on the ballot.

Plant nominees need to satisfy the following criteria: suitable for a wide range of climates, low-maintenance, relatively pest-free and disease resistant, multiple seasons of ornamental interest, and be readily available at garden centers the year it is elected.

It looks as though the PPA members have chosen another winner this year!

Anise Hyssop Chosen Herb of Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The International Herb Association has chosen [anise hyssop](#) - *Agastache foeniculum* - as 2019 Herb of the Year.

Anise hyssop is a wildflower native to the Upper Midwest and Great Plains with tiny, tightly whorled flowers on 3-6 inch spikes. Flower color varies from pale blue to lavender to dusky dull indigo to dark violet blue. Color is more intense at the top of the spikes. Toothed four-inch leaves are dull green on top with a whitish tint underneath. New growth often has a purplish cast.

Anise hyssop thrives in well-drained soil in full sun to part shade. In spring, sow seed indoors or out, or sow outdoors in fall to germinate first thing the next spring. Seed should be barely covered with soil. Germination can take from one to four weeks. Plants can also be propagated by division in either spring or fall.

Seeds are easily collected by bagging the dried flower spikes right on the stems to capture the ripened seeds. Or carefully cut the dried spikes from the plants and shake them to dislodge the seeds.

Established anise hyssop re-seeds freely, giving you plenty of volunteer plants to share with friends or transplant to other places in your garden. Don't worry though - plants that grow where you don't want them are easily pulled up. Small self-seeded plants will wilt immediately after you transplant, but will perk up in a few days. Deadheading spent flowers will promote additional bloom, but near the end of summer, consider allowing them to remain on the plant to produce seeds that will both feed goldfinches and reseed your garden with new plants the following spring.

Anise hyssop finds its place in the middle or back of the flower bed, as it reaches 2-5 feet tall and 1-3 feet wide. Despite its height, it won't need staking. It fits into perennial borders, native or wildflower gardens, cottage gardens, herb gardens, prairies and meadows. Count on bloom for at least six weeks in late summer. The foliage looks good throughout the growing season. Clumps last a few years and then become woody at their base and die.

The only problem that anise hyssop has is occasional downy mildew. Thinning plants for better air circulation will help. Deer tend to stay away from anise hyssop but rabbits will enjoy it.

Anise hyssop is a wonderful plant to attract pollinators including bees, butterflies, beetles and other insects along with hummingbirds.

The flowers and leaves have the taste and smell of French tarragon, but sweeter, with a hint of basil and a bit floral. They retain their color and fragrance when dried.

For a delicious tea, infuse 1 teaspoon dried leaves or 1 tablespoon fresh leaves in a cup of hot water. Flower bud tips can be added to vegetable or fruit salads. Chopped leaves season pork, lamb, chicken or rice dishes. Both flowers and leaves can be baked into breads or cookies or blended into ice cream.

Flower arranging at Park View
Health Center in the Great Room on
Tuesday, May 20 at 1:30 PM.

*Come and
make some
wonderful
spring
bouquets
with us!*



Introduction to Native Orchid Restoration
May 10 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - \$15



[Riveredge](#) has embarked on a long term restoration project to return native orchid species to the region. Many native temperate orchids have been extirpated from the area because they are sensitive to ecological degradation and deeply reliant on unique relationships with fungi, pollinators, hydrology, soil chemistry and plant associates. Come learn how we are working to study and repair the ecosystems our future orchid seedlings will sit in and hear about ways you can get involved.

Non-members: \$15, Members: \$10, Registered Orchid

Volunteers: Free [Register For This Program](#)

Orchid Shadehouse Planting Day
May 17 @ 10:00 am - 5:00 pm - \$15



Join [Riveredge](#) and the Midwest Orchid Conservation Project in our first annual orchid shadehouse planting! We will have over 1,500 seedlings of white lady slipper and pink lady slipper to establish in planting flats. We need your help! *This program is a prerequisite for individuals interested in becoming orchid volunteers.*

Suggested \$10 donation on day of program.

[Register For This Program](#)

From the Plant Health Desk

Questions for the Plant Health desk come in directly through email, phone calls, and walk-ins to the Extension office. They also come by way of other Master Gardener projects and activities. **Patty Schmitz**, co-lead of both Plant Health and Farm Market teams, comments below on her experience about the interaction between the two projects.

“The Winnebago County Master Gardeners serve the needs of many different individuals throughout the county through outreach and education. Master Gardeners are the Plant Health advisors that volunteer their time to assist people from the community with questions or problems they are having related to care, maintenance and pests in their yards or gardens.

Master Gardeners that maintain a booth at the local farmers market provide research-based information and recommendations to the community rely on the Plant Health advisors if they are not able to answer questions. They will recommend individuals to call the plant health line for further help.”

The Paine Art Center Festival of Spring: Saturday, May 18

If you would like to help with set-up on Friday, May 17, please call or email me so that we can give you an area to help. We will again have our Ask the Masters booth during the Festival and will need our volunteers to "man" the booth. I'm not sure of times yet but you can reserve a spot by telling me if you'd like an early, middle or late time slot. I'll let you know the times as soon as I get that info from Sheila. Looking ahead: tulip takeout and annual planting will be late May or early June.

See you soon!

Ginny

WCMGA Leaf Casting Program & Iris Garden Tour - Saturday, June 8, 2019

A limited number of places are available for a leaf casting class and tour/visit of iris and daylily gardens at Willow Creek Farm and Gardens, 7 miles east of Wautoma on Highway 21. Willow Creek now grows the irises that were once part of Argyle Acres.

This program is for WC Master Gardeners only at this time. If there are open spots remaining on May 24, I will open it to non-Master Gardeners.

Feel free to **car-pool or ride share** (no transportation provided) to the Gardens on Saturday, June 8, 2019. **Please be advised that THERE ARE NO RESTROOMS AT THE FARM/GARDENS**, though there is a wayside about ¼ mile down the road, or stop in Red Granite before you arrive. Allow 45 minutes to an hour to drive, depending on where you are coming from.

The day's program:

8:45 – 9:00 AM arrival at Willow Creek, **please be prompt!**

9:00 to 9:15 AM introduction to Willow Creek

9:15 to @ 10:15 AM leaf casting, Leaves provided, or you may bring your own leaf

10:15 on, Master Gardeners can cut a bouquet to take home and place Iris/Lily orders to be picked up in late August/early September.

<http://www.shop.argyleacres.com/main.sc>

The day's program is limited to the first 20 **paid** respondents. The cost is \$20 by check, payable to WCMGA and mailed to: **Valerie Stabenow, 6400 Paulson Rd. Winneconne 54986** There are **no refunds**, but you may send someone in your place.

Detach and Mail:



Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Amt. Enclosed _____ Check # _____

Member Business Meeting Minutes - April 9, 2019

Kathy Schultz, co-president, called the meeting to order.

Speaker: Eric Kropp presented “All about African violets”. African violets are native to Tanzania located in eastern tropical Africa. African violets have many varieties and are popular houseplants. Some flower colors are purples, blues, pinks, and whites. These plants like warm temperatures, west or south facing windows, not being overwatered, use room temperature water, and being pot bound. The African violet show will be May 4th and May 5th at St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall, 531 Knapp St. Oshkosh, WI. Eric will be there to answer questions about African violets.

Treasurer’s Report: Joni Pagel reviewed the Cash reconciliation report for the period of March 2019.

Secretary’s report: The March Membership meeting minutes are in the newsletter. The March Board meeting minutes are posted on the website.

Project Update: Britton Dake said the Board approved the Project Leads’ budget requests. Check the newsletter for more information. Contact Britton for any help that is needed.

UW Extension update: Kimberly Miller mentioned that National Volunteer Recognition Week was this week. Kim thanked the members for all that they do. There will be an open house on April 10th from 2pm – 4pm. Stop in for the snacks and to be appreciated.

Education Committee Update: Linda Werner updated the membership on events: Saturday, May 11, there will be a program on basic gardening for 4-H members. Volunteers for the program will be needed; Saturday, June 8, is the Cement leaf program at the Iris farm. Cost is \$20 for a tour of the iris farm and the material to make a cement leaf for your yard. 20 people limit, right now just open to our membership. Not enough interest in a group purchase from the A.M. Leonard website for tools to help us in our gardens. Tuesday, April 16th, at 3:30 pm, the Book Club will meet to discuss “Lab Girl” by Hope Jahren. The meeting will be at Benevento’s. The next book will be “Seedfolks” by Paul Fleischman for the May 21st meeting at 3:30 pm at Benevento’s. The Education Committee and Kimberly will be working with Ascend. A grant through Foodwise will defer the cost of the soil and plants for the raised bed garden program. There will be a

workday for preparation and to help plant. More information will either be in an email or in the newsletter. **Roy Anne Moulton** will be the speaker for the May meeting. She will speak on GMO's.

State Representatives Report: No report this month.

New Business: Book talk given by **Barb Harrison** on "The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden" by Roy Diblik. The book deals with care and maintenance of plants and knowing what plants go well together. **Mary Shepard** talked about the Monarch Butterfly migration. The Monarchs have been sighted in Champagne, IL. The monarchs are overlaying the milkweeds, 50 eggs on a plant. The Northern migration is going well. The population is at 15 acres resting population. This is the minimum for sustaining the population. **Ginny Slattery** gave a Paine update. Spring cleanup is now happening during the week of April 22, Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm. Friday, May 17, **Val, Allen** and **Jerry** will come in early and the rest of the volunteers come in at 10:30am to help set up for the Festival of Spring. Festival of Spring is May 18th. Ginny will have Ashley send out emails for workdays: taking out tulip bulbs and annual plantings. **Linda Loker** wants the membership to volunteer to have a garden walk at their homes. Anita Carpenter will do a walk at the UW-Oshkosh campus in late June and **Arlene** and **Bob Kosanke** will also be doing a garden walk, time not yet available. **Kathy** and **Linda** want the membership to be thinking about the WMGA election coming in November. President, Treasurer and two Board positions will be up for election. Committee to contact and find interested members for the election roster.

Other New Business: **Mary Moosemiller** is looking for a WMGA member to share their garden for the Oshkosh Garden Club garden walk. A garden club member, that usually volunteers her garden, is ill and not able to open her garden for the walk this summer. **Sue Egner** has worm castings available for pick up and purchase.

Door prizes winners: **Karen Morton, Grace Oliver, Becky, Ginny Slattery, Donna Kudlas, Renee Donner, and Matt Miller.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by **Mary Shepard**; second by **Cindy Meszaros.**

UW Oshkosh Nature Walk

Thursday, June 13, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

You are invited to go on a walk through the UW Oshkosh campus with experts Lisa Mick, Grounds Supervisor at the university, and Anita Carpenter, well-known local wildlife specialist (especially butterflies and birds). We will experience UW Oshkosh's efforts in making the campus grounds a more sustainable, and green, environment. Plants and wildlife abound in this National Wildlife Federation backyard sanctuary. UW-O is a certified USA tree campus and a certified Butterfly Way Station <https://uwosh.edu/today/39835/uw-oshkosh-serves-as-monarch-way-station/>.

This is being offered during a weekday morning because Lisa is available weekdays only; and the birds are most visible in the morning hours. We understand that some of our members are unable to be available during the day, but hope that with this early notice, you can maybe adjust your schedule so that you can enjoy this nature walk. So much to learn and so much to see!

Park in the university's Welcome Center parking lot and the tour will begin there.

Thank you and hope to see you there! Please contact Linda Loker or Kathy Schultz for any questions.

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for May Events

June 6: Omro Carter Memorial Library - Annuals and mulch, 4-7 PM

June 8: Omro Carter Memorial Library - Annuals and mulch, finish planting, 9:30-12 noon

June 8: Willow Creek Iris trip - leaf casting class

June 13: Omro Carter Memorial Library, Water and clean up, 4-7 PM

June 17-21, 2019: International Master Gardener Conference, Valley Forge, PA

June 20: Omro Carter Memorial Library, Water and clean up, 4-7 PM

June 24: Paine Art Center Presentation, 1 PM

June 27: Omro Carter Memorial Library, Water and clean up, 4-7 PM

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am blue star. Order: Gentianales. Family: Apocynaceae – Dogbane family. Genus: Amsonia Walter – bluestar. Common name: [blue star](#). Cultivar: blue ice. Blue ice is a select seedling from *A. tabernaemontana* which is a native to North America. This plant is easy to grow, best in a moist, fertile soil. It can tolerate wet soils for short periods making it an excellent choice for rain gardens. It can be seen in the rain garden located at the entrance to the Coughlin Center.



References: *USDA Plants Database and associated links.*

Master Gardeners June Picnic

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 6:00-8:00 pm

Great Room at Parkview Health Center

We supply sandwiches, drinks, plates, cups, napkins,
plastic ware.

** Bring your favorite dish to share.

Seating is limited to WCMGA members and 1 guest



The sign up sheet for the June picnic will circulate at the May meeting. If you want to attend but won't be at the May meeting, please contact Diana Dougherty text or call 920-420-0431 or email dldoug5@charter.net



April 22, approx 25-50 Red Admirals flocked my pussy willow tree. Beautiful! I was just excited to see!

Pictures submitted by Linda Loker



WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

Project	Project Lead(s)
Algoma Town Hall	Petey Clark
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/Audrey Ruedinger
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	Eric Kropp
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/ Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Diane Iott
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

Project Leads: If you'd like your meetings listed on the calendar, please email information to Anne Murphy pakster0605@yahoo.com.

May 2019

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Philadelphia Trip	6 Phil Trip	7 Phil. Trip Board Mtg. 6 PM	8 Phil. Trip	9 Phil. Trip	10 Phil. Trip	11
12	13	14 Business Mtg. 6 PM	15	16	17	18 Festival of Spring
19	20 Flower Arranging Park View Great Room 1:30 PM	21 Education Comm. Benvenuto's 5:30 PM	22	23	24	25
26	27 	28	29	30	31	

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