



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service & environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

www.winnebagomastergardeners.org

1-920-232-1986

NOVEMBER 2008

COMMITTEES

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Education and Trips | |
| Roy Anne Moulton | 886-1283 |
| Education – Meetings | |
| Audrey Ruedinger | 231-5745 |
| Event Planning | |
| Kathy Daniels | 233-0410 |
| Mary Wiedenmeier | 426-0991 |
| Historian | |
| Dawn Kent | 410-8866 |
| Membership | |
| Chris Bellin | 233-4968 |
| Linda Tobey | 734-2264 |
| Newsletter | |
| Linda Tobey | 734-2264 |
| Jean Reed | 729-9012 |
| Lawanda Jungwirth | 836-2878 |
| Bruce Abraham | 231-3747 |
| Refreshment Committee | |
| Linda Loker | |
| State Rep | |
| Bob Kosanke | 231-1873 |
| SOP & Bylaw Committee | |
| Stan Meyer | 725-6486 |
| Sunshine | |
| Liz Ginke | 722-8140 |
| Hours & Time Keeper | |
| Linda Tobey | 734-2264 |
| Shelley Aaholm | 731-8570 |
| Home & Garden Shows | |
| Joni Pagel | 233-6619 |
| Cindy Meszaros | 233-3550 |

SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

| | |
|---|----------|
| Community Education | |
| Marge Menacher | 223-3467 |
| Community Gardens | |
| Ruth Freye | 734-5978 |
| Education and Control of Invasive Species | |
| Lawanda Jungwirth | 836-2878 |
| Audrey Ruedinger | 231-5745 |
| Farmers Market | |
| Dorothy Gayhart Kunz | 233-8468 |
| Janet Priebe | 233-1898 |
| Octagon House | |
| Jerry Robak | 722-3311 |
| Paine Gardens | |
| Bob Potter | 233-3349 |
| Park View Cutting Garden | |
| Bill Weber | 231-2936 |
| Park View Vegetable Garden | |
| Sue Steinhilber | 235-1031 |
| Al & Judy Harms | 688-5523 |
| Park View Flower Arranging | |
| Pat Behm | 410-3290 |
| Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX | |
| Curt Reese | 426-4992 |

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES) | 426-0991 |
| Kathy Daniels (PRES) | 233-0410 |
| (VP) | 426-1363 |
| (Sec) | 232-1224 |
| Alice Graf (Tres) | 203-8252 |
| Susan Bohn | 685-0427 |
| Linda Werner | 725-8168 |
| Stanley Meyer | 725-6486 |
| Ken Hawk | 426-1691 |
| Audrey Ruedinger | 231-5745 |
| Roy Anne Moulton | 886-1283 |
| Bob Potter | 233-3349 |

Business Meeting NOVEMBER 11
Coughlin Center doors open 6:00 meeting
begins at 6:15 / BOARD MEETING SAME
NIGHT STARTING AT 5:00

NOVEMBER – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Fall has truly arrived. Leaves are falling, temperatures are falling and now is the time for garden clean-up and fall planting. After cleaning up the garden of dead debris, you can plant some new bulbs for spring flowers.

At the last Board meeting, our association was introduced to a new project, Rushford Town Hall. They hope to have a rain garden as part of their landscaping. If you are interested in helping on this project, please call Sue Bohn.

At the October business meeting, Leads made a report to the members the projects they were worked on during the summer. It was interesting to see the changes of the areas they worked at. The pictures were worth 1,000 words like the old saying goes. Thank you to those who presented last month. At the November meeting, more Leads will give their short presentation. Come and enjoy all the hard work members have been doing.

November is a time of elections. We will be voting for a new Vice President and Secretary. I would like to thank Sue Bohn and Linda Werner for taking on the jobs the past years. They have done a wonderful job, but it's time to move forward they both say.

We changed the November Board meeting from the 4th to the 11th at 5pm at the Coughlin Center because of the Presidential Election on the November 4th. We will meet at 5pm, before our business meeting.

Don't forget the Awards Dinner, Tuesday, December 2 at Bridgeview. Hope you all can attend.

Mary & Kathy



Nick's Notes

UW Research Explores Why Leaves Turn Red in Autumn.

Excerpts from the UW Master Gardener Hort Info Web Page

While the blazing red colors of autumn are one of nature's most beautiful phenomena, until recently the purpose behind this show has been a mystery. The red pigments, called anthocyanins, are produced in the leaves of many species during autumnal senescence, which is the time when photosynthetic components are dismantled and foliar nutrients, particularly nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P), are transferred from leaves to perennial portions of the plant for storage. The recovery of these nutrients, termed resorption, significantly affects plant growth and fruiting the following year, and is therefore important to plant fitness.

Because senescence can lead to greater vulnerability to damage from bright light, and that anthocyanins have been shown to be effective at shading light in foliage, we hypothesized that anthocyanins in autumn are produced to protect leaves from bright light that may otherwise damage the photosynthetic system. Protecting the photosynthetic system in autumn is important to the plant because a constant supply of energy is needed to support the many processes of senescence and to drive the translocation stream that carries nutrients out of the leaf. This idea is termed the resorption protection hypothesis.

Previous theories have generally viewed the development of anthocyanins in autumn leaves as being coincidental. For example, a common explanation has been that sugars become trapped in senescing leaves and that these sugars are then converted to anthocyanins. Other descriptions have suggested that anthocyanins are present throughout the growing season and only become visible in autumn as chlorophyll levels decline. In fact, anthocyanins are produced midway through the senescence process and foliar sugar levels decline drastically during senescence.

We tested the resorption protection hypothesis using mutants of species that normally produce anthocyanins during senescence, but were unable to produce these pigments due to the mutation. Mutants of three species were used: redosier dogwood, *Cornus sericea* (L.), Elliott's

blueberry, *Vaccinium elliotii* (Chapm.) and Sargent Viburnum, *Viburnum sargentii* (Koehne). Paper birch, *Betula papyrifera* (Marsh), was also included in the study to compare the nutrient resorption of a species that does not produce anthocyanins in autumn foliage.

Findings are consistent with other observations of autumnal anthocyanins, such as the large amount of anthocyanins produced in leaves exposed to full sunlight while leaves shaded within the canopy of a plant produce fewer or no anthocyanins during senescence. Also consistent with the resorption protection hypothesis are observations of higher levels of anthocyanins produced during senescence in plants native to regions where cold temperatures are common in autumn. Cold temperatures reduce the capacity of plants to utilize light energy and therefore compound the effects of bright-light stress in leaves during senescence. Thus, the shading provided by anthocyanins would be expected to be of greater benefit in cold climates. – *Dr. William A. Hoch**, *Dr. Eric L. Singaas#* and *Dr. Brent H. McCown**
**Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Master Gardener Board Meeting

Master Gardener Board Meeting

October 7, 2008

Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Daniels, Bob Potter, Ken Hawk, Linda Werner, Marge Bolding, Nick Schneider, Linda Tobey, Stan Meyer, Marge Menacher, Sue Bohn, Audrey Ruedinger, Jerry Robak

Treasurer's Report

During the month of September 2008, income totaled \$1,567. Expenditures were \$58.50. The total in checking as of September 30, 2008 was \$12,782.61. The total of all accounts was \$18,034.07. Ken Hawks made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Bob Potter seconded it. The report was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 2, 2008 Board meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Presentation

Jerry Robak, leader of the Octagon House project, was present to update the Board on progress with the project. Working with the Neenah Historical Society, the MG volunteers researched appropriate plant materials for a late 19th century garden and Anne Ross developed a design that was presented to the Historical Society Board. In response, Jerry received an email stating that the design was unofficially approved but that the Society would not provide funds at this time or support any major fundraising effort for the project. However, there are some members of the Society who may be interested in making a donation for the project. To complete the plan as designed would cost about \$35,000. Jerry has proposed doing the project in phases and will be in further discussion with MG volunteers and the Society about this approach. He suggested perhaps starting with the kitchen garden next year using some MG project funds and hopefully some matching funds from the Society.

OLD BUSINESS

Park View Parade

Bob Potter said the parade was very nice. He helped transport patients in wheelchairs to the parade site. Bill Weber and John Procknow were in the parade and other MG volunteers were present as well. The patients were very appreciative.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections

Audrey Ruedinger has made a few calls about the vacant vice president and secretary positions, but hasn't found any candidates yet. She will continue to make calls. Sue Bohn said she would work with the new vice president during the transition.

Name Badges

Kathy Daniels checked the price of Wisconsin shaped name badges, which are \$6.75 each. The ones WCMGA gets from the state are \$6.50. After discussion, it was decided to stay with the official state MG name badges for now. It may be possible to put a magnet fastener on the back instead of a pin.

Class Update

Nick Schneider reported that the basic class is going very well. He asked for some guidelines on how to thank/reimburse guest speakers. Those who come from a distance expect mileage, but cannot accept a speaker's fee if they work for the state. Some have a set fee and sometimes an honorarium is appropriate. A thank you note

should always be sent. This issue was referred to the Education Committee to develop guidelines for speaker compensation.

Hours & Membership Renewal

Linda Tobey reported that MG volunteer hours have been sent to the state. She passed out copies of a spreadsheet showing cumulative hours for each member. Linda Tobey gave Linda Werner the information to order award discs and plaques for the December meeting.

Habitat for Humanity Planting

Kathy Daniels said Habitat for Humanity has asked for two MG volunteers to oversee landscaping at one of their houses on First Street in Menasha on October 11, starting at 8 a.m. Joe Wichman had previously volunteered but a certified MG is still needed to work with him and volunteers from Affinity Health System. Marge Bolding volunteered to make some calls to try to find a certified volunteer.

Business Meeting Program

Sue Bohn said she has received about half of the project reports. Four presentations are scheduled for the October business meeting so far. Curt Reese will give a PHA report after the end of the year when all of the stats are in.

November Board Meeting Date

Because of Election Day on November 4, it was decided to move the next Board meeting to Tuesday, November 11, at 5 p.m. prior to the regular business meeting.

Committee Reports

Scholarships: Marge Menacher

reported on her research on how to implement a scholarship program. Oshkosh North High School doesn't set-up funds. Everything goes through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. To do that, it is necessary to establish an acorn fund which requires a substantial sum before anything can be paid out of it. There is also a charge of 1 – 1.5% of whatever the scholarship amount is for administering the fund.

Fox Valley Technical College has its own scholarship program. It would involve filling out a form to establish guidelines for eligibility. Items that can be specified include: academic performance, residency, financial need, and program. It could also be restricted to tuition and books or a cash award. Two retired horticulture instructors and Jim

Beard would review the applications. Scholarship winners receive their grants at an awards ceremony in which MG could participate. Once the criteria are set, FVTC manages the program without charge.

Generally, it was felt FVTC is a good fit for what MG wants to accomplish with a scholarship program. There was discussion on whether a scholarship should be limited to horticulture students only or also include other departments such as agriculture or natural resources. Marge Menacher will find out how many are enrolled in the one and two-year horticulture programs and the approximate cost of books and report back to the Board. Alice Graf is also talking to UW-O about how their scholarships are handled.

Proposed Project: The Town of Rushford built a new town hall and has asked MG about taking on landscaping it as a project. Plans are still indefinite but a rain garden and some perennials are likely to be included. The Board agreed to introduce the idea at the business meeting to assess interest. Rushford has some funds and people who will donate perennials and work on the project. It is a one-time installation. The town will take care of ongoing maintenance. This project will start this fall if possible and finish next spring. Linda Werner made a motion to present the Town of Rushford landscaping project to the membership to assess interest. There will be no commitment of MG funding at this time. Audrey Ruedinger seconded the motion and it was approved. Sue Bohn will bring up this project at the November business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by,
Linda Werner
Secretary
September 2, 2008
Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Master Gardener Business Meeting

October 14, 2008
Coughlin Center, 6:15 p.m.

Present: Stanley Meyer, Linda Baeten, Steve Schueler, Arlene Kosanke, Bob Kosanke, Ken Hawk, Betty Kuen, Janet Priebe, Marge Bolding, Linda Loker, Dorothy Bonnin, Bob Potter, Rosemary Smith, Karen Wedde, Anne Murphy, Anne M. Ross, Dorothy Gayhart- Kunz, Linda

Werner, John Procknow, Audrey Ruedinger, Joni Pagel, Cindy Meszaros, Jerry Robak, Marge Menacher, Marti Norton, Pat Behm, Maurice Fisher, Sue Bohn, Marty Sacksteder, William Weber, Ivan Placko

Treasurer's Report

During the month of September 2008, income totaled \$1,567. Expenditures were \$58.50. The total in checking as of September 30, 2008 was \$12,782.61. The total of all accounts was \$18,034.07. The report was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 9, 2008 business meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Park View Parade

Bob Potter reported that the Park View parade went very well. There was a good showing of MG's and other organizations. Bill Weber and John Procknow were among those who rode in an open convertible in the parade. An additional convertible has been lined-up for next year, so more MG volunteers would be most welcome. Pictures were taken and will be sent to the MG historian.

MG Apparel

Marty Sacksteder took orders through the end of the business meeting and then sent in the order.

Presentations

Ken Hawk: Ken is the lead on the Park View prairie project. This project has a long history. It was started by Carlton and Marian Schneider in the 1980's. Most of the plants in the prairie were donated. In the last few years, MG's have been gathering seeds for replanting; mainly grasses. The prairie now provides a continuous season of color. 95 plants have been identified in the prairie. They are marked by stakes with numbers that correspond to a posted listing of names. It is difficult to keep this ID system totally up-to-date because some plants die-out or die back and others take their place throughout the season. Invasive species control is part of each year's efforts as the prairie is surrounded by turf grass. There is a spring and fall clean up each year. The grasses are left standing for the winter for texture and animal food. Some seed heads are selectively

removed to prevent more prolific plants from taking over the prairie. Additional help is always welcome.

Bob Potter: Bob is the lead for the Paine Gardens. The theme for 2008 was the "impressionist figure." Softer colors predominated. The year starts with a spring clean up in April. The process of building new gardens and beds begins after that. The bulbs come up at the end of April. There are often school tours. The spring festival is held in May (MG has a booth and sells worm castings) and the bulb sale. After the bulbs are out, the annuals are planted. This year there was a big variety and more grasses. 82 containers were also planted. The heavy rains in June washed out sod in the wedding garden and made it necessary to replant. Over the summer, the work involves weeding, watering, and deadheading. Four or five weddings are held at the Paine each weekend in the summer. Next week, volunteers will plant 9,000 bulbs. More volunteers are always needed.

Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz: Dorothy is the lead of the farmer's market project. MG has a booth at the market on Saturday mornings throughout the season. 22 MG volunteers staff the booth in groups of four. There are some special events such as pumpkin decorating and children's day in which MG participates. The MG's answer questions and provide informational materials. Dorothy said it is an enjoyable experience and the volunteers always learn something.

Mary Wiedenmeier and Kathy Daniels: Mary and Kathy took on an individual project to improve an interior courtyard at Lourdes High School. The courtyard has existed since 1959 but had been just a grassy area until about three years ago when a grant was received to do some hardscaping and landscaping. This spring, an additional grant was received to put in some perennials. Mary and Kathy didn't have input on the plant materials selected. Some were already planted when they started and some had to be moved to better spots. Once everything was planted, maintenance continued throughout the season. From now on, all new plant materials will have to be donated.

Linda Loker: Linda is the lead on an individual project to landscape and maintain plantings at St. Raphael's Church in Oshkosh. This project is now in its third year. Linda coordinates other MG volunteers and parish volunteers in planting, maintaining, and watering the beds from spring through fall. In the first year, she designed two new

major flowerbeds. Parishioners have been very complimentary.

Jerry Robak: Jerry is the lead on the new Octagon House project in Neenah. Jerry and other MG's have been working with the Neenah Historical Society to come up with landscape plan for the area around the home. MG's researched late 19th century garden design and plants and then Anne Ross created a master plan with a budget of about \$35,000. The Society liked the plan and "unofficially" approved it, but does not want to use their funds or solicit funds for it. Jerry said the volunteers are open to doing the project in phases and will talk with the Society about doing a small piece next year. He will see if they are willing to match a grant of \$300 to \$500 from WCMGA.

Bill Weber: Bill is the lead for the Park View cutting gardens project. The project started in April by planning which annuals to plant. Plant materials were purchased and some were also donated by Oshkosh North High School. The end result was a very nice garden that the residents appreciated very much. They took the cut flowers back to their rooms and dining hall. MG volunteers from this project alternated with MG volunteers from the Park View vegetable garden project on watering duties. More volunteers will be needed next spring.

Habitat for Humanity

Carole Dorsch and Joe Wichman led a team of volunteers to landscape a new Habitat home in Menasha on October 11. Joe reported to Kathy Daniels that they dug sod and mulched in addition to planting. The project took four to five hours and a lot was accomplished.

Rushford Town Hall—Potential Project

Sue Bohn received a request from the Town of Rushford for MG assistance in landscaping the new town hall. Rushford has a proposal that would include a rain garden and prairie plantings. They also have some volunteers who can help with the work. Sue requested that anyone interested in the project sign up with her after the meeting. She will meet with town representatives to gather more details.

Basic Classes

Nick Schneider reported that the new classes are going well. There have been some good guest speakers and a wide variety of content.

Golden Trowel Award

Audrey Ruedinger is accepting nominations for the 2008 Golden Trowel Award. Nominees need to be certified and have contributed five years of service.

Membership

The new membership booklet is being finalized and will be available at the November business meeting or the December awards meeting.

Officer Elections

Audrey Ruedinger reported that Steve Schueler has accepted nomination for the vice president position and Linda Baeten for the secretary position. Ken Hawk and Bob Potter have agreed to accept new terms on the Board. Elections will be held at the November meeting.

Awards Dinner

The annual awards dinner and Christmas party will be held at Bridgewood in Neenah on December 2. Invitations will go out when the menu choices are available.

November Board Meeting

The November Board meeting has been moved to 5 p.m. on Nov. 11, prior to the regular business meeting. The usual meeting date is Election Day.

State MG Association

Arlene and Bob Kosanke will attend a face-to-face meeting of state representatives and have an update at the next Board meeting.

Sympathy was extended to Alice Graf and her family on the loss of her mother-in-law. The Sunshine Committee was asked to send a sympathy card.

Submitted by,
Linda Werner, Secretary

MG BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER

**Pat Behm, Dorothy Bonnin, Sandy Giessen,
Lawanda Jungwirth, Arlene Konsanke,
Cindy Meszaros, Barb Kuhn, Anne Murphy**



What Am I?" by Bruce Abraham

I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Asteraceae**; Genus **Aster**. I am found only in a prairie habitat. Considered one of the toughest plant of my family, I can be found in very poor soil conditions – many times along roadsides. My height is 1' – 5', blooming from August through November. As a young plant I have a rather spindly, single stem that is sparsely branched. As a mature plant, I have multiple stems which create a shrubby appearance. My stems are green with small white hairs, but the stems typically turn brown and become leaf-bare as I age. My leaves are alternate; oblong with smooth margins about 4" long by ½" wide at my base. The leaves are smaller along the length of my stem from the base. My leaves also have tiny white hairs that give me a frost-like appearance. My ½" – ¾" diameter flowers are daisy-like with white ray florets (sometimes ranging from pink or lavender) each with a yellow center that turns reddish over time. My nectar is favored by many types of bees, butterflies, flies, and wasps. Since I am one of the last plants to remain in flower before the first hard/killing frost, I am a significant source of nutrition for many of these insects. What Am I?

News from Park View Flower Arranging

Great news!! We had 17 winners out of 30 floral entries at the Winnebago County Fair. Six were first place winners and 3 at second place--isn't that wonderful!! I'm so grateful for the MG volunteers who helped that day and the many other Mondays throughout the summer. Many brought in flowers from their own gardens and also picked some from the beautiful cutting gardens by the former Park View building.

Special thanks to Dorothy Bonnin, Kathy Daniels, Sandra Gollhofer, Dawn Kent, Arlene Kosanke, Marge Menacher, Marti Norton, and Janet Priebe for all the lovely and unique bouquets they made!

Christmas Bouquets:

On December 8th (Monday) at 10:00 and 2:00, we've been asked to arrange Christmas floral decorations with the residents. The staff will provide the flowers and foliage to put together. We just need to bring in a wire cutter to cut apart the artificial ones. Eight people have signed up so far. More are welcome to assist. Call Pat at 410-3290 or sign up at the November meeting.

Tansy can be invasive

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Tansy is a 2' – 5' tall fern-leaved herb with yellow button-like flowers atop stiff stems. It has a slightly unpleasant scent that is useful for repelling cucumber beetles from squash, pumpkins, zucchini, and cucumber plants. It also repels ants, potato beetles, flea beetles, cabbage worms, and Japanese beetles. Flowers stems can be hung upside down to dry and are often used in dried arrangements. The flowers dry to a rich golden color.



In the past, tansy was used medicinally, but not so much anymore since it can cause violent reactions and even death. Its peppery tasting leaves are still used sparingly in salads, scrambled eggs, omelets, herb butters and stuffing for poultry and fish.

Tansy is native to Europe but has been naturalized in North America from Nova Scotia and Ontario to Minnesota, Missouri and North Carolina, and has somehow skipped to Oregon and Nevada.

Tansy should always be planted in a container sunk into the ground. It spreads in two ways: by underground rhizomes, hence the sunken container, and by seeds which are spread by wind or water.

The plant does well in any type of garden soil, which explains its success as an invasive weed. Control of tansy is done by digging up plants and mowing prior to flowering, re-mowing as necessary to prevent seed set.

At present, tansy is considered an "invasive plant of lesser concern." I have not seen it become invasive locally yet (although it did somehow jump from my backyard garden all the way to my front flower bed). I've seen it growing profusely in the U.P. in a city park in Escanaba and also along the highways in Western Ontario.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH Chrysanthemums



Perennial Chrysanthemums

Chrysanthemums are just about the easiest of all of the perennials to grow. They should be planted in early spring after all danger of freezing, however they can be planted almost any time, as long as they have time to establish their root system before the hottest weather. They grow best and produce the most flowers if planted in full sunshine, and respond to plenty of food and moisture.

There are hundreds of varieties of chrysanthemums, giving you the options of height, color, flower size and time of bloom, so you can pick and choose to fit your needs when you visit the nursery. In northern climates it is wise to purchase the earlier bloomers.

Planting Mums

Chrysanthemums can be started as seeds, cuttings, divisions, or purchased at a nursery as bedding plants up to gallon sized plants. They should be planted into well prepared, fertile, sandy soil. They resent "wet feet" so the hole should be dug deeply. I would recommend that you not grow your mums in the same spot for more than three consecutive years to help prevent disease and pest problems. The plants should be spaced 18-30 inches apart for best results. Feed lightly every 2 weeks with a good balanced all purpose fertilizer. When the plants are 6 inches tall, pinch about 3/4 of an inch from each branch to promote more blooms and bushier plants. When they reach a foot tall, pinch them again. On the largest flowering types it is best to remove all buds except for the one on top.

Master Gardener Project of the Month 2008 Park View Prairie Annual Report



The Park View Prairie, a Sanctioned Core project, began as part of the Zboray Nature Center in 1984. The Nature Center was named after the then Park View Health Center Administrator Donald Zboray when he retired. The Prairie, as part of the Nature Center, was developed as a prairie plant identification area by Carlton and Marion Schneider who took on the prairie project at the request of Marty Schnyder of the Winnebago Highway Department. They, along with area garden clubs, had all worked together on a highway 41 prairie project.

From the beginning, as is the case today, the majority of the plants in the Prairie are donated. A few have been purchased and for the past two years prairie grasses such as Little Bluestem and Indian Grass have been started from seed gathered at the Prairie and transplanted into the Prairie.

Once again the small Park View Prairie has provided continuous color throughout the growing season. The early blooming lavender to purple Pasque Flower was the first color noticed in April. Summer brought the yellows of Coreopsis, Rosin Weed, Cup Plant, Rudbeckias, Compass Plant and others. While yellows were abundant, the rich purples of Ironweed and Coneflower, vibrant oranges of Butterfly Weed and Prairie Lily, lavender monarda and wild petunia, creamy white of Gentian, and intense blue of Larkspur provided color accents. In late summer and early fall the asters in shades of lavender, purple, and white added to the prairie palette of color. Throughout the year grasses added their color and form to the Prairie. The graceful movement and subtle red flowers of Switchgrass, bronze flowers of Indian Grass, and tall waving Big Bluestem are a few of

the prairie grasses included in the Park View Prairie plant inventory.

Ninety-five prairie plants have been identified in the Park View Prairie and the identification guide updated. Many plants are located with numbered stakes corresponding to the identification guide. The identification stakes and guide are one of the continual efforts in maintaining and improving the Park View Prairie. The Prairie is continually changing as varieties are added, some move, others that are annuals or biennials die out and may or may not reseed.



Invading species control is another continual effort in prairie maintenance. Early in the year cool season turf grasses had seed heads removed to slow down their spread. Throughout the year buckthorn, honeysuckle, Queen Anne's Lace and various weeds were removed. Paved surfaces at the edges of the Park View Prairie were kept vegetation free by a generous application of Roundup as a housekeeping measure. Spring and fall cleanups were also part of the housekeeping efforts. In the spring debris was picked up and dead plant material removed. In the fall heavier stalks and plants were removed leaving the grasses to provide winter texture, a source of bird and animal food, and to add to the prairie grass seed bank. Adding donated plants from member gardens, path maintenance, watering new plantings, and selected seed head removal rounded out our Park View Prairie activities for this year.

Kenneth Hawk – Project Chair

NOVEMBER GARDEN TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- Last call for transplanting hardy perennials
- Put your clay pots, trellises, tomato cages, etc. Into storage
- WINTERIZE YOUR WATER GARDEN
- After the ground has been frozen (around Thanksgiving) Cover your Roses with fresh top soil (do not use soil from the area in which they are planted) and top with sawdust if available.
- Cover garden areas with mulch only after the soil is frozen.
- Rake leaves and clean all plant debris from lawn and gardens.
- Wrap the trunks of young trees.
- Cut grass short to prevent mice and voles from making nests.
- Apply 2" layer of mulch **after** the ground is frozen.
- Do Not cut back foliage from asparagus until it is totally yellowed and died back .The foliage is required to produce food for next years growth.
- Do not mulch Iris. Mulching could promote root rot.
- Finish bulb planting
- Place evergreen branches over your rock garden.
- Cut back Everlasting Raspberries
- Store dried Tubers/Rhizomes and corms in dry peat moss and place in a cool dry basement (40 degrees) for the winter.
- Do Not prune roses now. Pruning now will promote growth at a time when we are trying to have them go dormant.

DO NOT ADD FERTILIZERS OR COMPOST TO YOUR GARDENS NOW, WE DO NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO PROMOTE GROWTH. IT'S TIME TO SLEEP.

FEED WELL IN THE SPRING.



ENJOY THE WINTER !!

Master Gardener of the Month

Linda Tobey

I have been a Master Gardener since 2002. When I began class to be a Master Gardener it was with the thought that I would have minimal involvement and learn about plants.

I did learn about plants and working with others in a garden setting. I had always, as most of us have, been a lone gardener. I communed with nature and let my creativity and thoughts flow as I worked, but the ideas and help from others was nonexistent, until MG's.

My first project was Park View where I worked with Audrey, John and a couple of other members who have since moved out of the area. It was a wonderful experience. We worked and talked and hours flew by. My love for MG's was born on that day.

I went to meetings and got to know what was happening in the group. The dynamic at the time was a little odd, but it was the group. I was asked to represent our newer member's ideas on the OAC Committee (the fore runner of our Board) and learned much more about what was going on.

It so happened that our President at the time, Louann Hendershot, had to leave the Presidency early because of personal reasons. I was asked by her to finish her term, I won't fool myself into thinking that she felt I was so wonderful that I was her natural selection. Reality was, I think, that no one else wanted to take it on. My enthusiasm for MG's made me say yes and away I went.

Five years and lots of changes later I stepped aside for our new dynamic duo, Mary and Kathy. These ladies are wonderful examples of members taking hold and making things happen.

I can only tell you all about my time as a Master Gardener in hopes you might listen and start to become more involved in the group. Please don't be afraid to step out of your box. I can assure you that no one in the group wants to see another fail and they are always there to lean on when needed. Believe me; if I can get this involved with the group so can you. I just had to let go of my fear of getting out there and do it. If this old grandma with a hoe can do it so can you. Try it you'll see.

Emeritus Status

We would like to **welcome** Mary Ginkie to our Emeritus membership in 2009. Mary has been an involved member since 1999. Mary's greatest enjoyment has been working with Marlene in flower arranging. Mary may still join the group arranging flowers when she wishes to. All Emeritus members are welcome to join in with anything they would like to.



Another mention on the Emeritus topic is from our wonderful inspiration John Procknow. John, although an Emeritus member, worked 109 1/2 hours in 2008. John started with the group in 1994 and will celebrate his 92nd birthday this December. Bravo - John

MASTER GARDENER ELECTIONS

This November looks to be election month everywhere. On November 11th just one week after our national elections we will have our MG elections.



This year we will be seeking to fill the positions for offices of Vice President and Secretary. These are two important positions and if you are at all interested in being part of the direction setting force of the group please contact Audrey Ruedinger at 231-5745 or email to aud@vbe.com to throw your hat into the ring.

What am I Answer:

I am an erect, perennial forb/herb- **Aster pilosus Willd**, common name: frost aster, awl aster, hairy aster, white old-field aster



References: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/> and associated links

A garden is a link to the passing seasons.



Sheryl London

NOVEMBER 2008

(USE THIS CALENDAR TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR 2009 HOURS)

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|---|-------------|--|-----|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 Election Day  | 5 CLASS | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 VETERANS DAY Board meeting -5:00 & Business Meet 6:15  | 12 CLASS | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 CLASS | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 CLASS | 27 THANKSGIVING  | 28 | 29 |

This calendar is a perfect spot to keep track of your 2009 hours.