

Winnebago County Master Gardener November 2012

Volunteer Newsletter

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.

Presidents' Letter

It is that time of year again to put our gardens to bed for the winter. I love the fall colors but know soon enough winter will be here again. It's still not too late to plant some bulbs if you have them. My husband loves to plant bulbs and I am surprised every spring at what comes up and where!

A big thank you goes out to Marge Menacher for arranging our bus trip to Growing Power in Milwaukee. Nothing goes to waste at their greenhouses and fish raising tanks! We had a great lunch in Cedarburg and after a little shopping went on to Johnson's Gardens to Mike Yanney talk to us about some of the perennials, shrubs, and trees they grow around the nursery.

Mr. Yanney will be the featured speaker at our Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams seminar on February 2. Mark your calendars!

Dani Stolley will be speaking to us on "Growing Oshkosh" at our business meeting on November 13th at 5:30 p.m. For further information you can google Growing Oshkosh. We also will be having our board and officer elections at this meeting.

We would like to have speakers at our meetings in January, February, and March. So if anyone has any suggestions please let Mary or I know. This is a great way to pick up some continuing education hours.

Mary and Linda

Mark the Date!

6:00 pm

Tuesday, December 4

Annual Awards Dinner

Full information on last page

Advisor's Note

The temperature is turning colder and like it or not winter is right around the corner. As we all know Wisconsin winters can be harsh, which in return can be difficult on our landscape plants. Instead of waiting until spring to see what the damage might be, take steps now to protect your trees and help minimize any injury.

We have all heard the terms "winter damage" or "winter injury". When we hear these terms it can include many types of damage, but the most common forms are sun scald, browning of evergreen foliage, and wildlife damage. Sunscald is characterized by elongated, sunken, dried or cracked areas of dead bark that may eventually split and peel back exposing sapwood underneath. What happens is on cold, but sunny days the bark of young trees is heated to a point where the cambial activity is stimulated. Then when there is a rapid cooling or drop in temperatures the active tissue is damaged. Young trees, newly planted trees, and thin-barked trees are the most susceptible with damage usually occurring on the south or southwest side of the trunk. Older trees are less subject to sun scald because the thicker bark can insulate dormant tissue from the sun's heat ensuring the tissue will remain dormant and cold hardy. Sun scald can be prevented by wrapping the trunk with sisal kraft paper, burlap, or other materials in the fall. Make sure to remove it in the spring after the last frost.

The browning of evergreen foliage can also be caused by the winter sun, but the wind can be an additional culprit. Damage to evergreen foliage in the winter, typically occurs in one of three ways. The winter sun and wind can cause transpiration while the roots are in frozen soil unable to replace lost water resulting in desiccation. Or on bright sunny days the tissues are warmed above ambient temperatures causing the cellular activity to be initiated. Then when there is a rapid drop in foliar temperatures, the foliage is damaged. In addition, during bright, cold winter days the chlorophyll in the foliage can be destroyed and not resynthesized when temperatures are below 28° F. In all cases the result is brown or bleached foliage. Winter injury in evergreens can be minimized by properly watering throughout the growing season and into the fall. Decrease watering slightly in September to encourage hardening off, then water thoroughly in October until freeze-up. Watering only in late fall does not help reduce injury.

Mice, rabbits, and other rodents can also cause severe damage to trees in the winter. They can girdle trees by scraping off the bark to the cambial layer at or near ground level. Trees can be protected by placing a cylinder of ¼" mesh hardware cloth around the trunk. Or put plastic drainpipe around the trunk. The guards should extend two inches below the soil line (as long as they don't damage roots) for mice and 18- 24 inches above the anticipated snow line for rabbit protection. Guards should be removed or reinstalled each spring to prevent girdling.

Winter injury is a concern associated with our winters, but certain steps can be taken to help alleviate it. Keep in mind that while not all injuries will kill your tree, they can create conditions that weaken your tree making them more susceptible to drought, insects, or disease. Therefore, taking the time to keep your trees in the healthiest state possible will help eliminate problems down the road.

Kimberly

What Am I ??

by Jane Kuhn

I am a perennial, evergreen subshrub, an herb, with woody stems, growing to approximately two feet tall and wide. My leaves are oblong, ranging in size up to 2.5 inches long by one inch wide, grey-green in color, rugose on the upper side, and nearly white on the underside due to many short soft hairs. Modern cultivars include leaves with purple, rose, cream, and yellow in many variegated combinations. My blue to lavender flowers appear in late spring or summer. All parts of my plant have a strong, scented odor and a warm, bitter, somewhat astringent taste, due to the volatile oil contained in my tissues. I have a long history of medicinal and culinary use and in modern times as an ornamental garden plant. I have become well known and used during the Thanksgiving holiday.

I succeed best in a sunny and somewhat dry location but will grow almost anywhere in ordinary garden soil. Although I am a perennial, I do not last more than three or four years without degenerating, so my plants should be renewed at least every four years. I am propagated occasionally by seed but more frequently by cuttings. I am also propagated by layers, the branches of old plants being pegged down on the ground and covered with ½ inch of soil. Each of the stems covered will produce rootlets and can subsequently be cut away from the old plant and transplanted as a separate plant.

UW-Extension Fact Sheets

A compilation of University of Wisconsin Garden Facts is available on CD. The CD includes all currently available fact sheets (i.e., all insect, disease and general horticulture titles) in both Microsoft Word and PDF formats. The cost of the CD for the general public is \$20 + shipping and handling (roughly \$3.00), and \$15 + shipping and handling for Master Gardener Volunteers. If you are interested in receiving a CD, contact Brian Hudelson at bdh@plantpath.wisc.edu.

These make great Christmas gifts for the avid gardeners among your family and friends. Anybody may order these.

Please note the price difference between MGV's and non-MGV's.

Flower Arranging Dates

(All are Mondays, 1:30@Park View)
November 19 --Flowers from Garden Gate

December 3 -- Christmas arrangements
(Please bring your wire cutters and pruners.)

Next year's dates are:

January 28

March 25

April 22

May 20

June 17

July 15

July 29 (the county fair bouquets)

August 12

September 23

October 7

November 18

December 2

Did You Know ?

Cranberries are one of just three major fruits native to North America. Blueberries and Concord grapes are the other two. Wisconsin produces more of this fruit than any other state and it is the official state fruit. It is also the state's number one fruit crop, both in acres planted and in contribution to the state's economy.

Share Your Favorite Places!

What are your favorite public gardens? What is your favorite place to shop for the best selection of plants or the best deals? The Education Committee wants to know! We would like to plan more one-day trips to special Wisconsin gardens and growers. We have a few ideas, but are sure you can give us even more. Because we want the trips to be doable in one-day, we are looking for places within three hours of the Fox Valley. If you have some suggestions, please email them to Roy Anne Moulton at royanne@new.rr.com. Thank you!

OSHKOSH SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET-THANK YOU June, July, August and September-2012

A big thank you goes out to all who volunteered for the Farmers Market. We are in the process of reorganizing the market and will keep you posted. Anyone wishing to help out please let us know. We are thinking of possibilities: we could be at the market twice a month instead of every Saturday. We could have several alternate pairs of MGs who set up every Saturday. We could simplify what we have on display with a theme of the week and handouts for that theme, have a file of handouts that are most asked for like tomato problems, composting etc. And continue to sell worm castings and garden books. Keep it simple for easy set up. We have few questions in September so we could eliminate that month and meet in June, July, and August.

We helped 300 kids plant flowers on Kids Day in June and they also made clothespin butterflies. Thank you to Lil Hanish, Patty Schmitz, Synda Jones, Becky Chuhart, Mary Wiedenmeier, Bob Potter, Pat Behm, Mary Haave, Janet Priebe and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz. Cost runs around \$100 from our budget. We do not feel we want to do this type of a project more than once a summer. It's fun but a lot of work. A lot of bending over!

During the summer we had these Master Gardeners at our booth: Sandra Golligher, Bob Potter, Barb Spellman, Patty Schmitz, Synda Jones, Linda Christonson, Ken Hawk, Dorothy Bonnin, Lil Hansche, Betty Chirhart, Mary Wiedenmeier, Pat Behm, Mary Haave, Linda Loker, Joni Pagel, Sue Egner, Marge Bolding, Kat Gore, Debbie Quant, Mary Willadsen, Kurt Reese, Betty Kuen, Dorothy Bonnin, Judy Lucas, Cheryl Decker, Marge Bolding, Julie Miller, Dara Sitter. (Hope I got everyone.) Thank you for all your hard work.

Master Gardeners answer questions, pass out handouts, tell about our Hotline Number, tell about our MG group (how to become a MG) and sell worm castings and garden books. Hours can be counted as education hours or volunteer hours. You can earn 5 hours (7:30 AM to 12:30 PM) plus travel time when you volunteer. We moved across the street and were on Main and Church this summer. We always have a great time and we are visible to the public as a garden information site.

This was our 7th year at the market!

Janet Priebe and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz Co-Chairs

Ornamental Grasses Shine in Fall

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Ornamental grasses can play a part in the summer garden, filling space and providing vertical interest, but fall is when they come into their own. Many of them develop deep rust, golden, or brown colors and their seed heads can be lacy, plummy or stiff. When the trees have lost their leaves, the annuals have been hit by frost and the perennials have been cut back for winter, ornamental grasses put on their show.

Grasses are easy to care for once established. They can be grown from seed or purchased in pots for a quicker effect. Plant in spring after the last frost. Small grasses are placed close together, but larger grasses require 3-5 feet between plants. Water well after planting and until they become established.

Most grasses prefer full sun, but some tolerate shade. Once established, they require little maintenance. Mulch around the base of the plants with straw or leaves to get them through their first winter; after that they should do fine. Let the grasses stand through the winter to provide landscape interest, then cut them back to a few inches in late winter before new growth begins. A hedge trimmer can be used if there are just a few plants; a string trimmer works for a large number. Clumps should be divided every few years in early spring to keep them looking their best.

Here are a few native grasses that do well in Wisconsin.

- Big bluestem, has 4-8 ft. blue-green stems topped with flower clusters that look like turkey feet. In fall stems glow a bronzy reddish brown. It is suitable for prairie gardens, for massing in naturalistic settings, as specimen plants, or as background in a border.
- Side-oats grama gets its name from the way the purplish oat-like flowers hang downward from the side of its arching stalks. The summer foliage is gray-green and it changes to a warm straw color in fall. Growing just 2-3 feet tall, side-oats grama makes a good specimen plant in a rock garden, and is also good in a prairie setting. Birds eat the seeds in winter.
- Little bluestem is often used in commercial landscapes. The clumps of light green to blue foliage grow to 2-3 feet tall. The wiry stems are topped with silvery-white seedheads. The foliage is especially pretty in fall when it turns dark red. Little bluestem's small size makes it adaptable to many places in the landscape. It will work in mixed borders, along walkways, in foundation plantings and in prairie gardens. Flowerheads are used in dried arrangements.
- Pennsylvania sedge grows in tufts and is one of the first green plants you'll see in spring. Only 8-10 inches tall, clumps can be planted in small groupings in woodland gardens or shady rock gardens.
- Indian grass grows 5-7 feet tall. It blooms in late summer with bronzy yellow flowers followed by golden brown silky seed tassels. Fall stem color is golden yellow to dark orange to purple. Finches and sparrows enjoy the seeds all winter.

Answer to What Am I ?

I am kitchen sage. Order: Lamiales. Family: Lamiaceae (mint family). Genus: Salvia L – sage. Species: Salvia officinalis L. Common names: kitchen sage, common sage, garden sage, true sage, culinary sage. Besides the traditional use in stuffing, sage is used in sausage, soups, and vinegars. Fresh picked sage can be used to make wreaths or tussie-mussies. Sage has been used for various medicinal purposes since ancient times and in a recent trial was found to be effective in the management of mild to moderate Alzheimer’s diseases.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Are You an Early Christmas Shopper?

Are you one of those people who like to get their Christmas shopping done early? You can cross all the gardeners off your holiday shopping list by purchasing a copy of *Down the Garden Path with Lavanda* along with a bag of Wormiculite. See www.winnebagoastergardeners.org and click on WCMGA Fundraisers. Both items are available at most Winnebago County Master Gardener business meetings as well.

Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to didoug5@charter.net

Negative Space By Michael Yanny

That which is in between the stuff,
making the stuff stand out.

Negative space.

The atmosphere of creativity.

The sky in which the sun shines.

The field on which the game is played.

Negative space.

A nothing space that's everything.

It's the background that makes the stars shine.

It's the space between the letters of these words.

It's the roads that allow the cars to go.

It's the silence in between the notes.

It's the leaves between the flowers.

It's the grass between the trees.

It's the pauses.....in this poem.

Negative space.

We don't notice it but it makes us notice others.

It's the totally, unselfish - give it up for the other guy space!

Negative space.

It's not bad though,

not bad at all,

Not a negative in the way most of us think of negative.

No - negative space is absolutely, positively ---yes, positively wonderful!

If you notice it,

and make room.

Negative space !!!!!



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Board of Directors

Co-Presidents

Mary Shepard 235-9242

Linda Petek 233-5730

Co-Vice Presidents

Ivan Placko 721-9394

Jane Kuhn 231-3993

Secretary

Linda Baeten 232-1224

Treasurer

Sue Egner 231-1729

Members

Susan Bohn 685-0427

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Carole Dorsch 589-5936

Anne Murphy 379-7132

Audrey Ruedinger 231-5745

Roy Ann Moulton 886-1283

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Mary Wiedenmeier 426-0991

Kathy Daniels 233-0410

Alice Graf 203-8252

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	Kathy Daniels	233-0410
	Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Membership	Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	Sue Bohn	685-0427
SOP & Bylaw Committee	Ivan Placko	721-9394
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012



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
Humane Society Memorial Garden	Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Betty Kuen	558-9586
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
Habitat for Humanity Partnership	David Leonard	379-5860
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467
The Wild Center	Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991

**Winnebago County Master Gardeners
Business Meeting
October 9, 2012**

Meeting was called to order by Linda Petek, 5:30 pm

Guest speaker Dani Stolley was not able to be here tonight. We hope she will come next month to give us a presentation on Growing Oshkosh, a self sustaining community garden located near the Hooper Building in Oshkosh. Dani was trained by Will Allen of Grow Power in Milwaukee. Google "Growing Oshkosh" for more information.

Project Leads Reports:

Farmer's Market – Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz & Janet Priebe

Janet and Dorothy have been at the Farmer's Market booth every Saturday during the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. In addition to answering questions, worm castings, cook books, and handouts are available. They would like to train more volunteers and would like to meet with interested people to brainstorm what to do next year. There are no plans at this point to participate in the Winter Farmers Market.

- On Children's Day they planted 300 flower pots with kids.
- We had good weather and a new site this year. Operated in June, July and August.
- 2 main areas of interest are tomatoes and composting. Good place to meet the public.
- Volunteers earn 5.5 hours of education for being at the booth. Newcomers are welcome.

Lincoln Garden – Linda Christianson & Mary Haave

Flower beds by Lincoln school are maintained by Master Gardeners. This year they were able to get water from the house behind the garden. Volunteers operated a rotating schedule to water 1 x week. Some new members joined this year and some new plants were added. Damage from road construction had to be repaired. They plan to close the garden this week. This is a fun group, please join us.

Flower arranging – Pat Behm

About 12 times a year, on Mondays, the Flower Arranging group meets at Park View. They bring flowers from their own gardens and some from the Park View Cutting Gardens. The Garden Gate also offers flowers, and in summer, they have extra flowers from the Farmer's Market. Vases are available. They make bouquets with the residents to take back to their rooms. In August, bouquets are displayed in the Lobby. At Christmas time they use artificial flowers. 14 people are on the list and not everyone has to come every Monday. Join us. This is a very enjoyable and rewarding project.

Community Gardens – Ruth Freye

Ruth reported there are 15 Community gardens in Menasha, Appleton and Neenah. Each garden has a coordinator. Ruth is at the UW Fox Community Gardens where there are 24 gardeners. Ruth has 2 demonstration gardens. She has experimented with raised beds, lasagna gardening, a Heritage Garden and Strawberry Tier this year. Drought affected the gardens this year and production was down. A special crop this year was sweet potatoes. Ruth engaged the help of a young man who needed to do community service. She has plans to install 2 cold frames and developed a Sensory Garden at the Children's Center next door.

Treasurer report – Sue Egner

See handout on back of tonight's agenda. Sue explained income and expenses. All accounts as of 9/30/12 give us a total of \$16,220.11. We have 22 participants in the new class.

Secretary's Report – Linda Baeten.

September Business Meeting minutes were posted in the October Newsletter. The Board minutes are posted on the website. Linda has been working on the Membership List for 2013 and gathering information for the Membership booklet.

- A draft of the membership list was passed around so those present could check for errors. Almost 90 have signed up for 2013 and this does not include the new class. Linda plans to make some phone calls to those who may have forgotten to sign up.

State Representative report – Sue Bohn

Sue has been working on sending our report to the State for the Annual Report. She has contacted some of the Project Leads for information.

Education Committee – Audrey

Grants - Audrey reported that Roy Anne has applied for 3 grants from the State. We are only eligible for 2 of the 3 submitted:

- \$400 for materials to assist the After School Project
- \$250 for MG signs to be made at West High School
- \$100 for a shade canopy for the Farmers Market

Grow Power Trip - Marge Menacher has set up a trip to visit Will Allen's Grow Power in Milwaukee.

- Thanks to Lawanda for the article in the Oshkosh Northwestern.
- The tour will last 1 1/2 hours. Then on to Cedarburg for lunch and shopping.
- Michael Yanni of Johnson's Nursery will be in Cedarburg to give us a talk for about an hour.
- There are 20 spaces left on the bus at this time. Sign up forms are available. Feel free to call Marge. This trip is open to the public.

Officer Nominations – Mary Wiedenmeier

Linda Petek, Ivan Placko, and Mary Wiedenmeier are on the nominating committee searching for people interested in being an Officer or Board member. We will have an election November 13.

At this point we have:

Board Member Nominees: Curt Reese, Kathy Johnson, and Donna Kudlas.

The Secretary's Position is also available. This person would need to be available for Board and Business meetings. Anyone interested please step forward. We may have one person interested.

The Vice President's term is also due. Ivan and Jane will consider another term if no one else wants to run, but anyone interested should do so. Please contact Mary Wiedenmeier. Everyone is welcome to attend Board meetings held on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Golden Trowel Award – Linda Baeten

This award is given every year to a Master Gardener Volunteer at the annual awards dinner. Past recipients are listed in the membership booklet. The 3 most recent recipients arrange for the award.

John Procknow was our first recipient in 2003. Criteria are similar to that of being granted Emeritus Status: A recipient has to be:

Certified for 5 years, be an active member, and have held a board position or been a project lead.

Emeritus Members also need to have over 850 hours of service. If you have a suggestion for this award, contact Linda Baeten.

Master Gardener Apparel – Marty Sacksteder

See Marty if you want to order something. Order forms are available. She will turn the order in next week and have them at the next meeting. Kathy Daniels will keep articles that do not get picked up. Mail a check to Sue Egner or Marty.

UWEX Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award - Linda Petek

Kimberly and Linda felt many of our projects would be eligible for this award. This is an International Master Gardener search and recognition program. Many different categories are listed. See Linda Petek for more information and an application. The recipient this year would have to be available to accept the award at the International Convention in Alaska! Think about it, if not for this year, next year.

Other New Business:

Project Applications, Reports - Ivan reminded project leads that they don't have to re-apply for on-going projects, only for funding. However, please turn in your summary reports. Ivan named those projects that we would like to include in the Annual Report. Hand written is ok if you don't have the form.

Buckthorn – Sue Egner will host another Buckthorn event this Saturday at 931 Park Ridge, Oshkosh. Lunch is provided. Bring gloves and tools. We are meeting on the 20th also. Chain saws are welcome.

Wild Center Buckthorn removal – Linda Petek received an Email today regarding buckthorn removal at the Wild Center on Butte des Morts Beach Road, October 27, from 9 to noon.

Door prizes 6:50

Meeting Adjourned 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten, Secretary
Winnebago County Master Gardeners

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Board Mtg 6:00	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Bus Mtg 5:30	14	15	16	17
18	19 Flower Arranging at Parkview 1:30	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Flower Arranging at Parkview 1:30	4 Awards Dinner 6:00	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



YOU AND YOUR GUEST ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO
ATTEND WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION AWARDS BANQUET

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

6:00 pm Social (cash bar)

6:45 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Awards Program

Bridgewood Resort Hotel

1000 Cameron Way

Neenah, Wisconsin

Holiday Dinner Buffet will include Tossed Salad w/choice of dressing, Fresh Vegetable Tray, Pasta Salad, Vegetable Salad, Fresh Fruit Tray, Baby Red Potatoes, Cheese Tortellini With Boursin Alfredo Sauce, Chef's Choice of Vegetable, Homebaked Dinner Rolls, Sliced Roast Top Sirloin, Chicken Picatta, Parmesan Crusted Tilapia, Festive Holiday Desserts, and Coffee, Tea, Milk or Iced Tea

Please return NO LATER than Tuesday, November 27, 2012

Mail w/payment to: Linda Petek, 3845 Shorebird Court, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Make check out to: WCMGA

Your Name: _____ Guest Name _____

(Please Print)

Cost per person: \$17.00*

Amount Enclosed: _____

*Part of the cost per person is being covered by the Master Gardener Association.