



# Winnebago County Master Gardener

November 2013

## 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

I am still waiting for Indian Summer to arrive so I can finish my garden chores. I guess I am sort-of a fair weather gardener who does not like the recent weather to work in the garden!

A big thank you goes out to Don Brill for his presentation on English gardens at our October meeting. We were also happy to have Lori Brill (Don's wife) attend the meeting as well! Lori tolerates Don's gardening as long as he lets her visit the tearooms along the way!

At our business meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, Dani Stolley from "Growing Oshkosh" will be speaking to our group on the successes of their first year in operation and opportunities for volunteering. Hours that are worked can be counted towards your WCMGA volunteer hours. Lil Hansche has been putting in hours this past summer.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our annual awards dinner December 3 at Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center in Neenah. It's always a fun evening with fellow members of our group along with guests. There are always great door prizes and good food!

Please plan to attend our November business meeting so you can cast your ballot for President, Treasurer, and one board member at large. Any questions contact Jane Kuhn or Diana Dougherty.

Next time you are in the Coughlin Center be sure to check out the Display Case that Winnebago County Master Gardeners have put up. A thank-you to Linda Baeten and the office staff for helping with it! If you ever need any letters from the cricut machine cut - just ask Linda - she is an expert now!

Happy Thanksgiving,

*Mary and Linda*



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Don't forget the  
Awards Banquet on  
December 3 at  
Bridgewood Resort

...from our Advisor



This has turned out to be a really busy time for me. I apologize for not being able to do more than wish everyone a wonderful fall and Thanksgiving!



*Kimberly Miller*

## What Am I?

by Jane Kuhn

I am a perennial, hybrid, cultivar which is valued for its early bloom, vertical lines and ability to grow in wet soil. I am a slow-spreading, clump-forming plant which grows to five feet in height and two feet wide. I am a cool season plant putting on most of my growth in spring before the temperatures begin to exceed 75 degrees F and in the fall when temperatures cool down. I maintain good color through the summer but won't grow much when it is hot.

I do best in full sun to part shade, well-drained soil and prefer moist soil and regular rain or irrigation but will tolerate heavier clay soils and drier sites. My shiny green leaf blades are 2 to 3 feet long and I have loose, feathery flowers atop my stems.

My plants can be divided in spring or early fall. I won't self-seed since my seeds are sterile. Since I look good even as the weather cools, my foliage can be left in place until spring and then as soon as the snow is gone, cut back leaving 1/3 of the plant in place.

My garden uses include as a mass, in a group or as a specimen. I provide excellent vertical accent for borders and in narrow places. I am showy and good as a cut flower and dried. I attract birds and provide winter interest in the garden. I tolerate erosion, black walnut trees and air pollution.

## **ELECTIONS!!**

At our November Business Meeting, we will be voting on several board office positions. The openings are for President, Treasurer, and 1 member at large position.

We invited the nominees to send their information to me for the newsletter. They will also speak at the November

### **Donna Kudlas** (running for General Member)

In Master Gardeners, I was certified in 1999 and recertified in 2011. I volunteer at the Parkview Gardens.

My maternal great grandmother, grandmother and mother loved gardening. My love of weeding began at an early age since my parents owned a garden center and I worked there growing up.

In spring, I work at Fernau's planting seedlings and retail. I just love plants !

I enjoy the Master Gardener organization and would work hard to serve it well as a board member.

### **Mary Shepard** (current co-President)

I grew up with a grandfather and father who loved gardening and the out-of-doors, and in spending time with them learned to love gardening as well. Science and technology are two other loves, and my education and career in corporate R&D positions led me to be able to explain highly technical subjects in accurate but understandable ways. I am a passionate believer in lifelong education.

I was in the MG Class of 2010 and totally enjoy the people, activities, and mission of the organization. I hope to continue to have the opportunity of working to make the group fun, inclusive, and focused on bringing horticultural education to all of our environmental and community projects. As a current co-president of the group, I would like to express my admiration and respect for all the terrific accomplishments of the organization. Thanks for your support.

### **Ginny Slattery** (running for President)

I completed the Master Gardening course and am part of the 2011 class. Since then, I've been involved with The Got Dirt teaching program, Parkview flower arranging, and the Lincoln garden.

I helped this summer to begin a new project at the Shaddock Park garden. I wrote, and have taught for two years a gardening course for young gardeners ( 4 year old pre-school through grade 2). I used some of the Got Dirt ideas but also incorporated several hands-on "get down and dirty" days. I plan on getting into my 3rd and 4th school in February and will, by the end of the 8 weeks of class, have taught between 150-175 children. This past May, with the help of Pat Behm, we shared many of the same ideas with an adult child care group at the Menasha Library.

I retired from teaching after 28 years in Wisconsin and Arizona. I have held offices in the past, in our parochial school district, and am a past president of a regional women's group.

**Sue Egner** (current Treasurer)

My name is Sue Egner and I am running for treasurer. I have been a Master Gardener for 4 years and the treasurer for the past 2 years. I'm the lead for buckthorn removal at North High Conservancy and have worked on many other projects. I would like to continue as your treasurer for 2 more years. Thank you.

**Kathy Gore** (running for Treasurer)

I worked at an insurance company in Neenah for 42 years. In the mornings, I worked in the accounting department processing premium payments and loans and in the afternoons I was the receptionist and answered the phones. Our policyholders were members of a chapter of which I was treasurer. In October of 2012 we were purchased by another insurance company and all 27 employees were out of jobs.

I am now employed at the Paine Art Center and Gardens as an assistant Gardner for seasonal help. I work planting, weeding and watering the gardens. Also, I help with special events like the May plant sale, the Nutcracker and other jobs. I love my job and everyone at the Paine.

I always wanted to take the Master Gardner class because I enjoy plants, and gardening. At the Oshkosh farmers market I stopped at the booth and talked to Nick and signed up. I am a graduate of class of 2012. I have learned so much and made so many new friends through this group.

I lived on a small farm west of Neenah for most of my life. Two years ago I moved to Oshkosh and I am still getting use to being a city person.

Thank you

Kathy Gore



## HUMANE SOCIETY MEMORIAL GARDEN (REFLECTIONS)

I wanted to give you an update on how the Master Gardeners did at the Humane Society Memorial Garden (Reflections) this season. The people of the OAHS continue to thank us for creating and maintaining a lovely garden for so many to enjoy. The workers, volunteers, visitors, and even the dogs that are walked enjoy the beautiful garden. Actually, the Master Gardeners feel the same way. Just the other day, one of our gardeners said something like, "I was happy to choose to come to the garden this morning for peace and serenity". Our gardeners this year are Julie and Matt Miller, Kathy Gore, Barb and Greg Mezera, David Bultman and Dara Sitter.

This year we planted annuals in shades of red. The salvia, celosia, and snapdragons are gorgeous. These blooms are complemented by the big blooming chrysanthemums we planted last year in one of the rock gardens - shades of red, orange and yellow. Earlier in the season moss roses bloomed constantly in white, pink, red, orange, yellow while lilies bloomed orange. Fall is lovely for the swaying grass seed heads and the purple asters.

This year we also planted more native perennials. Native plants in a traditional garden require patience and and commitment. Natives are not always the biggest brightest blooms, they tend to be tall and floppy, and they do take a few years to establish themselves. Of course, native plants also attract insects, including native bees and butterflies to the garden. Natives have deep root systems which allow them to not only adapt to poor soils and weather extremes, but also hold carbon and water. Natives provide food and shelter for wildlife. However, we do not have a pure native garden and so we are considering mixing some cultivars with the natives to fill in and enhance the blooming periods. For example, the native Monarda (Beebalm) is very fragrant and a light lavender shade. The stems unfortunately often suffer mildew. We could compliment the lavender colors with some cultivars that are more resistant to mildew as well as blooming in brighter and bolder shades of scarlet and red. The decision will be made next spring and until then we are listening to other gardeners opinions.

This year we have been writing up information about all the plants in the garden. We continue to edit the work and hope to place it in the garden by next spring so that gardeners and visitors alike can learn such things as the names, expectations and care for the garden plants and trees. We are also planning to expand to the entrance of the building. While there is a big parking lot between the garden and the building we would like to bring the garden to the door. We all know gardens and gardening enhance life, so we would like to enhance more. We would like to place a Winnebago County Master Gardener Project Sign in the garden when they are available.

Finally, it is my pleasure to announce that Julie and Matt Miller (920-233-8370 and 920-428-1923) will be taking over as project leaders for the OAHS garden next year. Looking forward to next spring already!

Dara Sitter  
920-420-0620



## BUCKTHORN ELIMINATION !

Buckthorn removal will start again on Sat. Nov.2. The Thursdays will start on Nov. 7th.  
Lunch will ready for you when you finish on Sat.  
Hope many of you will come out to help with this shortened season.

Thank you, Sue Egner 231-1729

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### Food For Thought....

Greetings to Everyone!

My name is Linda Loker and I am the Refreshment Coordinator for our membership meetings.

So many of you have been so very supportive, and your participation in signing up and providing treats each month is fantastic! I thank you so much for offering your time and talents.

Now I would like you to have some recognition for your efforts, as so often members want to know who brought a delicious treat and if the recipe is available for sharing.

Beginning with this newsletter, I will be submitting a recipe that was shared at a membership meeting. I would like your help with this. If you have brought food that requires a recipe, and wouldn't mind sharing it, please email the recipe to me at [lloker@att.net](mailto:lloker@att.net). If you have not yet brought a treat, but would like to sometime, please email me. This is an activity that can be counted as volunteer time on your hours sheet as well.

Again, I thank all of you, and count you among my blessings this Thanksgiving.

### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### Pear Delight

2 1/2 cups peeled, cored and sliced fresh pears

1 German Choc Cake mix (can use brownie mix)

1/2 cup butter

1/2 c coconut

Mix together until crumbly; pat into 9X13 pan. Bake 350 degrees for 12-15 min.

Place pear slices in a single layer over warm crust.

Sprinkle with mixture of 2 tsp cinnamon and 1/2 cup sugar

Combine 1 cup sour cream, 2 eggs and blend well.

Pour over pears.

Bake 350 degrees 40-45 min or until set and edges browned and bubbly.

(Note: Can substitute white cake mix and fresh peaches.)



## ***We are Lucky to Live in the Tension Zone!***

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

You wouldn't think that living in the "Tension Zone" would be a good thing, but those of us who live in Winnebago County do and are fortunate to do so.

In the 1950s, John Curtis, a botany professor at UW-Madison set out to classify the plant communities of Wisconsin. With help from his students, a description of Wisconsin's natural systems was developed.

If you've done any traveling at all in Wisconsin, you've certainly noticed that the north woods doesn't look anything like the open prairie grasslands of the southern part of the state.

Botanists have determined that there are two separate sets of plant species in Wisconsin, one in the south and the other in the north. The species found in the south are referred to as prairie forest flora and those in the north are called northern hardwoods flora. These plant species mark the edges of two of the major North American biomes: the eastern deciduous forest and the western grasslands. A biome is a major community of plants and animals with similar requirements of environmental conditions. In addition, the northern boreal forest biome reaches down from Canada into northern Wisconsin.

Of course, there isn't a definite demarcation where the northern species stop and the southern species start, but the overlap is narrower than you might think.

The overlap between the biomes is called the Tension Zone, and it ranges from only ten to as much as thirty miles wide. The Tension Zone begins in Polk County in the northwest part of Wisconsin, and then swoops down through the state toward the southeast, covering the counties surrounding Lake Winnebago. Then it makes a sharp right turn parallel to Lake Michigan, and ends in Racine County.

Living in the Tension Zone, we are blessed with a greater variety of native plant species than in any other part of the state. Where woodlands are left undisturbed, more native species of wildflowers abound than you will see in wooded areas north or south of the Tension Zone, even as close as Waushara County to the west or Shawano County to the north. The same is true of prairie species, in the few fragments of native prairie that remain.

What does living in the Tension Zone mean for us besides feeling fortunate? It means that our climate and soils are well adapted to many more native plants than that of our neighbors to the north or south. Those people who look to design a native landscape have a much wider choice of plant materials that will thrive.

It also means that we should strive to protect the few pristine woodlands and prairie areas that still exist within the Tension Zone by controlling invasive plants and guarding against uncontrolled development. By chance or intention, we live in the Tension Zone. Let's not waste the gift.



## Deep Mulch Gardening

By Lawanda Jungwirth

What tasks are you doing in your vegetable garden this time of year? Pulling everything up, rototilling, maybe trying to find some free manure, beating yourself up over the many weeds you didn't pull? There is a way to make autumn's garden tasks, and indeed the entire vegetable garden year, easier. It's called deep mulch gardening.

Deep mulch gardening is also called lasagna gardening, for the practice of adding layers of various mulches year after year.

It's simple really. Just pile 8 or more inches of mulch all over the garden. The mulch could be hay, straw, leaves, pine needles, sawdust, weeds, or any vegetable matter that rots. A mix of two or more kinds of mulch is best. In spring, pull back the mulch and plant transplants or seeds as usual. When seeds germinate, place mulch around, but not touching, the baby plants, adding more as they grow. At the end of the year, just knock down the plants, add another thick layer of mulch on top and enjoy your winter.

The deep layer of mulch provides many benefits. Soil temperatures remain more constant, reducing plant stress. Moisture is retained since the soil isn't exposed to wind and sun, so watering needs will be lessened. Soil won't splash onto plants, a primary cause of plant disease. The composting mulch will also kill many disease organisms. Soil erosion and compaction are reduced. You won't need to add manure or fertilizer – worms, fungi and bacteria will provide all the fertilizer you need. Weed seeds won't have the light or soil contact they need to germinate. If a few weeds do sprout, they won't have a stronghold and can easily be lifted from the mulch and tossed on top to decompose.

You can start a deep mulch garden now and be ready for next year, by placing fallen leaves on your garden. It's best to shred them with a leaf shredder or lawn mower. Layer them with pine needs, hay or straw if you can get them.

If you plan to start a garden in a new spot next year, cut the grass short and lay cardboard or several layers of newspapers below the thick mulch. In a new garden, the mulch might not decompose enough to plant into first spring. In that case, pull the mulch aside and add an inch of garden soil or potting soil to the rows so you have good seed-to-soil contact. For transplants, dig a hole in the mulch and add a cup or so of soil to plant into.

An added bonus is that you can do away with your compost pile. Just pull the mulch aside and tuck your vegetable scraps in to compost in place.

Before you begin deep mulch gardening, be sure that you can obtain a lot of mulch. You'll need twice as much as you think you do! Talk to your neighbors or check Craigslist to find it free or for low cost.



### *Newsletter Contributions*

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to [dldoug5@charter.net](mailto:dldoug5@charter.net)

Please send me a picture and short paragraph about how your projects did this summer.



### Flower Arranging

2013 dates are:

November 18

December 2

### **Answer to What Am I?**

I am 'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass. Order: Cyperales. Family: Poaceae – Grass family. Genus: Calamagrostis Adans. – reedgrass. Species: Calamagrostis acutiflora – feather reed grass. Common name: 'Karl Foerster' feather reed grass. The German nurseryman, Karl Foerster, discovered the plant in the Hamburg Botanical Garden. He listed it in his 1939 nursery catalog and included it in his 1950 garden book, *The Use of Grasses and Ferns in the Garden*. From there it spread around Europe until 1964 when it was brought to the United States. It was named Perennial Plant of the Year in 2001.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## **Master Gardeners Business Meeting**

**October 8, 2013**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Presentation: Don Brill-English Gardening**

Don gave a lovely presentation on the trip he made to England. His presentation included the gardens of:

Thomas Hardy, Kingston Lacy, Montacute House, East Lambrock Manor, Wayford Manor, Killerton, Abbotsbury and many more beautiful gardens.

### **Treasures Report: Sue Egner**

Report for September was presented

### **Secretary report**

Board minutes can be found on the website. The business minutes are in the newsletter

### **Old Business**

Ivan is looking into the stakes for the new project signs.

### **New Business**

The following positions are open for nominating; President, Treasure, and a board member @ large. The election will take place at the November business meeting. Officer job descriptions will be read at the business meeting and can also be found on the website

The candidates for President are: Mary Shepard /Linda Petek, and Virginia Slattery. Treasure candidates are: Sue Enger and Kathy Gore. At large candidate is Donna Kudlas

Voting was done for the new state representative between Audrey Ruedinger and Sue Enger with Sue winning the vote

December 3, 6:00 p.m. will be the Awards Dinner at Bridgeview in Neenah.

Master Gardening signs are complete for the projects

### **Project Updates**

New project reports for the core projects are due

Lincoln School was brought up as questioning the project being a core project since the University will be taking it over.

Also discussed was how long a core project should remain a core project

## **Other items**

The Expo Center has a Master Gardening sign in the rain garden. This seems to be a discontinued project and there was a discussion on getting the sign removed

Master Gardener's dues should be submitted as they are due now

Please update the center on any informational changes you have, such as address, phone number and email address

Any project definitions in the book need to be reviewed and updated if needed

Nametags can be reordered

Master Gardening clothing can be ordered again

The website will be enhanced for the "Member Only" area to make it more visible for the members

## **Education Committee Report:**

Brochures will be sent out for the Winter Escape, Summer Dreams seminars

There will be a trip to Savannah on March 26-31

We will be doing the bus trip to the Madison Garden Expo this year

## **UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller**

No report tonight

Next Business meeting will be November 12

The business meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. going forward

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## 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 Mary Jo Maher 915-2506

Treasurer Sue Egnor 231-1729

### Members

Linda Baeten 232-1224

Pat Behm 410-3290

Carole Dorsch 589-5936

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Roy Anne Moulton 915-9731

Anne Murphy 379-7132

Dara Sitter 420-0620

## 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 Gardens	Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
	Synda Jones	233-3228
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Pat Behm	410-3290
	Dara Sitter	420-0620
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	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
ThedaCare	Diane Iott	379-4176
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467

*November 2013*

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

*December 2013*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Parkview Flower Arranging	3 AWARDS DINNER	4	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 				