



Winnebago County Master Gardener

November 2014

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

What approach do you take to fall cleanup of perennial gardens—none, everything, or selective? It can be a vigorous discussion among gardeners. I fall into the selective—taking lots of the plants down but leaving some for winter interest, snow retention, or food for the birds. While I was working my way through one of the shaded areas I took a moment to appreciate the Toad Lilies' unique flowers. Hope you read the "Hairy Toad Lily, *Tricyrtis hirta*" article on the Wisconsin MG website—it was very good!

Several people have asked me or other officers about changing the room set up for our business meetings. The arrangement is specified for each room to cover the wide variety of groups using the Coughlin Center. We can change the set-up immediately before our business meeting but need to put it back into the original setup (per the diagrams on the wall for each room) before leaving.

If you have questions or suggestions or issues, please bring them up in the meetings!! Then we can discuss and vote right away to resolve problems. The Winnebago County Master Association belongs to and needs the participation of all our members!!

The November 11 business meeting is election night. The program that evening will be a computer demonstration of websites of interest to our members—the Wisconsin MG site, our website, other great resources for information. This will be very familiar to many of you but will be a good chance to talk about how we want to use the WCMG site for our external and internal needs.

Happy Gardening.
Mary and Linda



ELECTIONS

November 11

Business Meeting

AWARDS DINNER

December 2

LaSure's

****SAVE THE DATE****

**Winter Escapes
Summer Dreams**

Sat., Feb. 7, 2015

Don't Slack Off Now!



By Lawanda Jungwirth

The time will soon come for gardeners to take a well-deserved rest, but it's not here yet. Much work still needs to be done, but it can be accomplished without the rushed pace of the beginning of the season.

Annual plants should be pulled up and removed from both flower and vegetable gardens. Most can be composted, but a plant showing signs of disease should be disposed of in the trash. If your compost bin is overwhelmed by too much plant matter this time of year, dig trenches in your garden and bury the spent plants so that they can compost underground.

This is also the time to pull those perennial weeds that have crept in around the edges of your beds, behind your garage, or in your fence line. The dandelions, clover, grasses and plantain are not going to die over the winter no matter how cold it gets. Next spring you'll wish you had taken the time to get rid of them in fall. With the recent rain, weeds should come out of the ground rather easily.

The rain did us another favor. Evergreen plants, including broad-leaf evergreens like boxwood, should be kept well watered until the ground freezes, around Thanksgiving. Evergreens continue to transpire water from their needles and leaves throughout the winter and need to be well-hydrated to survive. If Mother Nature doesn't provide rain, we need to make sure the evergreens are watered ourselves. This may prevent another massive evergreen die-off like we had last winter.

Mid-October is the time to plant bulbs of spring bloomers like tulips, daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths. Bulbs should be planted pointy-end up, about 2 ½ times as deep as they are tall. So a two-inch bulb gets planted about five inches deep.

This is also the time to finally get rid of that plant you really don't like, but have been giving it "one more year" for years on end. It is much easier to dig it up and get rid of it now than it will be in spring when it begins to grow again. The bare spot left when the plant is gone will inspire you take a new look at your landscape and provides an opportunity to plant something new that you haven't grown before.

Autumn is the best time of year to deal with two invasive plants. Buckthorn should be pulled if the plants are small enough to loosen without excessive effort. Otherwise, cut it as low to the ground as possible and paint the cut area with Brush-B-Gone.

In your lawn, creeping Charlie, or ground ivy, can be killed with one cup of borax mixed with two gallons of warm water that is sprayed over 1,000 square feet.

Don't be in a hurry to rake your lawn. Unless the leaves are several inches deep, use a lawnmower or leaf shredder to shred them. Then leave them on the lawn to fertilize it, compost them, or use them for mulch.

Nominations Committee News

This year's elections will find members voting for the following positions: Vice President, Secretary, and 3 Board Members. **You can still nominate members including yourself**--email Anne Murphy at pakster0605@yahoo.com.

We have a few courageous members who have stepped up and agreed to be on the voting ballot at the November Business meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 11. The nominees include: Bette Hoytink, Mark Kropp, and Valerie Stabenow. Here is what they have to say:

Bette Hoytink for Vice President

My name is Bette Hoytink. I am retired from Theda Care Laboratories and live in Winneconne with my husband. We have two sons and five grandchildren. I completed the Master Gardener class in 2009. My favorite areas of gardening are flowers and landscaping. Projects I have worked on include the Community Gardens in Menasha, Control of Invasive Species--both garlic mustard and buckthorn, Tri-county Home and Garden Show, County Fair, Rushford Town Hall planting, and the Paine Gardens and Arboretum. I was privileged to be part of the Master Gardener trips to British Columbia and Savannah. I welcome the opportunity to serve the WCMG in a new capacity as an officer or board member.

Mark Kropp for Vice President

Becoming a master gardener has created a lot of new options for me, particularly, helping the public with plants/gardening, continuing education opportunities and project work. I would like to see Master Gardeners leverage additional projects by connecting with other groups. Plant/Gardening Interests: Wild flowers, prairie plants, trees, invasive species, garden perennials, African Violets, experimenting. New interests and areas of improvement: Mushroom identification, garden planning, small garden irrigation, garden/land scape maintenance. Master Gardener Projects: Oshkosh Farmers Market, Parkview Prairie, Neenah Library and Octagon House

Lana Angle and Gina Eiden for Co- Vice Presidents

Valerie Stabenow for Board Member

Growing up, our family business was a Garden Shop in Park Ridge, IL. During school breaks, I worked there, filling bushel baskets of potting soil, (it wasn't commonly sold in bags then!) top soil or sand. In the spring and summer, we sold perennials, flats and flats of annuals and geraniums. We started all our geraniums in the greenhouses; my specialty was taking all the dead leaves off... 5,000 plants kept me pretty busy! In the winter we turned the shop into a winter wonderland, selling trees, wreaths and roping. I wasn't much of a gardener in those days. I did have some small vegetable plots, but did not really get interested in gardening until I owned property. I always tried to leave the place, both inside and out, better than when I moved in. It was two Master Gardeners who came out to look at my scruffy lawn that inspired me to pursue Master Gardener training. Now that I'm living in Winneconne, I continue to help our property be better than when we found it. A couple hundred Buckthorns sure make it a challenge! Being able to serve on the board would allow me to contribute to the outstanding legacy the Winnebago County Master Gardeners have created here.



2014

**Flower Arranging schedule at
Parkview Health center**

November 17th flowers from Garden Gate
December 15th flowers from Garden Gate

Nativars Are Not Native Plants

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Have you heard the term “nativar”? It is the name given to a cultivar of a native plant.

As a refresher, a native plant is one that existed in a particular area prior to European settlement. Natives are well-adapted to the climate and soils of the area where they have grown for hundreds or even thousands of years. Thus they need less care from humans in the form of fertilizer, supplemental watering and winter protection than non-native plants. Most important, they are an integral part of the ecological web of animals, birds, amphibians, insects, and microscopic soil life in which they exist.

A cultivar is a plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding. Cultivar breeders may select for traits like color, height, taste, disease resistance, bloom time or hardiness. This is how, for example, we got ‘Autumn Joy’ sedum and ‘Early Girl’ tomatoes.

Now breeders are producing nativars by selecting what they feel are the best traits of native plants and reproducing them vegetatively so that the chosen traits are emphasized. Native plants normally reproduce through open pollination.

Echinacea, or purple coneflower, is probably the most well-known native plant in our area. Now you can buy “purple” coneflower with white petals, yellow petals, orange petals, pink petals, red petals, with frilly split petals and with pompon petals. You can buy plants bred to stay short, to have many branches, or to bloom extra early.

Is that a bad thing? Well, if you absolutely need a short, red, multi-branched flower for the front of your flower bed, that coneflower nativar will fit the bill perfectly.

But if your intention is to support the environment by planting native plants, are you doing so if you plant nativars? According to Wild Ones, the premier authority on native plants and natural landscapes, the answer is no.

The development of a nativar isolates a single genetic trait, thereby excluding the genetic diversity that gives a particular species the capability to adapt to the stresses of the environment in which it has grown for so many years.

What if, in selecting for a particular trait, the breeder inadvertently also removes the one gene in the plant that produced the nectar that attracted a rare butterfly? What if they accidentally remove the gene that allows a caterpillar to recognize the plant as food? That caterpillar may have been the only food a mother bird could find to feed her babies.

There are just too many unknowns in the process of breeding nativars. Wild Ones lists these possible concerns: loss of wildlife habitat, loss of pollinator habitat, increase in allergies to pollen or other impacts on human health, invasiveness potential, unpredictable response to climate change, higher maintenance costs for gardeners, and economic loss to native species growers.

No plant is inherently bad and nativars have a place in some home gardens. But if you are striving to be a native plant purist, nativars do not have a place in your landscape.

Master Gardeners Business Meeting October 14, 2014

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

Presentation:

Rob Turner from Intelligrowth presented Organic Gardening and Weed Control Rob is a Vermicompost/Soil Biology Specialist. Rob discussed the process of making worm casting. He explained on what happens inside of the worm's guts with the complex bacteria and fungus community resident. There are new techniques of harvesting that biology that show positive benefits in medicine, science and the soil. There are over 1.5 billion bacteria and fungus in a cubic inch of worm casting. Worm castings improve soil and plant growth. Worm castings build or rebuild the surface, extend root growth, retain moisture, aerate soil and fertilize plants with soluble nutrients. 5,000 earthworms will produce 1/3 cubic yard of castings in two weeks. Rob also talked about the worm tea and how much to apply to the area, along with the other ingredients to add to the tea. Rob also explained that the type of weed is telling you what is lacking from the soil. He suggest the book "WEEDS CONTROL WITHOUT POISONS" BY CHARLES WALTERS and "HANDS ON AGROMONY" by Neal Kinsey.

Treasures Report: Sue Egner

Report for September was presented

Secretary report

The minutes are now up to date on the web site

Nomination Presentation- Anne Murphy

Anne gave an update on the open position. There are three members that have interest open board positions. Eric Kropp and Valerie Stabenow gave a short introduction of themselves. The positions for vice-president and secretary are still open.

Old News

The membership fees are due now. The fee is \$30.

New Business

Starting in December there are new member volunteers for the newsletter. The awards dinner will be at La Sure's on December 2.

As of October 9th, the monarchs made it to Texas. The reports coming in so far are saying that the population is up.

Project News:

A sign up sheet was passed around for the presentation of the core projects to present from January-May.

New Opportunities

The Paine is looking for volunteers to help plant tulips Wednesday-Friday the week of 10-20.

There are opportunities for several committees. The hours will count toward required hours. The committees available are the Sunshine Committee, and Website development

Education Committee Report:

Winter Escape, Summer Dreams will be held on February 7 at Reeds Union. They ask if you know a knowledgeable speaker, please contact a member of the education committee.

Bus trip will be on February 14 to the Madison Garden Expo. There will be a bus trip to Chicago Botanical Gardens in the spring.

UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller

Sara Thompson accepted the position of Youth and Science Educator

Other News

Buckthorn removal is scheduled on October 25. Next business meeting will be on November 11 at 6:00. Elections will be held

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

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Donna Kudlas 233-0367

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 | Donna Kudlas | 233-0367 |
| | Kathy Daniels | 233-0410 |
| | Anne Murphy | 379-7132 |
| Membership | Linda Baeten | 379-8377 |
| Newsletter | Diana Dougherty | 233-7137 |
| | Anne Murphy | 379-7132 |
| | Lawanda Jungwirth | 836-2878 |
| Refreshment Committee | Linda Loker | 426-1435 |
| State Rep | Sue Egner | 231-1729 |
| SOP & Bylaw Committee | Ivan Placko | 721-9394 |
| | Jane Kuhn | 231-3993 |
| | Alice Graf | 203-8252 |
| Sunshine | Renee Donner | 420-6596 |
| Hours | Patty Schmitz | 420-1676 |
| Home & Garden Shows | Joni Pagel | 233-6619 |
| | Cindy Meszaros | 233-3550 |
| Website | Jean Reed | 729-9012 |
| | Anne Murphy | 379-7132 |

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 | Matt and Julie Miller | 233-8370 |
| 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 |
| Washington & Webster Schools | Marge Menacher | 233-3467 |
| Winchester Area Historical Society | Sandra Mathison | 778-0019 |
| | Mary Rebman | 836.2209 |

| <i>November 2014</i> | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | 1 <i>Buckthorn Removal</i> |
| 2 | 3 | 4 MG Brd Mtg 6:00 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 MG Bus Mtg 6:00 <i>ELECTIONS</i> | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 <i>Buckthorn Removal</i> |
| 16 | 17 Parkview Flower Arrng 1:30 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 <i>Buckthorn Removal</i> |
| <u>23</u> 30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

| <i>December 2014</i> | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | 1 | 2 <i>Awards Dinner</i> | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 Parkview Flower Arrnging | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |