

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

November 2016-Issue 24



Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

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Photo by Maria Talin

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Board Meeting	November 1
Business Meeting	November 8
Buckthorn Removal	November 5, 19, 26
Park View Flower Arranging	November 14
Awards Banquet	December 6
Home and Garden Show	January 20-22

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



November is our blessings month - one in which we give thanks for the bounty from the fruits of our labor. We also give thanks for the blessings of our families and our friends - some may be our master gardener friends, new and old. We certainly appreciate the dedication and support that the members of this organization offer to our community. The many projects and the number of hours volunteered are a true testament to all of our efforts. We are thankful for our dedicated advisor, Kimberly. Kimberly's direction and guidance helps us to be one of the most successful MG counties in the state.

November is also our time to prepare garden beds for the winter ahead. Thank you to Linda Werner and Mary Shepard for their presentations on just how to winterize the beds!

This month's education hour will be presented by Kayla Oberstadt, 4H Youth Development Coordinator for Winnebago Co. She is on staff at the Coughlin Center. Members may find this talk interesting, and maybe some of you would even like to become involved with the 4H youth in our community by volunteering.

The elections will be held at our member meeting this month so we hope you all can be present to vote. It is also the night of our national presidential election so we will make every effort to offer everyone a chance to vote. An absentee ballot will be created and emailed out to the membership when the nominee selection process is complete. It is never too late to consider running for a board position, please call Joni Pagel or Linda Petek if you are interested. We thank all the members who were contacted for consideration, and to all those who have expressed interest already. You have all given much to the strength of the organization!

Save the Date! The Awards Banquet will be held at LaSure's on December 6 this year. This is a special night for master gardeners - with good food, good friends, wonderful prizes and awards. More information will be shared at the business meeting. Your invitation is included in this newsletter. We will have invitations available at the business meeting as well. Please plan to come!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family,

Kathy and Linda

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

As an only child living on a farm west of Neenah, I had to find things to entertain myself. One of my favorite things was exploring the large woods across the road from our farm. I climbed trees, explored small streams, and saw nature first hand.

Last month I had a chance to tour The Sullivan's Woods Project with other Master Gardeners. It is a wonderful new project for Master Gardeners for 2016. Linda Loker is the lead for the project and I have asked her to explain more about this new project. – Kathy Gore



Sullivan's Woods

Linda Loker

Sullivan's Woods is 40 acres of woods that was purchased by the Oshkosh Area School District in 1977. Once farmland with a man-made pond (for the cows), this site is now home to various habitats: woods (hickory, oak, ash, aspen), prairie, old-field in succession, creek and pond, and a hedgerow along Hay Rd. There are a variety of wildflowers, including Mayapple, Trillium, Jack in the Pulpit, Buttercups and Ginger.

The wood's purpose has 3 objectives: to identify the site's natural features; to improve the site's usefulness as an outdoor education resource; and to expand outdoor educational programs and opportunities for the school district and community.

"Friends of Sullivan's Woods" is a group from the community that has been very influential in the education of all 4th and 5th grade students. Each spring, 4th graders tour through the area, noting what springtime looks like in these habitats. These same students return in fall to observe the changes that have occurred. To date, over 45,000 students have visited the woods.

UW-O students are also involved in this educational program by assisting with the eradication of invasive species in the woods to restore the natural flora of the understory.

Our organization was asked to help with educating these students, as well as working with the support of the woods. After an initial tour, and coming out to work with the youth in the spring, Sullivan's Woods was approved as a long-term project. Volunteer hours can be obtained by working with youth and helping maintain of the woods. Time to obtain these hours is limited to approximately one month each spring and one month in the fall.

Linda Loker is currently the lead on this project and can be reached at 920-426-1435.

WHAT AM I?

By Jane Kuhn

What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a genus of over 250 species of herbaceous perennials with tall spikes of purple, blue, white, or bicolor blooms in late summer to fall. My plant is 1 foot wide and my erect stem grows from 1 to 8 feet tall and is crowned by racemes. My dark green leaves are deeply lobed and are attractive even when my plant is not in bloom. I grow best in partial shade in zones 3-8, although in cool climates I can grow in full sun.

I have been a popular cottage garden plant for hundreds of years and am used well in the back border. I am deer resistant and some of my species are food plants for the caterpillars of several moths as well as bees. I am easily propagated by divisions of the root or by seeds. So if this garden ornamental that is long-lived, easy care and showy sounds perfect, it is not. My plant is deadly. All parts of my plant, especially the roots, are poisonous.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Renee Donner

Easy Apple Crisp

6-8 medium apples, diced and peeled

1 cup of sugar

1 cup flour

1/2 cup of butter

1 teaspoon cinnamon

1 teaspoon of apple pie spice

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine sugar, flour and butter until crumbly. Place apples in 8x8 inch square pan, sprayed w/cooking spray. Sprinkle cinnamon and apple pie spice over apple and stir. Sprinkle butter mixture over apples. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until bubbly and golden on top.

Source: The Cooking Mom

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Gardening Lessons are Reinforced

I've nearly completed the first gardening season at my new home. After 30 years of gardening, this past year taught me some new gardening skills and reinforced some basic gardening tenets that I've known but never had occasion to worry about.

First and foremost, vegetable gardens absolutely positively need full sun! Full sun means at least six hours daily of direct, not even partially shaded, sunshine.

My tomato plants grew just fine with less than six hours of sunshine, but they produced fewer, smaller tomatoes that may never ripen to a full red. Likewise, kale grew in limited sun, but didn't get even half as tall or wide as its sun-loving kale counterparts. 'Annihilator' bush beans did surprisingly well with being shorted on sun, as did edamame and peas.

Near the end of June, I accidentally broke a branch from my best tomato plant. On the advice of a neighbor, I put the branch in a jar of water for a few days until new roots sprouted from the stem. Then I planted it just as I would any young tomato plant. The new plant grew larger than the original, and in more sunlight, produced many more tomatoes.

Lettuce and spinach are known for bolting in hot sun. I thought that fewer sunlit hours would stop them from bolting, but I didn't find that to be true. Apparently hot sun is hot sun no matter how short the time it shines.

This year I grew cucumbers on a trellis for the first time. They were spectacular! The vines needed just a bit of help at the start to cling to the trellis, but after that they knew what they were doing. The cucumbers were all perfectly straight and clean and much easier to find than when they trail along the ground.

I learned that you can grow a nice garden in a strip just ten inches wide under a south-facing garage overhang. That's where the cucumber trellis was, along with another trellis for climbing beans, and marigolds, zinnias, calendula and cosmos all planted from seed. The area needed supplemental water every few days since the overhang blocked the rain, but a rain barrel on a nearby downspout made that easy.

Compost is a must! I thought the soil was bad at my former home but the soil here is worse. When we moved, I cleaned out the compost bin and hauled the treasure here in 5-gallon buckets. I can definitely tell where I spread compost on my new gardens last fall. The soil doesn't dry as rock-hard as it does in the un-composted places and the plants are much healthier.

This last lesson I learned when I began gardening and it's been reinforced every year since, including this past year in my new neighborhood. A gardener's best friends are gardening neighbors. Sharing advice, complaints, successes and tools, and trading excess produce, make for a happy year in the garden.

What To Do With Herbs Over Winter

Just like the plants in your flower garden, herbs can be annual or perennial plants. Some of them will withstand a Wisconsin winter and grow again next year, while others will be killed by the lightest of frosts.

Basil is probably the herb most sensitive to cool temperatures. Low 30s will turn the leaves black and another degree or two colder changes the plant to slime. Before frost hits, harvest the leaves and chop and freeze them in olive oil in ice cube trays. Store the frozen cubes in plastic freezer bags for use all winter.

Woody herbs like lavender, sage and thyme remain standing all winter until new growth emerges from the stems in spring. Continue to harvest sage and thyme until they are under snow. In spring, be very patient with the lavender as it may be mid to late May before new growth shows.

Rosemary is a woody herb that can withstand very cold temperatures, down to about 20° F. Wisconsin winters get colder than that, so if your rosemary isn't already in a pot, pot it up and bring it indoors. Keep it in your sunniest indoor spot and continue to use it all winter. Move it back outdoors again in spring when temps are at least in the 40s to avoid shocking it with cold. Even after spending the winter near your sunniest window, rosemary will be sensitive to outdoor sun. Keep it in the shade a few days and gradually increase the amount of sun it gets. By spring, the plant will likely be potbound. Either transfer it to a larger pot, or use a knife to cut away as much as half of the root ball and fill in around it with fresh potting soil.

Lemon verbena is another woody perennial herb that should be brought indoors. Don't be alarmed if the plant loses its leaves over winter. New leaves will appear shortly after the old ones fall.

Parsley is a biennial plant. There's a slight chance it might survive outdoors over winter, but early the next year it will flower and set seed and be worthless as far as culinary use is concerned. Harvest the leaves and dry them or pot up the plant and bring it indoors to your sunniest spot to continue harvesting fresh leaves for at least part of the winter. Curly parsley can be frozen.

Lovage, comfrey, chives, garlic chives, oregano, marjoram, peppermint and spearmint are perennial herbs that die back to the ground in winter. All can be dried for winter use. Remove dead stems when they are killed by frost. New growth will begin showing in early spring. To prevent winterkill of both the woody and herbaceous perennial herbs, place a mulch of evergreen boughs or pine needles around them after the ground has frozen, sometime after Thanksgiving. The mulch will prevent root damage from repeated thawing and re-freezing.

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH, cont.

By Lawanda Jungwirth



Let's tell you how much it creeps you out to write a column about worms. I've always been a little afraid of them and have avoided touching them at all costs. But I felt I had to write it. Didn't want to, felt I owed it to you. So here goes. Excuse me!

Most people know that earthworms in a garden are an indicator of healthy soil. In fact, worms casting (inherently known as poop) are one of the best fertilizers in a garden. You can buy bags of the stuff and it isn't digging or stinky. It looks like coffee grounds.

Worms in forests are a different story and it doesn't end happily. They consume the leaf litter that lets strip the soil too quickly, exposing the soil and contributing to soil compaction, erosion and runoff. Native plants do maintain the protective layer of leaf mulch and invasive plants are quick to take their place. Leaf litter also helps soil retain moisture, protects young plants, seeds, roots in summer, guards against damage from repeated freezing and thawing in winter and deters plant diseases. Without a layer of leaf litter the burn forest floor is left defenseless.

So that's been happening and it's been a concern in Wisconsin forests for a while now. Now there's a new worm in town and it's a bad guy, say worms that regulate earthworms. This one has the potential to decimate home landscapes, parks, farm fields and forests. You read that right - this guy could appear in your own backyard.

Jumping worms are native to Japan and the Korean peninsula and were first discovered in Wisconsin in 2013. No one knows how they got here for sure, but they probably arrived in mulch, soil, plants or the root balls of trees shipped to a nursery.

There is no mistaking this worm when you see it. Or touch it anyway. Which I won't be doing. They thrash and jump around vigorously when touched, like a disturbed snake, even jumping into the air. To make the nightmare worse, they sometimes shed their tails in defense. This explains the other names for them: Alabama jumpers, crazy worms and snake worms. No offense intended to people from Alabama, crazy people or snakes.

Jumping worms are about the same size as any other earthworm, three to five inches, maybe as long as seven inches wide in a while. But they look a bit different from other earthworms found in Wisconsin. The narrow band around the worm's body, called the clitellum, is cloudy white and smooth and completely circles the body. On other worms, the clitellum is raised and doesn't go all the way around. So you could remember that, or you could just touch it with a stick to see if it jumps.

DID YOU KNOW?

All of the earthworms native to the upper Midwest died in the late 1800s. The 20 species of earthworms found in Wisconsin today are of European or Asian origin.

What you won't see is just one jumping worm. There are always a bunch of them creeping-crawling around. You also won't find them when digging underground. They stay on the soil surface to do their nasty deeds.

The big problem with jumping worms is they are extremely voracious at eating the detritus on the forest floor and then pooping it out to turn the soil into grainy, dry worm castings. Although some worms castings are good in the flower and vegetable garden, worm castings alone won't support healthy

plants. The finer and more plants die off, throwing the entire ecosystem out of whack. In residential areas, jumping worms harm ornamental plantings and turf.

Jumping worms reproduce quickly. They don't need a partner; they can reproduce on their own without mating. One worm inadvertently transported in a potted plant can begin a whole new population when it finds itself in a new location. Although the worms don't survive our Wisconsin winters, they lay plenty of eggs in protective cocoons, too small to see with the naked eye, and those cocoons do survive the cold. Worms reach maturity within 60 days of hatching, so you'll begin to see them in late June. Sixty days later, they in turn can lay new eggs. With the 60-day turn around, two generations are produced within a single growing season.

I've referred to DNR Rule NR40 often in "Plant Matters," always in reference to invasive plants. The rule also lists invasive animals, fish, diseases, fungi, even bacteria and algae. Jumping worms are listed in NR40 as RESTRICTED. This means that it is illegal to buy, sell, bring into the state, or release jumping worms to water or land in Wisconsin.



Lawanda Jungwirth grew up in Owen, Wisconsin and lives along the Fox River at Silvermore with her husband, Ron. She has been a UW-Extension Master Gardener since 1994 and writes a gardening column for the Oshkosh Northwestern. She is interested in environmental issues, organic gardening, control of invasive plants, natural health and quilting. Email: jungwirth@earthlink.net.

You Can Help Stop the Spread of Jumping Worms!

- Arrive clean, leave clean. Clean soil and debris from vehicles, equipment, gardening tools and personal gear before moving to and from a work or recreational area.
- Watch for jumping worms and signs of their presence. If you find them, report them to the DNR by email at: invasive.species@wi.gov.
- Educate yourself and others to recognize jumping worms.
- Only use, sell, plant, purchase or trade landscape and gardening materials and plants that appear to be free of jumping worms.
- Only use, sell, plant, purchase or trade compost that was heated to appropriate temperatures and duration following protocols for reduction in pathogens. (See Wis. Admin. Code Ch. NR.502.12)

We are always looking for interesting photos for the newsletter.... And it is so easy to do! All you have to do is contact Maria Talin, the WMGA photographer. She can be reached at 379-5775 or email at marua49@att.net. It can be one beautiful flower or vegetable, garden scene, or interesting item in your landscape.

The News Crew would also like to thank all who participated in the survey at the last business meeting. We strive to make this your newsletter and appreciate all of the feedback we received.

The News Crew would like to thank everyone who contributes to the newsletter and reads the newsletter. This is the 24th issue for this News Crew. We hope you have enjoyed the newsletter as much as we enjoyed bringing it to you. Please contact us with any ideas you might have

The News Crew

It's a Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery



Julie and Jay Birschbach
Class of 2014

Jay and I grew up about an hour south of the Fox Valley. Both Jay and I have a corporate working background. Julie now teaches at FVTC and enjoys volunteering in the community. We have both been in our current places of employment for 20+ years. We have two boys, ages 25 and 22, one resides in Chicago and the other in Neenah. Jay and I love doing anything and everything outside. We took the garden class because we discovered we love gardening; ironically our first class was on our 25th wedding anniversary! We knew nothing about gardening; we just knew what we liked. We completed the class in the fall of 2014. We have truly enjoyed working on projects and getting to know other master gardeners at the Octagon House, The Paine, and the Neenah Library. We also have enjoyed volunteering at the Homeless Connections annual Garden Walk and being a host for the 2015 walk. Formal English gardens are our passion. We are looking forward to two trips; England and Holland to view the beautiful gardens; especially Holland and all the tulips!

Answer to What Am I

I am Aconitum (monkshood). Order: Ranunculales. Family: Ranunculaceae – Buttercup family. Genus: Aconitum L. – monkshood. Other names: aconite, wolf's bane, leopard's bane, mousebane, women's bane, devil's helmet, Queen of all Poisons, blue rocket. I am one of the earliest garden ornamentals to follow the European settlers to North America and many old heritage gardens will portray monkshood. All parts of the plant contain the poisonous alkaloid called aconitine. Native peoples took advantage of this poison utilizing it on arrow tips for hunting and warfare. The common name wolf's bane may refer to the mythological connection of this plant to werewolves. So the moral of the story: practice extreme caution when handling this plant.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

It's a Gardener's Life, cont.

By Virginia Slattery

Our Master Gardener members always seem ready to keep learning about anything in the horticultural field. We'd like to share with you an example of this by introducing you to an organization that is right up our alleys!

Two of our long-time members are also members of the Wisconsin Hosta Society. Bob and Arlene Kosanke have been members of this organization for about 8 years. We would like to tell you a little about this club.

The Wisconsin Hosta Society meets monthly from September through May at Obrich Gardens in Madison. The WHS also supports the American Hosta Society by way of donations and service. Their current president is Jeff Miller, the owner of Land of the Giants, an awesome place that specializes in hostas. The organization just celebrated their 25th year in existence. Among their members are experts in the field who share their knowledge at the monthly lectures along with other outside speakers. These lectures cover topics of hybridizing, diseases, slug and mole control, presenting the newest plants of the year, and learning about other shade plants. They "man" a booth at the Expo in Madison and also tour different private and public gardens. In June they hold their annual fundraiser, a hosta plant sale. Members donate the plants to sell and Jeff Miller donates many, many plants from his gardens. They use the proceeds to help research for the soil disease Virus X, to help fund Olbrich and other plant nurseries. Of course, they hold a picnic for their members and have a plant swap and an amateur leaf show of their own hostas.

Bob and Arlene have between 250 and 275 different hostas in their garden. They have interesting groupings, which include their American-named hostas and their "biblical" group. Bob's special favorite spot is his mini/small area and custom-built mouse house for 10+ mouse-eared varieties. Bob has also tried growing hostas from seed and is currently considering registering two seedlings from Jeff Miller ("Colonel Scott" and "Kool Karyn"). They are incredibly generous and have shared many plants and their knowledge with our club members (including yours truly) and have helped us become true hosta lovers!

If you are members of another organization that promotes horticulture and would like to share with our MGV's please contact me at 231-5082.

Virginia Slattery



Kosanke's hostas

*Leaf show winners
Bob Kosanke on left*

Who Knew?

By Lynne Slat



CIDER & CAA: At apple harvest time

In New York State, there is a huge demand for apple cider from all types and mixtures of apples. (How do I know? I lived in upstate NY for 49 years!) The cider is DELICIOUS! I miss it!

<http://www.cornell.edu/video/making-cornell-cider>

Once the apples are harvested, the ones with blemishes are used for cider production. In New York State (home of Cornell University) many of the apple orchards use CAA (Controlled Atmosphere Apples) for the very best apples. As the article shows, it was the work of someone at Cornell University who developed the idea.

<http://hort.cals.cornell.edu/about/facilities/cornell-orchards>

Controlled Atmosphere Apples (CAA)

In winter, some orchards offer controlled atmosphere (CA) apples. Choice fruit, selected at harvest, is placed in a sealed cold room for at least 90 days. Nitrogen is used to reduce the oxygen level from the 21% that we breathe to around 2.5% and carbon dioxide from fruit respiration is allowed to accumulate to around 2%. This slows fruit aging and preserves fruit firmness, acidity, sugars and Vitamin C. The fruit with the C.A. label has higher nutritional and sensory quality than the regular cold-stored fruit of the same age.

Franklin Kidd and Cyril West from England initiated the first detailed systematic research on C.A. between 1918 and 1927. In 1940, American scientists, like Dr. Bob Smock from Cornell University, adapted the techniques to our local varieties and conditions. Cornell was the first place in the U.S. to build and refine C.A.

The Latest Dirt

Latest news of the Winnebago Master Gardeners

Home and Garden Show - January 20, 21, 22- 2017

Save the Date for the Home and Garden Show

Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel will talk more about it at the Nov meeting, and will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting.

The Education Committee will be meeting: November 15 5:30 at Benvenutos

Time for Buckthorn Removal

WHERE: North High Conservancy Park (behind North High School-1100 Smith St, Oshkosh)

Enter off Smith St (west side lot) or Vinland and park either in the school lot or drive into the park.

WHEN: Nov 5th, 19th and 26th (Saturdays from 9-12)

Bring a lopper, small trimmer, hand saw, gloves and dress in layers (we tend to get warm after working awhile)

We will cut down large trees with saws and the smaller ones with our loppers. The small buckthorn can be hand pulled. It will be treated with a chemical supplied by the city forestry dept. Protective gloves will be supplied for those using the chemical. The cut branches are piled along the path and the forestry dept. removes them.

Any further questions call, text or email me. Sue Egner - Invasive Species co-chair. 920-231-1729 (H) or 920-216-9455 (C)

Park View Flower Arranging

Park View will be having flower arranging on November 14 at 1:30. Lil Hansche 235-4740

Winnebago Master Gardeners Awards Dinner

December 6- LaSure's Oshkosh – Registration form on next page



2016 AWARDS BANQUET

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

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

6:00 pm Social (cash bar)

6:45 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Awards Program

LaSure's Banquet Hall 3125 S Washburn Oshkosh WI 54904

Buffet will be served - Cost per person: \$15.00

Please return **NO LATER than November 29, 2016.**

Mail w/payment to: Linda Loker, 80 N Oakwood Rd, Oshkosh WI 54904

Make check out to: WCMGA

Your Name: *(Please Print)* _____

Guest Name: *(Please Print)* _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

**The Master Gardener Association is covering part of the cost per person.*

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board Meeting	2	3	4	5 Buckthorn removal
6	7	8 Business Meeting/ Elections	9	10	11	12
13	14 Park View Flower arranging	15 Education meeting	16	17	18	19 Buckthorn removal
20	21	22	23	24  Happy Thanksgiving	25	26 Buckthorn removal
27	28	29	30			
30	31					

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS

Submitted by the members



*Carter Memorial Project
Maria Talin*



*Sullivan's Woods Project
Maria Talin*



Kosankes'



Lynne Slat

