

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

November 2017



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.

“You must fail
at gardening
to master it.”

Carter Memorial Library, Omro. Project Leads Pat Behm & Linda Petek. *Picture by Pat Behm.*

Letter from Your Presidents

Kathy Schultz & Linda Loker

*"November's sky is chill and drear,
November's leaf is red and sear"
Sir Walter Scott*

There is something about taking a walk in autumn - with leaves dropping overhead, the crunching of the leaves under your feet, the sweet smell of burning in the air, and the beauty of the changing color around us. This certainly makes us thankful to live in our wonderful Wisconsin this time of year!

Kimberly Miller, our advisor, gave us a very timely talk on jumping worms that have now been identified in Winnebago Co. We have formed a committee to help keep us on track as to DNR and State of WI protocols and guidelines. Thank you to Jay Birschbach, Julie Parker-Birschbach, Linda Baeten and Sue Egner for volunteering. Any interested MG may contact any of these members to join them as we all learn what we have to do to slow jumping worm progression, or even eradicate them. Our wish is that we find an acceptable natural predator to help us in this endeavor!! If you were not at the meeting last month, the extension strongly discourages any plant exchanges at this time.

The Education Committee sponsored a workshop on putting our gardens to bed. Over 30 people were in attendance; and Roy Anne Moulton, Audrey Ruedinger, and Linda Werner did a great job with the presentation. Thank you! And WESD is coming along, so plan to attend this great opportunity for learning right in our own area! Brochures are coming out very soon!

Summer projects seem to be winding down now, and now we are into fall clean up. Please consider to join Sue Egner at the North Conservancy Park for buckthorn removal, as this is the most effective time to do this. We are so proud to be a part of this busy organization as our 90+ members all seem to be a part of one or more of the projects. And so many positive comments are coming our way from the community. Thank you to all of you!

Sheila Glaske, Paine curator, will be our guest speaker at the business meeting and

she will showcase all the wonderful changes that have occurred over the summer at the Paine.

And once again, we are in the election month! We spoke last month about the president and treasurer roles and hopefully we have peaked some members interest in one of them. If so, please let Ann Abraham know; or talk to a board member at the November business meeting.

Awards Banquet is here again! We will host this event on Tuesday, December 5. Please mark your calendars for it! There will be a wonderful array of door prizes again this year - thank you Diana Dougherty for leading this. Watch for invitations in your email; and we will have the forms available at the November meeting.

Lastly, it is the time of year that we are thankful for all the blessings in our lives. We are so proud to be a part of this busy organization as our 90+ members all seem to be a part of one or more of the projects. And so many positive comments are coming our way from the community. We thank each one of you as a blessing to this organization.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kathy and Linda



Garden Trivia

Ginkgo Trees are either male or female. As female trees reach the age where they begin flowering, they produce malodorous (smelling very unpleasant) seed. Each hard seed is covered with a soft outer layer that, as it ripens, smells like rancid butter due to its butyric acid content.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a small, low-growing shrub with a height of 6 inches or less with my branches arising from creeping, underground stems. My scented, evergreen leaves are 1-2 inches long, oval, shiny, dark green and turn reddish in cold weather. My small, bell-shaped, white flowers hang on short stems from the leaf axils and are followed by aromatic, red berries which may persist through the winter. I am grown in USDA zones 3-8 in part to full shade and am grown for my evergreen foliage, flowers and berries.

My creeping underground stems form small colonies of plants. Propagation methods include dividing my rootball or by seeding after the last frost. In some localities my berries are an important winter food for birds, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, grouse, bobwhite, pheasant, black bear, and red fox. My native habitats are conifer or oak woods and bogs.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

Co-Vice Presidents: Nancy Karuhn & Eric Kropp

Secretary: Ann Abraham

Treasurer: Joni Pagel

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



Octagon House Garden Walk.

Picture by Kathy Schultz

Highbush Cranberry

By Lawanda Jungwirth



The highbush cranberry shrub isn't a true cranberry, although the berries are similar in both taste and appearance. The Latin name is *Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum*, which is important to know if you buy plants for growing cranberries for your own consumption or to support wildlife.

Highbush cranberries are multi-stemmed shrubs growing 10–15 feet tall and 10-12 feet wide. Smooth gray branches form arching stems that give the shrub a dense rounded shape, making it a popular choice for both stand-alone specimen plants and privacy hedges.

Highbush cranberry leaves might remind you of those of maple trees, but they are more wrinkled and the veins are impressed, or sunken. Leaves are glossy green all summer and in fall turn an intense orange, red or purple depending upon the weather in a particular year.

In June, flat-topped clusters of showy white 3- to 4-inch wide flowers cover the shrub. An outer ring of larger, sterile flowers surrounds each flat cluster. The flowers are pollinated by both insects and wind and soon turn into 1/3-inch berries, starting green, then going yellowish pink, then orange and finally changing to cherry red by early September.

The berries are high in vitamins A and C and fiber and have more antioxidants than blueberries. They can be eaten raw, but most people don't enjoy the tart, acidic taste. More often they are made into jellies, jams or sauces. You'll have plenty of time for harvest, because berries hang on the branches until late winter. Birds will eat them, and in fact may clean off an entire shrub in an hour, but not until every other better-tasting food in the vicinity has been eaten, so they aren't really competition for the berries.

Harvest time is a matter of taste and opinion. Some people think the berries taste better just before the first frost, while others prefer harvesting after one or two frosts. You'll have to decide for yourself on that one.

There is a European highbush cranberry that looks very similar to the American version, but the European berries taste terrible and the shrubs are subject to aphid damage. It takes a little close-up detective work to tell the difference. The little stem that joins the leaf to the branches is called the petiole. You'll see little nubby things called petiolar glands where the petiole joins the leaf. If the nubs are rounded, club-shaped or columnar, the cranberry is American. If the nubs are flat on top or slightly dented, it's European.

Highbush cranberries don't require much pruning, but if you'd like to shape the shrub or reduce the height, do so immediately after flowering. Removing some of the oldest stems every few years will encourage new growth from the base of the shrub.

If you decide to add a highbush cranberry to your landscape, give it a spot in sun or part shade. They grow fine in most soils, but prefer moist but well-drained soil that is rich and loamy. They are drought tolerant once established.

Plant Some Unusual Tulips for Next Spring

By Lawanda Jungwirth

One of the first flowers children learn to draw are tulips. A few curved petals, a stem, and two pointy leaves. There are some beautiful tulips that look just like those simple drawings, but others differ greatly. Some look like peonies or roses or carnations. Others look like no flower you've seen before.

['Queensland'](#) is one that looks just like a deep rose-pink peony. The fringed petals are lighter in color toward their edges. It is fully double and grows 10 inches tall, blooming in mid-spring. Earlier in spring, ['Flaming Evita'](#) has fluffy double peony-like blooms of white with yellow flames. "Flames" on a tulip are streaks of color that start at the bottom of the petals and feather upward. ['Double Dazzle'](#) has the same form as ['Evita'](#) but has deep violet-purple blooms. Both grow 12 inches tall.

Some tulips are the classic shape but have petals with fringed edges. ['Aria Card'](#) calls to mind a peppermint candy with creamy white petals with lilac-pink-purple fringes. It grows to 18 inches tall. ['Purple Crystal'](#) has dark purple blooms with fringes of the same color and just a small white base just atop the stem. ['Purple Crystal'](#) grows 16 inches tall. Both ['Aria Card'](#) and ['Purple Crystal'](#) are mid-season tulips.

['Angelique'](#) is a double-flowered tulip with petals of pale pink and cream with dark pink accents. It is a mid-tulip-season bloomer that looks like a mid-June rose. It even has a light fragrance. It grows to 18 inches.

Later in the tulip season, ['Sensual Touch'](#) has double, fringed blooms with petals that blend orange, tangerine, apricot and rose. It grows 16 inches tall.

['Drumline'](#) another later bloomer, has multiple layers of purple-red petals edged with white. ['Drumline'](#) grows to 18 inches and has unusually dark stems.

['Blue Star'](#) tulips grow only three to four inches tall so their place is at the front of the border or in a rock garden. In late April or early May, snow white blooms open to expose an intense blue base.

Parrot tulips have large feathered, curled, twisted or wavy petals. ['Super Parrot'](#) is creamy white with light green flames. The petals of ['Silver Parrot'](#) are rose-pink inside and pale pink with a silvery overlay outside. Both grow to 18 inches.

Mid-October is the time to plant tulips. Bulbs should be planted pointy-end up, with their tops about three times as deep as the height of the bulbs. For example, a one inch tall bulb should be planted so its top is three inches below the soil. Bulbs can be planted by digging one hole for each bulb. To make the chore easier, dig a wider hole and place six or seven bulbs around the edges before filling back in with soil. A little bone meal tossed in the hole will give bulbs an extra boost. If you think squirrels or chipmunks might dig up the bulbs, place pieces of chicken wire above the bulbs, under the soil.

Gold Trowel Award

Do you know someone who is an outstanding example of a Master Gardener? Someone who exemplifies the spirit of the Master Gardener Organization by providing horticultural education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community? Someone who provides leadership to other Master Gardeners? We would like to hear about these Master Gardeners! The Golden Trowel award is given out at the December 5th Master Gardener Awards Banquet. Please submit your nominations to Stan Meyer at 920-725-6486, Bob and Arlene Kosanke at 920-231-1873 or to any officer or member of the board. Nominations should be in by the end of October if possible. We will still accept nominations at the November 12th meeting. We are looking forward to reviewing your nominations!

Awards Banquet - December 5

Make sure you mark your calendars for the upcoming Awards Banquet at LaSure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh. Always good food, good give-aways and a good time! More information will be emailed to everyone.



Sunken, scabby bacterial spot lesions on ripening tomato fruit. (Photo courtesy of May Ann Hansen, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Ask a Plant Health Advisor

“Can you tell me what is going on with my tomatoes?”

Find the answer later in the newsletter.

Opportunity for Fall Project - Buckthorn Removal

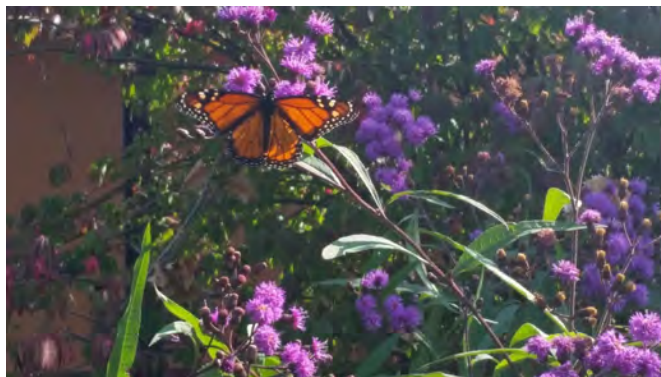
Dates : Saturdays Nov 4, 11, 18, and 25th	Time : 9 AM - 12 noon
What to wear : Long sleeves (layering is good), jeans and gloves	Bring : Loppers, pruner, hand saw, sawzall (no chain saws), whatever you have and a love for working outside !

It's that time of year again for buckthorn removal at the North High Conservancy Park. This is directly behind the high school at 1100 Smith St. The entrance is on the west side parking lot on the north side. There is a small parking lot in the park next to the detention pond.

Area working on : Along the west edge of the park (next to small parking lot). Gloves will be provided for anyone using chemicals (this goes on the stump of the tree after we cut it down). All are welcome. Level 1 students--this is a good opportunity to get started on your volunteer hours!! See you Saturday. Contact: **Sue Egner** 231-1729 or 216-9455 or email at mgardener4ever@yahoo.com with questions or concerns.

Fall Gardens at Carter Memorial Library, Omro

Project Leads: Pat Behm & Linda Petek, *Pictures by Pat Behm*



Carter Memorial Library





Carter Memorial Library



Answer to Ask a Plant Health Advisor: Bacterial Spot



Sunken, scabby bacterial spot lesions on ripening tomato fruit. (Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Hansen, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

What is bacterial spot? Bacterial spot of tomato is a potentially devastating disease that, in severe cases, can lead to unmarketable fruit and even plant death. Bacterial spot can occur wherever tomatoes are grown, but is found most frequently in warm, wet climates, as well as in greenhouses. The disease is often an issue in Wisconsin.



On tomato leaves, bacterial spot leads to small, angular (i.e., straight-edged) spots with yellow haloes. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Grabowski, University of Minnesota Extension)

What does bacterial spot look like?

Bacterial spot can affect all above ground parts of a tomato plant, including the leaves, stems, and fruit. Bacterial spot appears on leaves as small (less than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch), sometimes water-soaked (i.e., wet-looking) circular areas. Spots may initially be yellow-green, but darken to brownish-red as they age. When the disease is severe, extensive leaf yellowing and leaf loss can also occur. On green fruit, spots are typically small, raised and blister-like, and may have a yellowish halo. As fruit mature, the spots enlarge (reaching a maximum size of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch) and turn brown, scabby and rough. Mature spots may be raised, or sunken with raised edges. Bacterial spot symptoms can be easily confused with symptoms of another tomato disease called bacterial speck. For more information on this disease, see [University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1250](#) or [UWEX Bacterial Spot of Tomato](#)

Where does bacterial spot come from? Bacterial spot of tomato is caused by *Xanthomonas vesicatoria*, *Xanthomonas euvesicatoria*, *Xanthomonas gardneri*, and *Xanthomonas perforans*. These bacterial pathogens can be introduced into a garden on contaminated seed or transplants which may or may not show symptoms. The pathogens enter plants through natural openings (e.g., stomates), as well as through wounds. Disease development is favored by warm (75° to 86°F), wet weather. Wind-driven rain can contribute to more severe disease as the pathogens are splashed and spread to healthy leaves and fruit. Bacterial spot pathogens can survive well in tomato debris, but they survive very poorly in soil when not associated with debris.

How do I save plants with bacterial spot? A plant with bacterial spot cannot be cured. Remove symptomatic plants from the field or greenhouse to prevent the spread of bacteria to healthy plants. Burn, bury or hot compost the affected plants and DO NOT eat symptomatic fruit. Although bacterial spot pathogens are not human pathogens, the fruit blemishes that they cause can provide entry points for human pathogens that could cause illness.

How can I prevent bacterial spot in the future? Plant pathogen-free seed or transplants to prevent the introduction of bacterial spot pathogens on contaminated seed or seedlings. If a

clean seed source is not available or you suspect that your seed is contaminated, soak seeds in water at 122°F for 25 min. to kill the pathogens. To keep leaves dry and to prevent the spread of the pathogens, avoid overhead watering (e.g., with a wand or sprinkler) of established plants and instead use a drip-tape or soaker-hose. Also to prevent spread, DO NOT handle plants when they are wet (e.g., from dew) and routinely sterilize tools with either 10% bleach solution or (better) 70% alcohol (e.g., rubbing alcohol). Where bacterial spot has been a recurring problem, consider using preventative applications of copper-based products registered for use on tomato, especially during warm, wet periods. Keep in mind however, that if used excessively or for prolonged periods, copper may no longer control the disease. Be sure to read and follow all label instructions of the product that you select to ensure that you use it in the safest and most effective manner possible. Burn, bury or hot compost tomato debris at the end of the season. Wait at least one year before planting tomatoes in a given location again, and remove and burn, bury or hot compost any volunteer tomatoes that come up in your garden.

Resource: Authors: Michelle Marks*, UW-Madison Plant Pathology, Last Revised: 02/17/2017, X-number: XHT1244



Member Meeting Minutes

Date 10/10/2017

Treasurer Report: All in balance \$28,194.76

Secretary Report: Minutes of the meeting have been submitted for approval.

Project updates: Leads need to start writing their reports.

Oshkosh Public Museum still needs a project lead.

Paine Gardens will be having annual tulip dig on October 16 & 17, working from 8:30 to 3 on October 19th and October 20th. (this is revised from what was announced at the business meeting.). The formal garden will be pulled on October 30th, put bulbs in 31st, & Nov 1st.

Education Committee Report: Contact Linda Werner if you have any ideas for speakers for workshops & trips that may interest you.

Tree pruning workshop is October 25th. Winter Escape Summer Dreams – email any ideas you may have for silent auction items.

State Representative update: Sue Egner: Don't forget to submit articles to the WIMGA newsletter. October 28th is the start of the pulling of the Buckthorn and every Saturday in November at North High School.

New Business: Accepting Golden trowel award nominations thru November. Send them to Stanley Meyer or any officer or board member.

Deby Voyles will be taking Master Gardener clothing orders and sending it in December. Master Gardener awards banquet is December 5th, 2017.

UWEX Report: Every other year the new training class will be a day class. Even years will be day time, odd years will be night time class. Jumping worms are now in the Winnebago county area. We need to set up a committee to set guidelines on plant exchanges and stop the spread of these worms. Remember to clean your tools before going into another garden area. Bleach or rubbing alcohol will work, but be sure all soil is removed from the tools. If interested contact any board member to get on this committee.

The new hour sheet is now available on the website for recording your hours.

We are still gathering nominations for President or Co Presidents and Treasurer for the 2018 board. All nominations should be submitted to Ann Abraham or any board member.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting by Diana Dougherty, second by Sue Egner.

Events

Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25: 9-12 AM, Buckthorn Removal

Nov. 7: 6 PM, Board Meeting

Nov. 14: 6 PM Business Meeting

Nov. 17: 5:30 PM, Benvenuto's, Education Committee Meeting

Dec. 5: Awards Banquet, LaSure's

Feb. 17, 2018: Winter Escape~Summer Dreams

Feb. 17, 2018: Winter Escape~Summer Dreams silent auction - think of something you'd like to donate or create a basket with some other members!



Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am eastern teaberry. Order: Ericales. Family: Ericaceae – Heath family. Genus: Gaultheria L. – snowberry. Species: Gaultheria procumbens L. – eastern teaberry. Other names: checkerberry, boxberry, American wintergreen, canterberry, chickenberry, creeping wintergreen, deerberry, gingerberry, ground berry, spiceberry. The fruits, considered its actual “teaberries”, are edible, with a taste of mildly sweet wintergreen. Teaberry extract is used to flavor ice cream, teas, candies, medicines and it inspired the name of Clark's Teaberry chewing gum. The genus was named for Dr. Gaultier, a Canadian physician of the mid-18th century

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

Project	Project Lead	Next Meeting
Butterfly Garden Lutheran Homes	Jane Kuhn/Diana Dougherty	
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek	March 2018
County Fair	Sue Bohn	Aug. 1-5, 2018
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak	
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow/Audrey Ruedinger	
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson	
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller	
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Viginia Slattery	
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	
Park View Prairie Garden	Sally Lindo	
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche	
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz	June 2018
Photography	Maria Talin	
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard	
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Julie Gutmiedl	
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker	

November 2017

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

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