

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

November 2020

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.

**"HELLO
NOVEMBER.
TODAY I WILL NOT
STRESS OVER
THINGS I CANNOT
CONTROL."**



Tiger Eye Sumac. Submitted by Kim Willman.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a native, clump-forming, hardy perennial with violet-blue flowers which appear on dense, violet-blue spikes from June to September in zones 4-8. I am easy to grow in full sun to partial shade in average, moist, well-drained soil. I prefer sandy or gravelly soil and am drought-tolerant once established. My plant is erect, many-branched and woody based, growing to a height of 18-36 inches tall and to 24 inches wide. My medium green to gray leaves are aromatic when bruised.

My plant is propagated by stem cuttings or division in early spring when new growth emerges or from seeds collected in fall. My flowers can be deadheaded for continual flowering into fall. I can be planted on a slope or bank, in perennial borders, cottage gardens, butterfly gardens and rain gardens. I attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators. I am deer and rabbit resistant and tolerate drought and air pollution.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Vice President: Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Deby Voyles

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing in a future newsletter by writing an article or submitting a photo, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Membership Dues Due by Dec. 1st!

Please find the membership form on our website (winnebagomastergardeners.org) and mail it to:

Deby Voyles
6992 Spiegelberg Road
Larsen, WI 54947

Questions? Call Deby at 920.279.5565 or Anne at 920.379.7132.

The Reporting Year is Changing!

We will operate on a calendar year, starting January 1, 2021.

Traditionally the Master Gardener Program has used September 30 as a deadline for reporting and to allow us time to collect information for reporting. The Online Reporting System (ORS) has eliminated much of this need. In addition, this will be more inclusive to fall volunteer activities and reduces confusion by moving to the calendar year.

The deadline for completing all volunteer requirements will move from September 30 to December 31. That includes any hours you report for 2020 (you get three extra months).

Annual enrollment (you did this for the first time last January) for returning volunteers and the new onboarding for new volunteers will occur January 1 through March 31, each year.

Please see

<https://wimastergardener.org/2020/08/24/changes-to-wisconsin-master-gardener-programs/> for additional updates on changes to the Master Gardener Program.

We are changing the deadline for reporting this year:
September 30, 2020 → December 31, 2020
(past report cycle: October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020)

We will adopt a calendar year for all future hour reporting:
January 1 to December 31

New volunteer onboarding and returning volunteer enrollment will be:
January 1 to March 31, annually

see wimastergardener.org for additional updates.

Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

Effectively Communicating During a Crisis

We write this as we face a crisis of medical proportions. How we communicate to each other and as an Association is important to maintain sanity as well as managing our responses.

Please be aware that everything preceding and following any social media communications are available for public consumption. Every tweet mentioned in before, during and after the crisis will be scrutinized along with every snap chat and Instagram that gets posted

During these tense times, we have little control over the medical emergency we currently face. Therefore, our anxieties may sometimes become a focus of the moment which then is publicly aired leading to further frustrations.

As a result, an immediate gut response may further torment the situation for both sender and receiver. This immediate response strategy may not be as sound since it may reflect a reaction of the moment vs. a thoughtful response. Remember "just as sound doesn't occur in a vacuum, neither does human error in isolation".

How then should we try to effectively communicate during a crisis situation? a. State the facts, b. State what is on your mind, c. Share what you know is at stake, d. Offer a solution, e. Thank all involved partners.

Lets not forget a critical piece of communication; listening skills. Communication is more than just words. Listening to what and how things are said and the actions that follow prompt a positive listener.

As we navigate to recovery and near normal agendas, Alex Pattakos, Prisoners of Our Own Thoughts stated in his book, "in an attempt to calm matters during a car accident,' he asked the driver to "listen to the positives of the situation." This resulted in a calming effect which helped turn shock and awe into smiles and a saving grace.

Now it is our turn to think about the positives and effectively communicate them during these crisis times. Do not allow ourselves to become Prisoners of Our Own Thoughts.



Morning Glories and Double Trouble Hydrangea. *Submitted by Kim Willman.*

Continuing Education Opportunities

Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Great Lakes Region, noon, Thursday, November 5. Sponsored by the XERCES Society. No cost but registration required.

Building Pollinator Habitat in Towns and Cities: Great Lakes Region

November 5
12:00 PM (CT)
Webinar

Join Karin Jokela, Farm Bill Pollinator Conservation Planner, as she takes a closer look at the needs of pollinators in the Great Lakes Region. Learn what plants pollinators need, how to provide nesting habitat, and what steps you can take to make change in your city.

This webinar will be recorded and available on our YouTube channel. Closed Captioning will be available during this webinar.

[Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Wisconsin's Citizen Lake Monitor Network Webinar Series. Follow the link below for access to all of the webinars. Those not listed here are not eligible for MG continuing education. Free but registration required.

Archived webinars:

Wetlands in Wisconsin

Shoreline Gardening for Healthy Lakes and Rivers

Upcoming webinars:

Bogs and Fens: Peatlands of Wisconsin, Wednesday, December 16, 3 p.m.

Groundwater and Lakes, Wednesday, January 27, 3 p.m.

Unique Plants In and Around Wisconsin Lakes, Wednesday, February 24, 3 p.m.

Wild Rice in Wisconsin, Wednesday, March 31, 3 p.m.

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CLMN/newsletter/MonitorFall2020.pdf>

Now is the Time to Plant!

By Lawanda Jungwirth

It's planting time! You might think that a strange beginning for an autumn article, perhaps more appropriate for May. But there is no mistake. Mid-October is the ideal time to plant bulbs of many spring-bloomers as well as garlic but if you are a little late, they can actually be planted up until the ground freezes.

Perhaps more planting is the last thing you feel like doing at the end of a long gardening season, but next spring when you see the first shoots of the bulbs you planted in fall poking out of the soil, you'll be very happy you made the effort now.

Bulbs are planted 2 ½ times as deep as they are tall. For example, if a bulb is an inch tall, dig the hole so that when the bulb is placed in the bottom, the top of the bulb is about 2 ½ inches from the soil line. Look carefully at the bulb to determine which end is up. There will be tiny roots or little knobby bumps at one end; the other end will be pointier. The pointy end goes up. If you can't tell which end is which, lay the bulb on its side in the hole and it will figure out for itself which way is up when it starts to grow.

The most well-known spring flowers that grow from bulbs are tulips, daffodils and crocuses. There are many other options.

Fragrant, formal hyacinths can front a border. White, blue or purple grape hyacinths are good for either borders or naturalizing. Less formal wood hyacinths have clusters of delicate pink, blue or white bell-shaped flowers. They grow 8-12 inches tall and are used in borders, naturalizing and rock gardens. [Indian Hyacinths](#) are American natives that have blue or violet flower spikes set with starry blossoms. They grow 12-24 inches tall and do well in moist, partially shaded locations making them ideal for naturalizing by ponds or in light woods.

One of the earliest bulbs to bloom in spring are [Snowdrops](#). White butterfly-shaped blooms ignore the cold and nod on 4-6" stems.

Another early bloomer is [Glory of the Snow](#). Sparkling sky-blue flowers with white centers are produced in profusion in March and April, with up to a dozen starry flowers on each stem. They multiply freely year after year. Glory of the Snow grows only 4-8" tall and does well in sun or partial shade.

If you miss the snow in late spring, plant [Summer Snowflakes](#). These clump-forming plants produce a profusion of 12-20" stems that each bear several faintly chocolate-scented inch-long white bells accented with green tips. Plant them in full sun or light shade.

Nothing compares to drifts of bright blue [scilla](#) for early spring color. They naturalize beautifully making them ideal for mass plantings and edgings. The foliage is grass-like and unobtrusive and they grow 6-8" tall.

As for garlic, separate the bulbs into individual cloves and plant them just like flower bulbs, spacing them several inches apart. Mulch heavily over the winter and harvest the following July.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am *salvia nemorosa*. Order: Lamiales. Family: Lamiaceae /Labiatae – Mint family. Genus: *Salvia* L – sage. Species: *Salvia x sylvestris* L. (pro se.) [*nemorosax pratensis*] – woodland sage. Other common names: violet sage, salvia, meadow sage. The genus name *Salvia* comes from the Latin word *salveo* meaning to save or heal, referring to the supposed medicinal properties of some plants in the genus. Leaves of these plants have been used in Turkish medicine to stop bleeding by applying externally. I can be found in the rain garden adjacent to the Coughlin Center.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

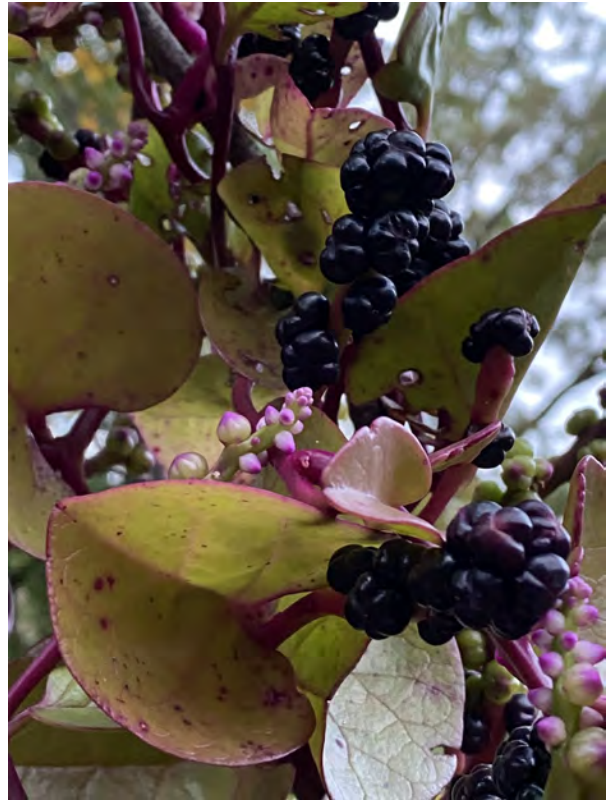


Near Necedah Wildlife Refuge. *Submitted by Kim Willman.*

Bouquet from Oshkosh farmer's market.



Malabar red stem spinach



Submitted by Kim Willman.

Member Business Meeting Minutes - October 13, 2020

Education Presentation: Mike Maddox "Future of Master Gardener Program". About teams: leadership and followership. (1 Hour continuing education)

Standard Agenda

1. Treasurer's Report: **Deby Voyles** reported that the balance in the checking account was \$856.41. She did not make a transfer from the reserves. An appointment is needed to do the transfer, Deby will do the transfer on her next day off.
2. Secretary's report: Minutes from the September business meeting were in the Newsletter and the Board minutes are on the website.
3. Project update: **Britton Dake** unable to attend the zoom meeting. **Bob** reported that Miravida butterfly garden and the Park View cutting garden projects have applied for 2021 WIMGA grants. No annual reports due from the unapproved projects, just the approved projects need to submit their annual reports.
4. Extension update: **Kimberly** reported that Appleton, Menasha, Outagamie county, and Winnebago county have declared a public health emergency. Take precautionary steps if you are working on the approved projects. Master Gardeners working on approved projects are required to wear a face covering outside. Extension guidelines are moving forward with a revised plan, 10 members or less limit for in-person meeting events. **Kimberly** remains cautious and will let us know when it is okay to hold these kinds of events.
5. Education Committee update: **Linda Werner** reported **Mary Moosemiller** will be the new chair for the Education Committee starting January 1, 2021. WE~SD 2021 conference has been cancelled because of Covid. There are virtual education opportunities posted on MG Facebook, the website and in the newsletter. Education opportunities need to be research based and appropriate.
6. State Representative report: None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. WCMGA Elections – **Ed** reported two board positions: Vice President and Secretary are on the ballot for the November 2020 election. Contact **Linda Loker, Kathy Schultz** or **Ed** if interested in either of the positions.
2. Board report – ED gave a brief update of the September Board meeting:
 - Approval of the treasurer and secretary reports.
 - Strategic planning committee will meet Friday October 16 at 11:15 A.M.
 - **Mary Moosemiller** will be the new chair of the Education Committee starting January 1, 2021
 - Need to balance the 2020 budget and set a 2021 budget
 - MOUs define roles between state, extension and MG Association.
 - The Finance Committee was defeated.
 - Emeritus status will have state revised language.
 - Zoom Awards Meeting Tuesday December 15 at 6:00P.M. The Golden Trowel will be awarded.
 - Budget 2021 will be discussed at the November board meeting scholarship award in that discussion
 - Policy updates or add new policies.

- Funnel your questions to **Ed** or **Bob** or contact a Board member.
 - Fundraising breakout session.
 - Dr. Weber plaque will be added to the bench by **Linda Loker** & husband.
 - Membership fee and due date - \$20.00 annual fee, no spouse discount, due December 1, 2020
3. Decision about Virtual Awards Meeting – **Bob** asked for ideas and assistance with this meeting.
 4. Membership renewal – [Form revision](#) - **Bob** reported that the new dues amount was corrected to reflect \$20.00 and the new due date is December 1, 2020.
 5. Poll for November’s Speaker’s Topics – Ann Pierce is the speaker and the topic will be on invasive species 1 topic out of 5 topics decided by the poll.
 6. New Breakout Session—Fundraising ideas. **Bob** will report back at the next meeting.
 7. Other announcements – 1 HR Continuing Education; 1 HR Volunteer
 8. Next meeting November 10, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for November Events

Dec. 15: 6:00 PM Zoom Awards Meeting



Fall Beauty. Submitted by Kim Willman.

WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

Project	Project Lead(s)
Algoma Town Hall	Petey Clark
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Valerie Stabenow
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Donna Kudlas/Jane Kuhn
Park View Prairie Garden	Eric Kropp
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	Mary Shepard
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Diane Iott
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

Project Leads: If you'd like your meetings listed on the calendar, please email information to Anne Murphy pakster0605@yahoo.com.

November 2020						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3 Board Mtg. 6 PM 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Business Mtg. 6 PM	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29	30					

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