

# Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## Newsletter

November 2021

### 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.

*“**Autumn** carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.”*

*-Jim Bishop*

*Park View Harvest. Submitted by Jane Kuhn.*



## What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an upright herbaceous perennial which blooms from late summer through fall and can withstand frost but not a hard freeze. My three inch wide flowers are held singly on long, straight stems and have white petals and a greenish yellow eye. My plant height and width are both three feet with foliage of leathery, shiny, dark green leaves which are oval in shape and toothed. Grow me in USDA zones 5-9 in full sun and average well-drained soil. Once established I will tolerate drought well. My growth should be pinched back in spring to promote a bushy shape.

Propagation can be from cuttings or from seeds, but seeds may be hard to come by. Another method is by plant division in spring if clumps become too large. I am a good cutting flower, a welcome fall bloomer, and can be used in spacious rock gardens and in xeriscaping. I attract butterflies and bees and am deer and rabbit resistant.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

**Co-Presidents (Nominations Accepted)**  
Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens (12.31.21)

**Vice President**  
Kathy Procknow & Debra Butch (12.31.22)

**Secretary**  
Anne Murphy (12.31.22)

**Treasurer (Nominations Accepted)**  
Deby Voyles (12.31.21)

**Board Representatives (3 positions  
Nominations Accepted)**  
Ruth Retzlaff (12.31.22)  
Grace Oliver (12.31.22)  
Virginia Slattery (12.31.21)  
Sandra Gollither (12.31.21)

**Advisor**  
Open

**Newsletter Compilation**  
Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing to a future newsletter by writing an article, submitting a photo, or sharing a story, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing [pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com). Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

## Letter from your Presidents: Ed Dombrowski & Bob Kneepkens

The growing season for this year is over. Hopefully any bulbs or autumn plantings you were planning are complete. During this time of year, we find ourselves looking forward to next year's gardening.

As the plants come to the end of their life cycle, it reminds us that organizations have life cycles too. Organizations can evolve and adapt to changing environments. Organizations can also fail to adapt, fail to change and become extinct. As the university changes its relationship with the MG Associations, it is a time for WCMGA to adapt to the changing environment.

While we wait for clarification from the Extension, we have become aware that Associations will be independent of the Extension and operate without the requirements of Extension policies and procedures. This begins in 2022. This is a great opportunity for WCMGA to redefine its mission, vision, and values. It will require a lot of work and involvement from members, but is also a great opportunity to adapt to the changing environment.

If you get a chance, a worthwhile read is *Our Iceberg Is Melting*, which is a simple story about doing well under the stress and uncertainty of rapid change. Based on the award-winning work of Harvard Business School's John Kotter, it can help when going through changes.

*Our Iceberg is Melting* takes place on an iceberg near the coast of Antarctica where a group of beautiful emperor penguins live as they have for many years. Then one curious bird discovers a potentially devastating problem threatening their home—and almost no one listens to him. The characters in the story—Fred, Alice, Louis, Buddy, the Professor, and NoNo—are like people you might recognize in your own organization, including yourself. Their tale is one of resistance to change and heroic action, seemingly intractable obstacles and clever tactics for dealing with those obstacles. The penguins offer an inspiring model as we all struggle to adapt to new circumstances.

Our hope is that members continue their support of WCMGA and look forward, as we do, to continued comradery, shared education, and experience.



**Jack in the Pulpit thinks this October is time for spring?!!!**  
*Submitted by Linda Loker.*

## Making the Garden BIGGER - Again!

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Several years ago, I told my husband that my vegetable garden was too big and too much work and that I wanted to make it smaller. A few weeks later he asked if I thought I could grow enough vegetables and fruits to keep us alive throughout the coming year if necessary. So, of course we made the garden bigger. Three years later we moved. We made my new garden much smaller than the old one. But every year since, I've expanded it, and next year it's going to be half again as big as it is this year.

My garden is located a half-mile from home in the middle of an unmown field. My dad is kind enough to mow the drive to the garden and a couple wide swaths around it to keep the weeds from encroaching on it.

The garden is fenced because deer, rabbits, groundhogs and other critters are problems. Every time the garden is expanded, the fence along the south end needs to be straightened out along one of the new sides or the other. The entire fence is a hodge-podge of old snow fence, chain-link, chicken wire, wood-framed wire mesh, and plastic mesh. The fence posts are just as varied. You might think from the description that it doesn't look very pretty with all the variety, but it works and looks just fine when the vegetables and flowers are abundant in summer.

To expand into the new area, I first scythed down the tall weeds and cut some small shrubs flush with the ground. Then I placed big sheets of overlapping cardboard over the weeds and weighted them down with cinder blocks, bricks and gallon jugs full of water. The cardboard will smother the weeds and will eventually disintegrate into the soil. You would be correct in thinking that this stage doesn't look pretty at all!

The next step, still to be done this fall, is to cover the cardboard with shredded leaves and grass clippings that my neighbor kindly provides.

I'm trying to expand the garden without spending any money on the project. I have a small pile of soil that I will spread over the leaves but not nearly enough so I'll be on the lookout for more. I don't yet have a definite plan for the additional fencing that I need but it's looking like it will be a mishmash of fencing types just like the current fence. I need some cinder blocks or bricks to edge raised beds because the new part of the garden is a low spot in the field and they will be under water after heavy rains unless they are raised. I need wood chips or something else for the paths between the beds.

Lots of things have yet to fall into place but from past experience, I am confident that all the missing pieces will somehow show up before it's time to plant next spring!

## ***Attention all Master Gardener Volunteers***

*Co-Leads needed to head up the Oshkosh Farmers Market project.*

- *This is an important project, fitting with our MGV community education priority.*
- *The Oshkosh Farmers Market wants us back! "The information and activities the Master Gardeners have presented in previous markets have been enjoyed by both young and old." - Michelle Schmid-Schultz, Market Manager*
- *Can participate as much or as little as you would like. Plan dates according to your schedule and interest; such as one Saturday morning a month, 2 or 3 times a season, every other week, or whatever works for you.*
- *Materials all ready to go; tables, reference books, hand outs, posters, etc. Or, do something different; create &/or purchase new materials. Be as creative as you want!*
- *A large source of volunteers (our membership) willing to help out. Also, former leads are available to provide advice and guidance.*
- *A fun and enjoyable morning; visiting with others, people watching, and shopping at the Market!*

*If interested in being a Lead or Co-lead for this project, please contact Kathy Procknow or Deb Butch. Thank you.*



## **WE NEED YOU!**

**Positions up for nominations:**

**President  
Treasurer  
Board Members**

**PLEASE** think about what you could gain by becoming a board member! It's a great way to learn more about your organization and the camaraderie is amazing! Bring your ideas to light and become an active member. Contact Anne Murphy at [pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com) to nominate someone or yourself by Monday, Nov. 8.



## Mason Bees

*Submitted by Jane Kuhn*

Mason Bees are named for their habit of using mud or other "masonry" products in construction of their nests which are made in naturally occurring gaps in stones, trees or other small cavities such as hollow stems or holes bored by other insects. Mason bees do not make honey. They eat pollen and nectar throughout their lives as they forage. They lay eggs in the tubular spaces, leaving food inside and mud the hole shut. The pupae will emerge in spring when the weather warms. Mason bees are some of the first bees to emerge in spring, are solitary bees, and are excellent pollinators. The mason bee house shown here is at the Butterfly Garden at Miravida Living and shows some of the holes mudded shut.

## New Addition at Park View Cutting Gardens

*By Carleen Christianson*



There is a new addition at the Park View Cutting Gardens. Mr. Chrome Illusion Lake Fly by Rita Mueller "Potteritta" & Cadillac Dan. It is a fiberglass Lake Fly painted by Rita with car enamel suggested by a car enthusiast who obviously knows what he is talking about. Cadillac Dan said it will outlast anything and everything. Mr. Chrome Illusion is joining our wonderful Master Gardener family. Stop by and check it out! It is outside in the garden.





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## Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am Montauk Daisy. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae / Compositae – Aster family. Genus: Nipponanthemum (Kitam) Kitam – Nippon Daisy. Species: Nipponanthemum nipponicum (Franch. Ex Maxim) Kitam – Nippon Daisy. Common names: Nippon daisy, Montauk daisy. Nippon daisies are native to China and Japan. They were given their common name Montauk daisy because they have naturalized on Long Island, all around the town of Montauk. As one of the late blooming daisy varieties, they are an attractive flower in the fall garden and a welcome source of nectar for pollinators as summer blossoms die back.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## COVID-Approved Projects Open for Volunteers

The following is a list of projects that are COVID-approved and open to Master Gardener Volunteers:

- Butterfly Garden at Miravida Living
- Park View Cutting Gardens
- Park View Vegetable Garden
- Park View Prairie Garden
- Oshkosh Area Humane Society Memorial Garden
- Rain Garden at Coughlin Building
- Morgan House
- Paine Art Center and Arboretum
- Octagon House
- Pollinator Garden at Neenah Public Library
- Carter Memorial Library, Omro
- Sullivan's Woods-invasive removal only
- Plant Health Advising-virtual

Please see the [2021 Winnebago County Master Gardener Guide](#) and contact the Project Lead for more information.

## Harvest Time at Park View Vegetable Gardens

By Jane Kuhn

It was harvest time at the Park View Vegetable Gardens. Tom Weber is shown with the red potatoes (98 were harvested) which were grown in straw bales. The gourds were grown on a tall A-frame structure so that the residents could see them from the walkways. Other things grown were pumpkins, peppers, pears and apples. All of these provided learning opportunities for the residents and staff as well as decorations and food they used for cooking including apple pie.



# Take notes now for a healthier garden next year



A simple map with a few notes is a valuable tool for future garden planning

Reflecting on your garden successes and mistakes from the past year can help you grow healthier and more enjoyable gardens in the future. Take notes now while this season is fresh in your mind.

The garden journaling trend surfaces every year around this time. I seem to get daily targeted ads for garden journals ranging from blank notebooks to highly organized templates that prompt you to write daily observations about weather trends and plant progress. Garden journaling is important; it helps you to keep track of your favorite tomato varieties, which diseases are showing up, and how your soil is responding to management.

Fall is a great time to reflect on the season because your memories are fresh. But how much do you actually need to document?

For the majority of gardeners, daily observations take too much time. But 5 to 10 minutes is really all the time you need to take some key notes to inform your garden plans and seed selections for next year.

## Make a map

A garden map is probably the most important piece of documentation you can keep. Keeping records of where things were planted allows you to rotate between plant families. The ideal rotation is 3-4 years and has implications for diseases, insects, nutrients and soil structure.

While I often remember where I planted things a year ago, I rarely remember my layout from 2 or 3 years ago. So I rely on my garden maps to make sure I'm rotating as much as possible.

I also like to make a map for next year around this time so that when I start choosing seeds in the winter, I have a better idea of how much space I'll actually have available.

## How will you use the space differently next year?

- Did you plant too much of something this year? Or not enough? It can help to be specific (“This year I planted 6 cherry tomato plants and 2 slicers. Next year plant 3 cherries and 4 slicers”).
- What were your favorite varieties that you want to plant again? Which ones are definitely not worth trying again?
- Take a few notes about your spacing and trellising. Was there anything that worked well? Or something you need to change?

## Identifying and troubleshooting problems

In the middle of the summer, we often see problems and don't have time to fix them, or the time to manage them effectively has passed. Write down some of the problems you saw this year so you can take the time to research how to prevent them next year when you have some downtime this winter. Problems could include insects or diseases, yellow leaves, plants that grew beautifully but didn't produce fruit, etc.

Use tools like **What's wrong with my plant?** or the **UMN Plant Disease Clinic** to identify any final problems you're seeing in the garden. Identifying diseases now can help you choose resistant varieties for next year.

And check out the **Vegetables from A-Z guides** to read up on best practices, or reach out to **Ask a Master Gardener** if you'd like to troubleshoot a problem with an experienced gardener.

Author: Natalie Hoidal, University of Minnesota Extension educator

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## Honored Status Award Application

Volunteers in the University of Wisconsin Division of Extension Master Gardener Program may apply for the awarded Honored Status. The purpose of this status is to 1) recognize volunteers for their contributions to the program, 2) increase flexibility in annual reporting requirements, and 3) create a uniform recognition status across the state.

To qualify for this award an individual must:

- Complete 10 years OR 1000 hours of service to the Master Gardener Program *in Wisconsin* as recorded in the online reporting system.
- List significant accomplishments to the local or statewide program. This should include leadership, contributions to projects, or support to other volunteers and Extension staff.
- Complete the application, including the signature from the local Extension staff and the Master Gardener Program staff.
- Be reviewed and approved by statewide Master Gardener Program staff.
- **Applications will be accepted only from November 1 through December 31**, with decisions awarded before March 31. Applications received outside of this deadline may be misplaced.

Awardees will be recognized with:

- New name badge, with honored designation
- Reporting exemption for volunteer and continuing education activities. You may report less than the required hours for perpetuity. This includes reporting ZERO hours).
- **Note: individuals must still complete other requirements of the program, including annual enrollment, the criminal background check, etc.**

### Comments/Explanation:

Over the decades, many local associations created their own criteria for an “emeritus” status to acknowledge the contributions of local volunteers. The emeritus criteria was not consistent across counties. And, this never was a recognized status statewide, leading to increased confusion and frustration regarding membership in the program.

In 2020, the Master Gardener Program tasked a group of volunteers to draft a proposed statewide solution. The group reviewed similar recognition strategies in other states. Ours incorporates elements of those models while meeting the requirements of our state’s program. It was named Honored Status to reduce confusion with campus based emeritus status. Applicants must have previously reported a total of 10 years of service OR a minimum of 1000 hours of service *in Wisconsin* to be eligible.

In addition, applicants must briefly list their accomplishments as a volunteer in the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. Accomplishments may include your leadership activities, your contributions to projects, and/or your support to volunteers and Extension staff. This can include local, regional, or statewide efforts. All efforts must have occurred in Wisconsin. Your write up should be limited to 500 characters or less, which is approximately the number of characters in this paragraph.

All individuals with previously designated emeritus status at the local level must still complete the application process and meet program requirements. Individuals who are awarded Honored Status may continue to report hours only if they would like.

Download Application: · [Honored Status Award Application \[Word\]](#)

## Continuing Education Opportunities

*By Linda Werner*

**Four Seasons Gardening Webinar Series** by the Illinois Extension Horticulture team. On select Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Free but registration required by clicking on the link for each webinar. Space is limited

### **Tree Root Collar Disorders, November 30**

A root collar is an important area of a tree where root tissue shifts to trunk tissue. Impacts to this part of the tree can have a variety of symptoms from yellow foliage and early fall color to dieback in the upper canopy, and even tree death. Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau will explore how to prevent, identify, and treat common tree root collar disorders.

**NOTE:** Each program is recorded and available to watch on the [Illinois Extension Horticulture YouTube channel](#). Videos are available about two weeks after the live program. Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEYBGqFXZS6Sn37n1mVcY1g>

**Color, Texture, Shape & Form, Tuesday, November 16, 6-7 p.m.**, sponsored by Olbrich Gardens. What botanical or scientific names can tell you about a plant. An introduction to basic terminology. Registration deadline November 11. Nonmember \$15 / \$12 Member. Register at: <https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/color-texture-shape-form-zoom-class/2816453>

**UW-Extension Master Gardener Webinars**, go to:

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events> to register and for more information about each session.

- Community Gardens: How to Plan for Success, Wednesday, November 3, 12 p.m.
- Heirloom Biographies, Monday, November 22, 6:30 p.m. or Monday, November 29 at 11 a.m.
- Care for Common December Plants, Monday, December 6, 6:30 p.m. or Monday, December 13, 11 a.m.

## Business Meeting Minutes, Oct. 12, 2021

### Standard Agenda

1. Treasurer's report- **Deby Voyles** presented the financial report. Deb provided a copy of the expense report to post on Google drive.
2. Secretary's report – **Ed Dombrowski** Reviewed the Board's agenda
3. Project update/ sponsor appreciation – **Debra Butch/Kathy Procknow** discussed appreciation from sponsors
4. Extension update – Discussed Updates to the Master Gardener Program, sent by Jay Dampier and Mike Maddox. The update presented significant changes to the Master Gardener program, the relation between the Extension and the Association, and the independence of the Association to function.
5. Education Committee update – **Valerie Stabenow** updated activities of the education committee. There will not be a Winter Escape / Summer Dreams conference in 2022
6. State Representatives report No report

### New Business

1. Elections for President, Treasurer and 3 Board Members. There were no members interested in running for President, Treasurer and the 3 Board positions that become available. November is the scheduled time for elections to take place. The board will determine the next course of action if there is no interest.
2. Continued membership in state WiMGA (Wisconsin Master Gardener Association) Pros / Cons: This discussion was postponed.
3. Membership Fees – due before December 31 Membership fee is \$20.00 and due by December 31.
4. Golden Trowel Awards- **Linda Loker/Stam Meyer** The selection committee is taking nominations
5. Updating your email. When updating email, it requires two entries. One in ORS, the online reporting system, and another notification being sent to the presidents. The association email list does not connect to the ORS system.
6. Honors certification: This is the approved designation instead of emeritus
7. Online reporting of education hours. All MGs must obtain 10 hours of continuing education for continued certification as a MG. Contact Valerie if you have difficulty entering your education hours. There are no volunteer requirements.
8. Other agenda items: none

## WCMGA Projects

*Check your Member Guide for contact information.*

Project	Project Lead(s)
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Jenny Breining
Coughlin Rain Garden	Ed and Jill Dombrowski
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Valerie Stabenow/Sue Egner
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Susan Forbes/Bette Hoytink
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Oshkosh Farmer's Market	NEEDS LEADS!
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Donna Kudlas/Jane Kuhn
Park View Prairie Garden	Carol Swannell/Ruth Eberwine
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche/Diane Thompson
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber (with assistance from Renee Donner)
Plant Health Advisors	Mary Shepard
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 2021

Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1	2	3	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				

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