

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service & environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

www.winnebagomastergardeners.org

1-920-232-1986

OCTOBER 2008

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Historian	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Membership	
Chris Bellin	233-4968
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Bruce Abraham	231-3747
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Hours & Time Keeper	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550

SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
Community Gardens	
Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Sue Steinhilber	235-1031
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Curt Reese	426-4992

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Susan Bohn (V.P.)	685-0427
Linda Werner (SEC.)	725-8168
Alice Graf (TRES.)	203-8252
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Marge Bolding	233-8668
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

Business Meeting OCTOBER 14
Coughlin Center doors open 6:00 meeting
begins at 6:15

OCTOBER – PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It's hard to believe that summer is over and soon it will be time to plant bulbs and put our gardens to bed for the winter. We are enjoying a warm beginning of autumn. Hopefully it will last.

Elections will be held at our November 11th Membership Meeting for Vice President and Secretary. These are two important offices that have a two year term beginning January 2009. We also have two Member at Large Board terms expiring at the end of this year. Ken Hawk has agreed to serve another term and Bob Potter will continue if no one else is interested. Please consider serving our organization by lending your time and talent to fill these important leadership positions. If you are a Certified Master Gardener and are interested or have questions about these positions, please contact Mary, Kathy or any Board Member. Remember, any organization is only as strong as its leadership.

Save the date of Tuesday evening December 2, 2008 for our annual awards banquet. This year it will be held at Bridgewood Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Neenah. Watch for the invitation with time and details.

Hope you enjoy the beauty of the Fall season.

Mary & Kathy



Nick's Notes

The Relationship between Buckthorn and Soybean Aphid



Last week during the Master Gardener Basic Training we covered native and invasive plants. Chad Cook and Tom Vanden Elzen discussed buckthorn in detail. Since moving here last winter, it is amazing how abundant buckthorn is in Winnebago County. I see it in urban settings, bordering golf courses, in field fence rows, and in woodlands along nature trails such as the Waukau Nature Preserve.

In addition to displacing native plants in woodland understory, another major problem that has developed related to buckthorn is the spread of soybean aphid. Buckthorn is the winter host for soybean aphid. They overwinter as eggs on buckthorn. Since the late 1990's, soybean aphid, an invasive insect from Asia, has gone from being non-existent in the U.S. to being a widespread agricultural problem requiring much more use of insecticides. Prior to soybean aphids, insecticides were rarely used on soybeans. Now insecticides are being applied as seed treatments or with foliar applications as the insect reaches economic treatment thresholds.

Another interesting twist to the aphid problem is the proliferation of beneficial insects. During the summer, I take part in a nation-wide scouting network. While taking weekly aphid counts, it is easily documented that beneficial insects such as green lacewings, syphid fly larvae, and Lady beetle are much more common when aphids are dense. In the field used as the soybean aphid sentinel plot, the border with a golf course had thick buckthorn in the fencerow, many more soybean aphids adjacent to the fence row, and more Lady beetles. More Lady beetles may contribute to more insect invaders as fall sets in as they seek someplace warm. The connection between these pest problems is more evidence why efforts need to be made to manage invasive plants as best as possible.

Master Gardener Board Meeting

September 2, 2008

Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Daniels, Bob Potter, Ken Hawk, Linda Werner, Mary Wiedenmeier, Marge Bolding, Nick Schneider, Roy Anne Moulton, Linda Tobey, Stan Meyer, Alice Graf, Marge Menacher, Sue Bohn

Treasurer's Report

During the month of August, income totaled \$4,569.91, including 2009 annual dues and class fees. Expenditures were \$842.80. The total in checking as of August 31, 2008 was \$11,274.41. The total of all accounts was \$16,525.87. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the August 5, Board meeting were approved as published in the September newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Student Scholarships

The Board agreed to pursue a scholarship program open to Winnebago County students interested in post-secondary education in some area of plant science. It would not have to be for a four-year school. Nick Schneider said a small scholarship is not likely to motivate students. One larger scholarship is more likely to receive applications than several smaller ones. Most scholarships are implemented through school guidance counselors. Marge Menacher will contact a counselor at Oshkosh North and the financial aid office at UW-O to see what kind of forms and procedures are expected. Alice Graf will contact the FVTC financial aid office. Nick will check with the County 4H youth advisor. WCMGA will need to set criteria. It was suggested that the Board select the top three candidates and then let the membership make the final choice.

4H Awards

Ethan Wright received a \$25 check from WCMGA for the best vegetable exhibit at the Winnebago County Fair and Paige Emmrich received \$25 for the best flower exhibit.

Winnebago County Fair

Susan Bohn said she receive great response from the membership for staffing the WCMGA booth. Visitors had a lot of good questions, and a number of people signed up for the Basic Class through the fair. The booth was nicely decorated.

Living Green Wisconsin

Nick Schneider will do a presentation as a representative of the UW-Extension. He understood that Ken Friedman would be giving a presentation on roof top gardens. This event was scheduled for September 6 & 7 at Sunnyview.

NEW BUSINESS

Class Enrollment

As of the Board meeting date, 27 people were enrolled for the Basic Class scheduled to start September 3. Nick Schneider suggested dropping the \$10 fee for MG's who are not taking the Basic Class but who want to attend one or two sessions. There is room and virtually no cost is involved. These people will need to notify the Extension office a week in advance of each session they want to attend. The first two classes will be free and then there will be a \$10 fee for any additional classes. The full list of classes will be sent to members and posted on the WCMGA website. A set-up committee will be recruited at the first session. Kathy Daniels, Mary Wiedenmeier, and Alice Graf will be there at the start of the first session. Class members will be asked to volunteer to bring cookies.

Tax Exempt Status

Alice Graf, treasurer, recommended keeping a smaller balance in checking and putting the rest of the available funds in savings to collect interest. She will check to see if there is a charge for electronic transfers when needed. She encouraged members who are buying items for the organization to use the WCMGA tax-exempt number and will email it to the Board and project chairs with an explanation. As a non-profit, WCMGA does not need to pay sales tax.

Elections

The terms of Susan Bohn, vice president, and Linda Werner, treasurer, will both expire at the end of the year. Both have decided not to continue for another term. The Board terms of Marge Bolding and Linda Tobey, both serving as former officers, will also expire. Linda and Susan will take their Board seats. The terms of Board at-large members Ken Hawk and Bob Potter will expire as well. Ken stated that he would like to continue. Bob said he hadn't made a decision yet. Mary Wiedenmeier will ask Audrey Ruedinger to serve on the nominations committee and suggest other possible members.

Hours and Membership Renewal

The majority of members paid their 2009 dues by the August 31 deadline. Kathy Daniels will send out a blanket email reminder to members to get dues to Alice Graf if they haven't already done so. Marlene Miller has moved to emeritus status. Kathy Daniels will contact Mary Ginke and Roy Anne will contact Dorothy Bonnin to see they also wish to become emeritus members. Linda Tobey will put the membership book together if Chris Bellin can't do it this year.

Business Meeting Program

Nick Schneider will talk about the emerald ash borer at the September business meeting. The plant advisors help line has been getting calls on the topic. The meeting will also include a plant swap and an opportunity to order cobrahead garden tools.

Awards Banquet

Mary Wiedenmeier reported on several restaurants she contacted about the annual MG Christmas party/awards banquet. The Board agreed that Bridgewood in Neenah was the best option. There is no cost for the room and entrees, including dessert, are in the \$15 to \$20 range. Bridgewood was not available on the first Monday in December, which has been the traditional event date, so it was moved to the first Tuesday, which is December 2. Mary will reserve the location.

Committee Reports

Education Committee: The gardens at the Oshkosh Correctional Institute were impressive. Many of the plants were unusual annuals. The regular horticulture advisor was not available that evening, but it was still an enjoyable tour. The Education Committee will start up meetings on September 15 to plan advanced education programs for the first quarter of 2009. Topic suggestions were requested.

MISC.

The Board discussed the best way to have project leads report on what they have accomplished. Sue Bohn made a motion that all project leads (core and individual) must submit a written summary report to the vice president by October 1 of each year and have the opportunity to present on their project at the October or November business meeting if they wish. Alice Graf seconded the motion and it was approved. A report form will be placed on the website to guide project leaders. Linda Tobey

suggested putting the reports in the newsletter one at a time.

Alice Graf said the WCMGA historian should be getting reimbursed for any photo processing that needs to be done. She suggested getting a gift card for film processing. It would just be a matter of turning in receipts and getting a new card when one is used up. Dawn Kent will be contacted to see what she needs. Alice Graf made a motion to purchase a \$100 Festival gift card for Linda Loker, so she can purchase baking supplies for meeting refreshments as needed. Bob Potter seconded the motion and it was approved.

Submitted by,
Linda Werner
Secretary

Master Gardener Business Meeting

September 9, 2008
Coughlin Center, 6:15 p.m.

Agent Nick Schneider, also MG advisor, presented a report on the Emerald Ash Borer. The quarantine of several counties (means that nursery stock and firewood cannot be transported) was announced. Nick passed around samples of damage done by the borer. The top 1/3 of the tree will be bare if affected. The Mountain Ash tree is not affected because it is not a true ash tree. Call the hot line number 1-800-462-2803 if the borer is sighted.

Members Attending

Need sign in list from presidents (I don't have that, I didn't realize we put that in until I checked an old newsletter.)

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alice Graf reported a total balance of \$16,525.87 as of 8/31/08. There is a balance of \$11,274.41 in checking. A balance sheet was passed out. A MOTION was made and passed to approve this report.

Board members are looking into the possibility of offering scholarships with some of the money we are accumulating.

Secretary's Report

The minutes as published in the August 2008 newsletter were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PROJECT LEADS

Sue Bohn, vice-president, thanked members for taking on projects. She asked Project Leads for up to five minute presentations at meetings for the next two months. Contact Sue for the month of your choice. Sue also passed out the 2008 WCMGVA Project Summary Report, also available on line, for leads to fill out. Either email or send your report to Sue.

GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD

The committee members for this award are: Audrey Ruedinger, Marlene Miller and Stan Meyer. The award is presented as a way of recognizing our members. Members need to be in WCMGVA for at least five years. The committee will select one or more members to receive the award at our annual Awards Dinner in December. Some past recipients are Audrey Ruedinger, John Procknow, Linda Tobey, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Stan Meyer, Lowanda Jungwirth, Burt and Agnus Carpenter, Don Reinhart.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Alice Graf reminded members to pay their dues. Dues are due earlier this year. Those who haven't paid will be contacted.

BASIC CLASSES

Nick Schneider announced there are 27 trainees in the class so far. MG members may attend two classes free this year. Contact Nick by phone or email if you plan to attend a meeting. Additional classes for members would be \$10.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

Audrey Ruedinger will head a nominating committee for new officers. There may also be member-at-large positions open. Both secretary and vice-president positions need to be filled by the November election. Retiring from office are Linda Werner (sec.) and Sue Bohn (vice-pres).

AWARDS DINNER

The dinner will be held on Tuesday, December 2 at the Bridgewood Resort and Hotel in Neenah. Invitations will be sent. There will be no general meeting in December.

MASTER GARDENER APPAREL

Marty Sacksteder will be ordering on October 14, after the next meeting. She will have catalogs available at the next meeting. Remember, denim shirts are for certified members only. Hats, T-shirts, denim shirts, sweatshirts, long-sleeve shirts, fleece full-zips can be ordered by all. Make your check out to WCMGVA. Another order form will be in the October newsletter.

UP COMING EVENTS

Alice Graf will be ordering Cobra tools at the end of the week- (September 13).

BUTTON TABLES

The three height white button tables used for MG events are now being stored in the garage with the worm castings. Four tables are available. We bought four new, easier to set up, 24 inch tables for the Farmer's Market. They will be stored at Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz' home if needed. She also has the big MG banner if you need it.

NAMETAGS

Marge Menacher noted that attractive Wisconsin shaped nametags were worn at the Milwaukee convention. Linda Tobey reminded us that the official MG State badge is the one we are using now. That is the only one approved by the state. These nametags cost \$6.50. NEW MEMBERS are issued it for free at the awards dinner. Board members will discuss this at their next meeting.

MASTER GARDENER SIGNS

John Procknow has a sign in his garage and is wondering where others might be. Linda Tobey said at least one sign is in the office. The Lincoln School committee would like one for their project. There was a discussion of where the signs are.

LINCOLN SCHOOL/ PARK VIEW GARDENS

Marge Bolding commented upon the very good appearance of the Lincoln School garden. Lincoln School committee members are: co-chairs Janet Priebe and Karen Weede. Committee members are; Pat Behm, Joni Pagel, Cindy Meszaros, Debbie Quant and Sandy Amsfield. The garden looks the best it has ever looked. Drive by it! It has been a challenging project. The Park View gardens are looking good too. Bill Weber is lead for the Park View Gardens. There was lots of hard work by both committees.

FAVORITE GARDENING TOOLS

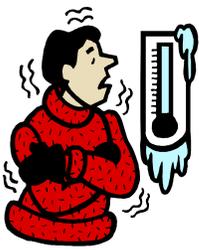
Marge Menacher shared her favorite tools and a special men's jeans apron to carry small tools in and even a can of pop. She also likes her small headed shovel for digging in new plants.

PLANT SWAP

Members enjoyed a plant swap with a variety of plants to choose from.

A MOTION was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Secretary pro-tem,
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz



Frost

By Lawanda Jungwirth

(Most information is from the *Farmers' Almanac*)

In late September and early October careful gardeners must watch the weather forecast every evening to see if Tom Mahoney or George Graphos are going to use the "F" word. In this case, the "F" word is *frost*.

Frost occurs when air temperatures dip below 32°F and ice crystals form on plant leaves. Some plants can withstand a light or even heavy frost, but many tender plants are injured or even killed by the slightest touch of frost.

Clear, calm skies and falling afternoon temperatures are ideal conditions for frost. If temperatures are falling fast under clear, windy skies - especially when the wind is out of the northwest - it may indicate the approach of a mass of polar air and a hard freeze. The result is below freezing temperatures that generally kill all but the most cold-tolerant plants.

Cloudy skies help protect plants from frost. During the day the sun's radiant heat warms the earth. After the sun sets the heat radiates upward, which lowers the temperatures at and near the ground. However, if the night sky has clouds, they trap the heat and keep the warmer temperatures lower, closer to plants, preventing frost.

Wind also influences frost. If the air is still and windless, the coldest air settles to the ground. The temperature at plant level may be freezing, even though at eye level it isn't. A gentle breeze, however, will prevent the cold air from settling and keep temperatures higher, protecting plants. But if the wind itself is below freezing, frost may be very damaging. Humidity and moisture help protect plants too. When moisture condenses out of humid air, it releases enough heat to sometimes save plants. When the air is dry, the moisture in the soil evaporates. Evaporation requires heat, which removes warmth that could save your vegetables.

The location of a garden can have a tremendous influence on whether or not an early frost wipes it out. The higher the garden in altitude, the colder the average air temperature, and the more likely the plants will be hit by an early freeze. But lower isn't always better. Cold air is heavier than warm air and sinks to the lowest areas, causing frost damage. The best location for an annual garden is on a gentle, south-facing slope that's well heated by late-afternoon sun and protected from blustery north winds. A garden

surrounded by buildings or trees or one near a body of water is also less susceptible to frost.

Soil type also affects susceptibility to frost. Deep, loose, heavy, fertile soil releases more moisture into the surrounding air than thin or sandy or nutrient-poor soil. The more humid the air, the higher the dew point, and the less likely that frost will form on those plants. Heavily mulched plants are more likely to become frosted, because mulch prevents moisture and heat from escaping out of the soil and warming the surrounding air.

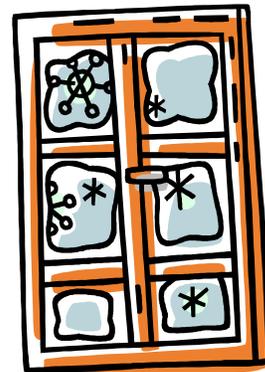
The plant itself determines its likelihood of frost damage. Immature plants still sporting new growth in the fall are most susceptible. Frost tolerance tends to be higher in plants with maroon or bronze leaves, because such leaves absorb and retain heat. Downy- or hairy-leaved plants also retain heat. Compact plants expose a smaller proportion of their leaves to cold and drying winds. By the same token, closely spaced plants protect each other.

If a frost is predicted, cover your plants, both to retain as much soil heat and moisture as possible and to protect them against strong winds, which can hasten drying and cooling. You can use newspapers, baskets, buckets, tarps, quilts, old drapes, straw and other materials to cover your plants. Cover the whole plant before sunset to trap any remaining heat. Be sure to anchor lightweight coverings to prevent them from blowing away.

COLD TEMPERATURE EFFECTS ON PLANTS AND VEGETATION

FROST: Damage depends upon length of frost duration.

LIGHT FREEZE: 29°F to 32 °F / Tender plants killed with little destructive effect on other vegetation.



What Am I?" by Bruce Abraham

I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Salicaceae**; Genus **Populus**. My habitats are sand dunes and these forests: beech, boreal, and northern lowland, preferring locations next to areas such as streams and swamps. My height is between 30'-70' with smooth, greenish to reddish brown bark on young trees, older trees have deeply furrowed gray-black bark. My leaves are simple, alternate, 3" – 6" ovate, long-pointed with fine toothed edges. The leaves are shiny, deep dark green on the upper surface and light green with rusty blotches on the underside, turning completely yellow in the autumn. In spring, my very large, pointed, golden-yellow buds appear. They are coated with a resin-like substance that, when they begin to expand and open, they emit a very aromatic, balsam-like scent. I am dioecious – individual flowers being either male or female, but only one sex found on an individual plant requiring both types of plants to produce seed. Male flowers have 20-30 reddish stamens and female flowers are 4-6" green colored catkins. I am very fast growing, but am considered short lived. My stem is best used as pulpwood. Some botanists consider me the northern-most growing deciduous tree in North America. My leaf buds have been used medicinally by Native Americans who used them to treat skin problems and lung ailments; herbalists value them as an expectorant and antiseptic tonic. What Am I?

MG BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH OCTOBER

Debbie Quandt Steve Schuller Linda Tobey
Jean Reed



If you didn't give us your birthday on our renewal form, or are a new member please give it to us now. That way we can celebrate with you too. We don't need to know the year if that is a tender area, we would be happy with even just the month. Email your information to linda@americanpresstech.com

OCTOBER GARDEN TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- **Week 1** - The care you give perennials before winter sets in makes a difference in how they bloom next spring.
 - To prevent the possibility of crown rot, remove all growth from the following plants only, before mulching: Globe Thistle, Baby's Breath, Liatris (Blazing Star), Peony, Monks Hood, Gaillardia, Balloon Flower
 - Daylilies and bearded Iris should have all flower shoots removed and the foliage cut back to 6"
 - Remove all debris from garden to prevent slugs and snails fro over wintering.
 - Cut grass short around gardens to prevent mice and voles from making nests.
 - Apply 2" layer of mulch **after** the ground is frozen.
 - Do Not cut back foliage from It is unless they are recently planted. The foliage is required to produce food for next years growth.
 - Do not mulch Iris. Mulching could promote root rot.
 - Wrap all young deciduous tress to prevent rodent damage.
 - Erect a four sided burlap screen around your evergreens to protect them from the drying winter winds. **Never** use plastic as this may damage the plant.
 - Weed flower gardens remove all annuals and dig that portion of the bed.
 - If perennials haven't been divided do so now.
 - Mark plants so they are not dug up in the spring by accident.
 - **Week 2** - Discontinue transplanting evergreens and perennials now. There is insufficient time for them to develop good roots before freezing.
 - Rototill the garden if you are not on a no till program. This helps heavy clay soils be more friable in the spring.
 - **Week 3** – Rake leaves. Use them to mulch or dig them into your tilled garden do not send to landfill.
 - Soak the soil around evergreens until freezing.
 - **Week 4** – Don't forget to shut odd outdoor water.
 - Place tree guards around trees to prevent rodent damage. Make sure they are high enough to protect the trees even in high snows.
- Clean and sharpen garden tools to be ready for spring.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH COSMOS



How would you like to own a universe? This will probably never happen but you can grow a plant which produces "showy flowers" in an "orderly arrangement of cosmic proportions". Cosmos is the flower you should grow. Spanish priests grew cosmos in their mission gardens in Mexico. The evenly placed petals led them to christen the flower "Cosmos," the Greek word for harmony or ordered universe. Cosmos, like many of our warm weather annuals such as marigolds originated in Mexico and South America. Asters are an easy to grow perennial that grows well in average soils, but needs full sun. Asters come in blues, purples and a variety of pinks. All Asters are yellow in the center of the flower. They are daisy-like in appearance, even though they are a member of the sunflower family.

Because cosmos is so easy to grow in the worse conditions spring and summer have to offer, it can be seeded in the spring for early summer bloom or in mid-summer (June) for late summer (August) - until- frost bloom as well. Since cosmos seed actually sprout faster in hot soils and the plant grows best in hot, dry summer temperatures, you can increase your plant population and bloom display by cutting back spring-planted cosmos. When the spring-planted cosmos begins to look as if there are an abundance of dried seed pods, do not remove the plants -- encourage re-bloom simply by cutting the plants back to 12 - 18 inches high. They will be back in bloom in a month and the seed cut off will fall to the ground, germinate in the hot soil and increase the density of your plant population and subsequently, the eventual bloom display.

Master Gardener Project of the Month LINCOLN SCHOOL



Our Master Gardener group met a BIG challenge at Lincoln School this year---"stay ahead of the weeds".

Sandra Ansfield, Patricia Behm, Debbie Quant, Cindy Meszaros, Joni Pagel, Janet Priebe and Karen Wedde contributed their time and talents. Previously we planted arborvitae, spirea, potentilla, barberry and perennials.

This year a few more shrubs, perennials, grasses, mulch and annuals for color were added to the site. The year around color was fantastic!

Our efforts did not go unnoticed. We were gratified by the many compliments we received from the community, UW-O staff and fellow MGV's. The Master Gardener signage is now proudly displayed.

This dedicated group took an area filled with very tall thick weeds and overgrown plantings dotted with debris; which was a real eyesore; to this beautiful landmark on which Abe is honestly happy to sit.

We had a GREAT year!



Master Gardener of the Month

Lawanda Jungwirth

I have been a Master Gardener since 1994. I had decided to quit working as a professional chained to a desk and get outdoors where I really wanted to be. I took a job as a gardener at a home on Doty Island in Neenah. Whenever there was a decision to be made, my employers would say "Well, you're the expert." But I really wasn't. The Neenah Library was on my way home and I checked out and read just about every gardening book available to make sure I didn't screw something up. Then I heard about the Master Gardener program and decided that I should look into it.

I am still far from "the expert" and I still find new topics and techniques I know nothing about even after all these years.

My husband and I live on an acre in the Town of Clayton west of Neenah. When we moved here, the yard was beautifully landscaped and I needed to learn how to take care of everything quickly so nothing would die. It was several years before I even had everything identified. In fact, there are still two shrubs whose identities remain uncertain.

I have made many changes to our acre in the last 17 years. I immediately added a big vegetable garden where I grow all the usual things and try a few new things each year. At one end of the vegetable garden I have three raised beds because the soil at that end of the garden is hard clay suitable for making pottery! I also have an herb garden with both annual and perennial herbs inside the vegetable garden. My vegetable garden could be described as "casual." I am diligent about removing weeds but any volunteer annual flowers are welcome wherever they self-seed. So there are lots of calendulas among the strawberries, cosmos in the potatoes, and cleome between the beans.

Several years ago my husband and I installed a pond with a waterfall. It was so much work, but so much fun! Landscaping around and behind it was a big part of the fun.

About ¼ of our acre has been left unmowed for about 15 years. In this area we have lilacs, apple and pear trees, elderberries and other native shrubs that I planted. Every year I am completely surprised by some new wildflowers that grow among the tall grasses. This had been a grass lawn since at least 1972 and before that it was farmland for many years, so I don't know if these seeds have been lying dormant in the soil waiting for just the right conditions to germinate or if birds

or other animals are bringing them in. Either way, the surprises are wonderful.

My husband and I enjoy walking our dog on the Wiouwash Trail. That is where I become passionately interested in our native wildflowers and the invasives that threaten them.

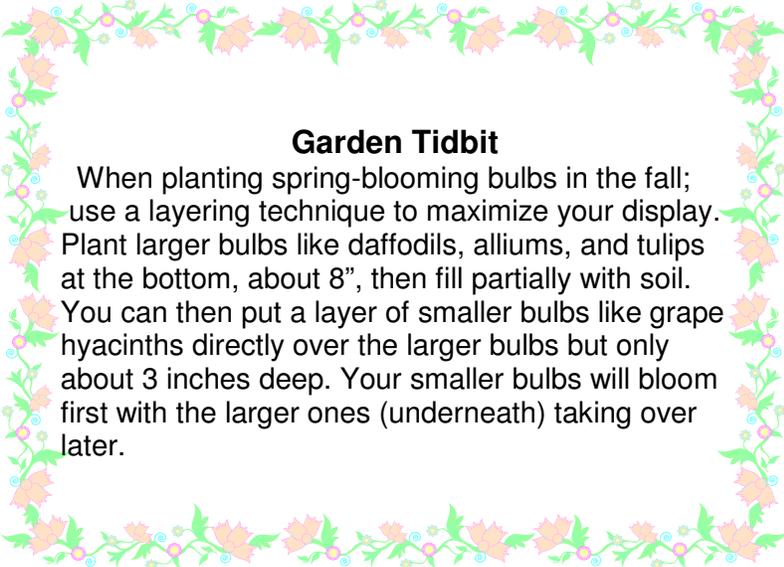
Other than gardening, I enjoy reading both fiction and non-fiction, biking, quilting and crocheting blankets for Project Linus, a national organization that provides blankets to children in crisis situations.

Octagon House

The committee of: Jean Reed, Betty Kuen, Ken Friedman, and Anne Ross were busy this summer designing the landscape for the Octagon House in Neenah.

The design depicting the landscapes of the late nineteenth century was completed and presented to members of the Neenah Historical society. It appeared that they liked the design and had no issue with estimated costs. However, we are waiting for an official response as to how we can further help. Jerry will present the design at the next MG meeting.

Jerry Robak



Garden Tidbit

When planting spring-blooming bulbs in the fall; use a layering technique to maximize your display. Plant larger bulbs like daffodils, alliums, and tulips at the bottom, about 8", then fill partially with soil. You can then put a layer of smaller bulbs like grape hyacinths directly over the larger bulbs but only about 3 inches deep. Your smaller bulbs will bloom first with the larger ones (underneath) taking over later.

Emeritus Status

It is time for some of us to look at our position in Master Gardeners. We may be thinking it is not as easy as it once was to do all of the things necessary to fulfill our obligations as an MG, and we are thinking of leaving the organization because of it.

Wait a minute, if that's where you are going. Answer these questions first. Have you been a member for at least 10 years? Have you served as a Board member or an Officer? Have you been the Lead on a project or committee for two years at some point in your membership? If the answer to these questions is YES you have met the conditions necessary to be an Emeritus Member.

As an Emeritus member you have ALL the rights of a certified member. You do not have to pay any dues, or do any mandatory hours, but you CAN do what you'd like. If some day you feel up to working at Park View with the group for a couple of hours do so. If you want to come to a meeting or two please do. You are invited to all activities including the Holiday Awards Dinner and our annual Picnic. The Emeritus Status is our way of saying Thank You for your years of service.

If you are interested please call or email Linda Tobey, Mary Weidemier or Kathy Daniels to sign up or ask questions. Don't be shy you deserve it.

Answer: What am I?

Answer: I am an erect, perennial tree- **Populus balsamifera L. subsp. balsamifera**; common name: balsam poplar, hackmatack, black poplar

References: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/> and associated links



2008 MG CLASSES AND YOU

If you are a certified Winnebago County Master Gardener and would like to attend one or two of these classes please let Nick know so he can have handouts for you. You may attend 2 of these classes free of charge; over 2 will be a \$10.00 fee per class.

2008 Master Gardener General Training

3-Sep	Wed.	6-9 pm	Vegetables: JPCC/Sherman Road Community Garden: Nick Schneider
10-Sep	Wed.	6-9 pm	Trees and Shrubs: The Paine: Roy Ann Moulton, Audrey Ruedinger, and Sheila
17-Sep	Wed.	5:30-8:00	Natives/Invasives: Waukau Nature Trail: Chad Cook and Tom Vanden Elzen
24-Sep	Wed.	6-9 pm	Insects/ IPM: JPCC: Phil Pellitteri
1-Oct	Wed.	6-9 pm	Turf grasses: JPCC: Nick Schneider
8-Oct	Wed.	6-9 pm	Plant Propagation: JPCC: Joy Perry
15-Oct	Wed.	6-9 pm	Soils and Fertility: JPCC: Roy Ann Moulton
22-Oct	Wed.	6-9 pm	Fruit/Botany: JPCC: Nick Schneider
29-Oct	Wed.	6-9 pm	Pathology/Diseases: JPCC: Brian Huddleson
5-Nov	Wed.	6-9 pm	Herbaceous Plants: JPCC: Roy Ann Moulton and Audrey Ruedinger
12-Nov	Wed.	6-9 pm	Weeds/ IPM: JPCC: Nick Schneider
19-Nov	Wed.	6-9 pm	Backyard Wildlife: JPCC: Nick Schneider

Fond du Lac 2008 Fall Master Gardener Focus Training Herbaceous Ornamentals

Every Thursday, October 23 thru November 13 (4 sessions)
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Rm. 113/114 University Center, UW-Fond du Lac

Featured Topics and Speakers:

Thursday, October 23

Weeds of the Garden, Mark Renz, UW-Extension Weed Scientist

Flowering Bulbs, Steve Lesch, Landscape Designs, Inc., Madison

Thursday, October 30

Herbaceous Garden Maintenance, Eileen Nelson, UW-Extension Horticulturist

Flower Garden Design, Jim Drzewiecki, Ginkgo Leaf Studio

Thursday, November 6

Containers and Tropical Plants in the Garden, Mark Dwyer, Janesville Rotary Gardens

Herbaceous Perennials, Ed Lyon, Allen Centennial Gardens, UW-Madison

Thursday, November 13

Insects and Diseases of Garden Flowers, Chris Williamson, UW-Extension Entomologist &

Brian Huddleson, UW-Extension Plant Pathologist

Annual – Our Widening Garden Palette, Carol Beatty, Freelance Horticulturist

Each attendee will receive a notebook of herbaceous ornamental publications and copies of the presentations as made available from each speaker. We think you will find this program educational and packed with information that you can apply to your own home garden.

Lunch will be on your own either on or off campus
Please pre-register by Friday, October 17th



HERBACEOUS ORNAMENTALS FALL MG PROGRAM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Registration fee (includes materials):

(number attending) _____ Certified Master Gardener(s) @ \$60 per person

County where certified: _____

(number attending) _____ Non-Master Gardener(s) @ \$90 per person

_____ +1 Additional family member @ \$ 25 per person (no materials)

Return to:

UW Extension MG Program

400 University Dr.

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**2008 MASTER GARDENER
APPAREL ORDER FORM**

An order will be sent for Master Gardener apparel by October 15th. The items will be available by November 11, our November meeting. Please send your order to me with your item marked including size and color. Include your check with your order made out to **WCMGV** for the total amount of your order.

DENIM SHIRT: Indicate size. Price \$26.00. (For certified Master Gardeners only)

Ladies denim (XS-XXL; Plus 1X; Plus 2X) _____

Men's denim (XS-6XL) _____

SWEATSHIRTS: Indicate size and color.

Crewneck- \$18.00 (S-2XL) _____

Hooded with full zip \$25.00 (S-3XL) _____

COLORS: Sport gray; Forest; Navy; Dark Chocolate; Royal

T-SHIRTS: Indicate Size and color. Price \$10.00 *

Women-(XS-2XL) _____

Men _____

Navy (S-5XLT) Sport Gray(S-5XLT) Sky (S-3XL) Sand (S-3XL); Forest Green (S-3XL)

LONG-SLEEVE T-SHIRTS: unisex sizing; indicate size & color \$12.00

COLORS: Navy (S-5XL); Indigo Blue (S-2XL); Kiwi (S-2XL), Sand (S-3XL); Light blue (S-3XL); Sport gray ((S-3XL): _____

FLEECE, FULL ZIP: \$25.00

Women-(S-2XL) _____

Men-(S-4XL) _____

COLORS: Red, hunter, true royal

CAP: One-size fits all; \$10.00

Indigo blue, Green, Khaki

Please call Marty Sacksteder, 920-836-2511 if you have questions. You may send your order to me at 7963 Pleasant Valley Rd. Larsen, WI 54947

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

REMEMBER ONLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS MAY WEAR THE DENIM SHIRTS

Good gardening is very simple, really.



You just have to think like a plant.

Barabra Damrosch

OCTOBER 2008

(USE THIS CALENDAR TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR 2009 HOURS)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1 CLASS	2	3	4 Farmers Market
5	6	7 Board meeting	8 CLASS	9 Yom Kippur	10	11 Farmers Market
12	13	14 Business meeting 6:15 Coughlin DEADLINE FOR APPAREL ORDER	15 CLASS	16	17	18 Farmers Market
19	20	21	22 CLASS	23	24 United nations day	25 Farmers Market
26	27	28	29 CLASS	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN	

This calendar is a perfect spot to keep track of your 2009 hours.