



# Winnebago County Master Gardener

October 2014

## Volunteer Newsletter

### 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.

### BUCKTHORN HELP NEEDED

It's that time of year again to start removing buckthorn from the North High Conservancy Park in Oshkosh.

We will be entering the park from the North High School parking lot off Vinland. There is a well-marked path past the retention pond to the prairie area.

We will be along that area.

You need a lopper and smaller device for the little trees. Wear gloves with a coating on them. We put chemicals on the stump of the trees we cut down so it will not grow back.

Wear jeans and long sleeves.

Dates are: Oct. 4th, 25th and Nov 1st-so far.

More dates to follow. Time: 9-12

If you have a chain saw-PLEASE bring it. There are no power outlets out there.

Great way to get started on your hours for 2015. Driving time is also counted.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME !!**

Questions- call or email me at 231-1729 or 216-9455

Sue Egnor

[mgardener4ever@yahoo.com](mailto:mgardener4ever@yahoo.com)



### Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at email [dldoug5@charter.net](mailto:dldoug5@charter.net)

## It's Not the Roots, It's the Fungi!

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Everything you thought you knew about how plants get nutrients from the soil through their roots may be wrong. Scientists have determined that 95% of plant families get the majority of their nutrition not through roots, but through microscopic fungi that either attach to or penetrate the roots. These fungi, called mycorrhizae (pronounced my-core-rise-uh), form thin strings called hyphae that can be hundreds or even thousands of miles long on a single plant!

The mycorrhizae extend into places where even the tiniest roots cannot penetrate in their search for nutrients and water. They can dig deep into the earth, or grow sideways or even upward, whatever they need to do to scrounge nutrients for the plant. They give a plant access to up to 2,500 times as much soil volume as roots alone. In exchange, the fungi are nourished by the sugars the plant produces through photosynthesis.

Along with supplying nutrition and water, the fungi also protect the plant from uptake of heavy metals like mercury and lead by binding them to the hyphae's sticky sheath. In the same way, they help prevent erosion by causing fine soil particles to clump together. They also help the plant avoid soil-borne bacterial and fungal diseases.

You can imagine that the more mycorrhizal fungi a plant has attached to it, the healthier it will be, since it has access to so many more resources than a plant without the extra help. Scientific experiments where soil has been inoculated with mycorrhizal fungi bear this out.

It's pretty obvious that we should do everything we can to encourage the growth of mycorrhizal fungi in our gardens. You can buy fungi to inoculate your soil, but it is best to maintain healthy soil and grow your own crop of fungi. Don't worry – you won't have mushrooms popping up everywhere. Mycorrhizae are invisible to the naked eye, only a single cell wide.

Here are some dos and do nots in the quest for a good crop of mycorrhizae:

- DO NOT till deeply. Tilling breaks up strands of fungi and kills them.
- DO NOT use chemical fertilizers. The salts in them kill fungi.
- DO NOT use soil-applied fungicides. The reason for this one should be obvious.
- DO NOT apply phosphorus to your soil unless a soil test says it is necessary. Soils with excess phosphorus discourage growth of mycorrhizae. Phosphorus is the "P" on a bag of fertilizer, and is always the middle number. For example a bag of 10-5-10, has 5% by weight of phosphorus.
- DO till or hoe lightly and shallowly if necessary.
- DO use an organic mulch around plants.
- DO plant a mix of perennials and annuals. Mycorrhizal fungi cannot survive over winter without live roots to attach to. Strawberries, raspberries, perennial grasses and flowers, shrubs and trees, and cover crops such as alfalfa and hairy vetch all provide a place for the fungi to spend the winter. Even perennial weeds will help out!

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### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

#### FLOURLESS PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

1 egg

1 cup creamy peanut butter

1 cup granulated sugar

Blend ingredients together with a large fork. Make approximately 30 small balls of dough.

Place on ungreased cookie sheet - can place close together as they do not spread.

350 degree oven: Bake exactly 18 minutes.

Remove from oven and immediately top with a Brach's chocolate star or miniature Reese's Peanut Butter

Cup and press down slightly.

Cool completely on pan before removing to rack or platter.

*Note:* For no chocolate option, press dough with tines of fork lightly in crisscross fashion before baking.

*These are amazingly easy and so good!*

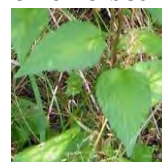
*Linda Loker*



## Creeping Bellflower

By Lawanda Jungwirth

When my husband and I moved to our home 23 years ago, I discovered a pretty purple flower in the flowerbed called creeping bellflower. I thought it an odd name, since it didn't appear to be a creeper: the two-foot stems were upright and held cute purple bell-shaped flowers along their sides.



Years went by and the creeping bellflower survived each winter and didn't creep at all. When the Wisconsin DNR developed its invasive species rule in 2009, I was surprised to see creeping bellflower listed as "Restricted." I soon found out why it was. I suddenly noticed creeping bellflower in lots of road-side ditches. And in grassy places along fields, open woodlands, marshes and hedgerows. Along recreation trails. In shade and sun. In wet areas and dry areas. In clay soils and sandy soils. This is a true invader!

This past spring I spent several hours trying to remove bellflower from my flower beds where it has pretty much taken over. Too late. I should have heeded NR40 when I first saw it listed.

Here are some of the words used to describe this plant on one internet forum: insidious, monster in disguise, huge mistake, loath this plant, pretty-yet-evil, secretly organizing underground army, multiplying like crazy, cancer of the garden, alien, beast, nightmare, horrible, awful, purple monster, menace . . . you get the idea. Strong words for such a pretty plant. Some of the people on this forum have been battling creeping bellflower for ten or more years! How did this happen? Like many invasive plants, creeping bellflower is native to Europe and Asia and was imported as an ornamental garden plant. Insect pests and diseases that kept it under control in its native lands did not travel with it. Eventually conditions were right for a population explosion.

Creeping bellflower spreads both by seed and by underground roots. One plant can produce 15,000 seeds, but it's easy to prevent it from spreading by seed by cutting or mowing the flowers before seeds develop. The underground roots are the real problem. Tilling them under only helps them spread. Every chopped up little root piece can produce a new plant. Same problem with pulling or digging. The roots can break off. Reportedly, glyphosate (Round-up) kills back the top of the plant, but the root lives to grow another day.

Creeping bellflower has irregularly toothed heart-shaped leaves on erect, unbranched stems 1-3 feet tall. Leaves



### 2014

#### Flower Arranging schedule at Parkview Health center

Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30	
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate

## Master Gardeners Business Meeting September 9, 2014

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### Presentation:

Larry Lang gave the presentation on bulbs. He has taught at the University for 30 years and has written numerous books. The presentation was broken up into categories of Early Bulbs, Mid Spring Bulbs, Late Spring Bulbs and Early Summer Bulbs. Larry explained the importance of preparing the soil and picking the correct site for the bulbs. Some of the planting guides he explained were to plant the bulbs six to eight inches deep, group the bulbs with six to eight bulbs, use a 10-10-10 general fertilizer, plant in a flowing pattern, and to use mulch after the planting is done. Larry talked about how to care for the bulbs after they bloom. After the petals fall off, cut the stem as close to the plant without removing a lot of leaves. Deadheading the plants will ensure the energy produced will be used for next year's plant. Larry also explained about forcing spring bulbs, selecting the bulbs, vendors to use, and the best time to plant bulbs.

### Treasures Report: Sue Egner

Report for August was presented

### Secretary report

The minutes are now up to date on the web site

### Welcome to the new class members

The 22 new members were introduced

### Nomination Presentation- Anne Murphy

A presentation of the open positions of the board was given. The positions opening are; vice president, secretary, and three board members. The voting will be at the November business meeting.

### Old News

The membership fees are due now. The fee is \$30.

### New Business

There is now a change for new members. The required hours for new students on core projects will now be twelve hours instead of the twenty four that was previously required. Ruth Fry was granted Emeritus. Lawanda's book is now being offered for \$10. The monarch's population in Wisconsin has rebounded.

### Project News:

There have been many compliments and thank you notes that have come in for many of the projects.

Ken Hawk is stepping down from the Park View Prairie project. We are currently looking for a lead for that project.

Community Gardens of the Fox Valley is looking for a project lead. Ruth Fry is stepping down from being the lead. Ruth was granted Emeritus.

### New Opportunities

Projects that will be looking for help with clean up for fall are Parkview Prairie and Winchester Let Mary know if you do not have email and need a call on receiving workday information.

There are opportunities for several committees. The hours will count toward required hours. The committees available are: the Newsletter, Sunshine Committee, and Website development

### Education Committee Report:

The group is working on the plans for Winter Escape, Summer Dreams

### UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller

There are 22 new members going through training this year. Tree ID workshop still has opening in Appleton and Green Bay. There is a new 4-H agent. Youth and Science Educator position is open. Nick's position is still open.

### Other News

Snack sign up sheet was passed around. A few of the members have plants to give away.

Next business meeting will be on October 14 at 6:00

### Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## Nomination Time!

If you'd like to be nominated for the the VP, Secretary or Board Member positions, please let Anne know at [murphy@uwosh.edu](mailto:murphy@uwosh.edu). All hours go toward your required hours.

## Winnebago County Master Gardeners Board of Directors

### Co-Presidents

Mary Shepard 235-9242

Linda Petek 233-5730

### Co-Vice Presidents

Ivan Placko 721-9394

Jane Kuhn 231-3993

Secretary Mary Jo Maher 915-2506

Treasurer Sue Egnor 231-1729

### Members

Linda Baeten 232-1224

Pat Behm 410-3290

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Donna Kudlas 233-0367

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Roy Anne Moulton 915-9731

Anne Murphy 379-7132

Dara Sitter 420-0620

## Committees

Education and Trips	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	Donna Kudlas	233-0367
	Kathy Daniels	233-0410
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Linda Baeten	379-8377
Membership	Linda Baeten	379-8377
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Refreshment Committee	Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	Sue Egner	231-1729
SOP & Bylaw Committee	Ivan Placko	721-9394
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Renee Donner	420-6596
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012
	Anne Murphy	379-7132


## Core Projects

Community Gardens	Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
	Synda Jones	233-3228
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Matt and Julie Miller	233-8370
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Pat Behm	410-3290
	Dara Sitter	420-0620
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
ThedaCare	Diane Iott	379-4176
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467

## October 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 <i>Buckthorn Removal</i>
5	6	7 <i>MG Brd mtg</i> 6:00  <i>Parkview-noon</i>	8	9	10	11 <i>Farmers Market</i>
12	13	14 <i>MG Bus mtg</i> 6:00  <i>Parkview-noon</i>	15	16	17	18 <i>Farmers Market</i>
19	20 <i>Parkview Flower Arrng</i>	21 <i>Parkview - noon</i>	22	23	24	25 <i>Farmers Market/Buckthorn Removal</i>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	

## November 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Buckthorn Removal</i>
2	3	4 <i>MG Brd Mtg</i> 6:00	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>MG Bus Mtg</i> 6:00	12	13	14	15
16	17 <i>Parkview Flower Arrng 1:30</i>	18	19	20	21	22
<u>23</u> 30	24	25	26	27 	28	29