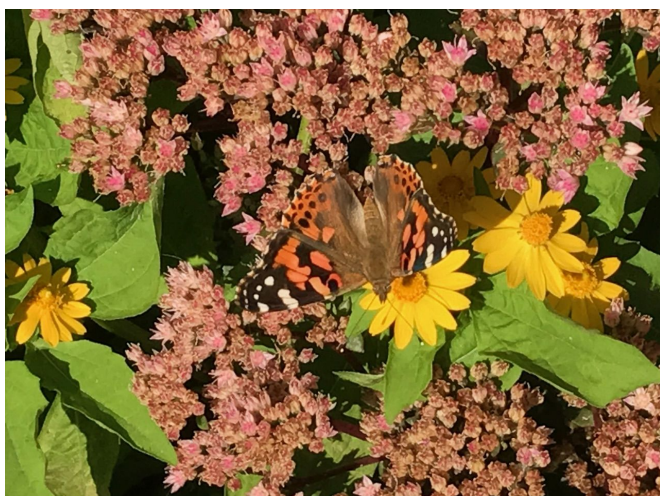


Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

October 2017



This painted lady is on the sedum at the LHO Butterfly Garden. This is the first time we have seen painted ladies here and there were three of them enjoying the sunshine and busy on the flowers.

Picture by Jane Kuhn.

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.



Letter from Your Presidents

Kathy Schultz & Linda Loker

There is beauty all around us! Fall brings out the stunning colors of nature. It also brings out the reality that we need to be putting our gardens to bed. All the work we have done since April, with its successes and failures, and now we start the cycle all over again! But hey, we are gardeners, and this is what we love to do, right?!

Speaking of caring for our fall gardens, our Education Committee is hosting a class on "Putting Your Garden To Bed" on October 7 at the Coughlin Center...and it is free! This is a great time to find out new ideas and find answers to questions you may have. The committee is also on schedule with Winter Escape Summer Dreams seminar planning. It will again be held at LaSures on February 17, 2018. Great speakers are lined up for the event!

Our Basic Training class is in their second month already. We have 23 new trainees and they join us each month for our education hour at the business meetings. Please make them all feel welcome.

As the projects are being put to bed, don't forget to complete your project applications and any funding requests to Eric Kropp and Nancy Karuhn. The deadline is October 31. Any questions could be directed to these two Vice Presidents.

Our speaker for October will be our own Barb Harrison. She will be presenting her recent trip to England.

And as the year rolls along, it is time once again for elections. The open positions this year are for president and treasurer. We ask that each member consider a position on the board of directors for our organization. We will talk about these roles at the business meeting and hope that there is an interest among our members. Ann Abraham and her committee may be contacting you so please consider joining your fellow members on the board. Working in the projects is always a great way to learn and have fun, as well as helping out the community we live in. Working on the board can also be a good way to learn and grow as a member - this can be interesting and fun too.

Happy Halloween everyone!

Kathy and Linda



What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an herbaceous perennial which grows to a height of three to six feet and a spread of two to three feet in zones 3-7. My leaves are large and toothed, green on the upper side with light, scattered hairs and whitish on the underside. I bloom from July into October with flower heads up to two inches across with each head containing 50-100 yellow ray flowers and 100-250 disc flowers. My root is thick, branching and mucilaginous with a bitter taste and a camphor-like smell blended with a floral undertone.

I am a low maintenance plant that prefers plenty of space in full sun to part shade and medium water in well-drained soil. Propagation is by seed or division. Prune my plants in spring to remove dead stems from winter. I have few pests or disease problems. I am a nice addition to rockeries, cottage gardens, perennial gardens and borders as well as containers. If you give me a little attention my beautiful flowers will be around for decades of enjoyment.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

Co-Vice Presidents: Nancy Karuhn & Eric Kropp

Secretary: Ann Abraham

Treasurer: Joni Pagel

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



Park View Vegetable Garden. Picture by A.Murphy

Advice For Fall Clean-up

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Some gardeners are scrupulous about pulling everything out or cutting everything back before winter comes. Others leave the entire job for spring. The ideal is probably somewhere in between.

You should pull up and compost all annual flowers and vegetable plants. As an alternative to adding plant debris to the compost bin, dig big holes in the garden and bury the debris. By spring the plants will have composted under ground. Don't wait until spring to take care of this task as the dried stems won't compost readily and their nutrients will have dissipated.

Any plant that is diseased or damaged by insects should be disposed of in the garbage rather than the compost bin. Most compost piles do not get hot enough to kill diseases and insect eggs, allowing the pests to live to re-infest plants next year wherever the compost is spread.

Diseased perennial plants should be cut back to within a few inches of the ground. Also cut back any plant that will self-seed unless you want volunteer seedlings to grow wherever they land or for transplanting to another spot.

Non-diseased perennials can be left standing over winter to provide landscape interest and food for winter birds. The seed pods and stalks of native prairie plants are especially pretty in winter and are a valuable food source for birds.

Another reason to leave healthy perennials standing is to catch leaves and snow among the stems. This will keep soil temperatures more consistent over winter, preventing alternate freezing and thawing that damages roots.

Cut back any plant that looks unappealing, has weak stems that will break with the lightest snow, or has large leaves that will stick together to form an impenetrable mat over the soil.

If you've got spare compost, spread it over the soil. Cover the compost, and any other bare soil, with shredded leaves, grass clippings, pine needles or straw. Mother Nature doesn't leave bare soil and neither should you. Bare soil is subject to erosion from wind and water, sunburn and cracking. Remove the cover in spring so the soil can dry out and warm up, or just move it aside to set seeds or plants.

Stakes or cages from any plant that was diseased, especially tomatoes, should be thoroughly washed with hot soapy water or wiped down with a mild bleach solution. The same is true of tools that are used to cut or remove diseased plants.

It's important to make a last pass through the garden to remove weeds. Otherwise, they will be there for you next year one way or another. Perennial weeds will come back as healthy as ever. Annual weeds will produce seeds and propagate themselves. Really, take care of it now.

Finally, make some notes about what worked this year and what did not. Also note plants that need to be moved and ideas for next year. Next spring you'll be glad you did!

Native Plants Shine in Autumn

By Lawanda Jungwirth



There are two times of year when native plants are at their best – early spring when the spring ephemerals cover the forest floor, and late summer when the prairie plants shine.

Here's a quick review of what native plants are and why we should plant them. Natives are those that were growing in a particular area prior to European settlement, about the mid-1800s. They have evolved and adapted to the local climate, soils, insects and diseases for centuries. Thus, they rarely need extra care in the form of human-provided water, fertilizer, staking, pruning and all the other gardening chores that plants imported from other areas require.

Native plants provide more ecosystem benefits than their foreign counterparts. This means that they support more wildlife, prevent erosion through deep roots, improve the soil, and provide other intangible benefits of which we are not even yet aware.

Native plants preserve the natural heritage of an area. They provide human benefits as well! Natives give us an understanding of our natural world, the rhythm of the seasons and a connection to our past much more so than do plants like tulips, lilacs and carrots.

Possibly the most recognizable native plant is purple coneflower, or Echinacea. Just a few of the other late summer bloomers include bottle gentian, blazing star, cup plant, compass plant, prairie dock, many asters and ironweed. Along with flowers and groundcovers, there are also native trees: oaks, hickories and maples; native shrubs: black chokeberry, Pagoda dogwood and American hazelnut; native vines: Virgin's bower, American bittersweet and Virginia creeper; native grasses: big bluestem, side-oats grama and switchgrass; native ferns: maidenhair fern, lady fern and ostrich fern; and native evergreens: balsam fir, bush juniper and white pine.

The list above is just a tiny representation of all the native plants available. Any landscape can be made lush with native plants to provide food for wildlife in the form of fruits or seeds, shade for yards, nesting materials for birds, beautiful blooms throughout the gardening season and a bonus of winter interest in the form of sturdy seed stalks, interesting bark, or evergreen branches.

We are fortunate in Winnebago County to be home to a national organization dedicated to native plants. Wild Ones, 2285 Butte des Morts Beach Road, Neenah, is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization whose mission is to promote environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity through the preservation, restoration and establishment of native plant communities. Their website, www.wildones.org, holds a wealth of native plant information.

Another valuable website is www.wildflower.org. By clicking on "Plant Lists" in the "Native Plants" dropdown menu, you can get a list of plants native to Wisconsin and narrow it down by type of plant, life span, light requirements, soil moisture, bloom time, plant height and more.

Two excellent native plant books are *Landscaping with Native Plants of Wisconsin* by Lynn M. Steiner and *Gardening with Prairie Plants* by Sally Wasowski.



Ask a Plant Health Advisor

“What is wrong with my tree and what should I do?” Find the answer later in the newsletter.



Dr. Bill Weber is harvesting potatoes grown in a straw bale at the Park View gardens as part of a Master Gardener project. The staff and residents will cook them along with other vegetables grown there. *Picture by Jane Kuhn.*

Rain Garden Addition

Check out the new information stands in the Rain Garden at the Coughlin Center. Plant information will be displayed along with rain garden facts. Eventually there will be identification flags within the rain garden too.



Answer to Ask a Plant Health Advisor: Tar Spots of Maple

Reference: <http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=948> Travis Cleveland, University of Illinois Extension



Tar spots have been evident on many species of maple this year. Several different fungi in the genus *Rhytisma* cause this disease. Tar spots result in raised, black spots to on upper leaf surfaces. The symptoms are distinct, allowing for an easy diagnosis. Affected leaves appear as if they splattered with tar, hence the name Tar Spot.

The first symptoms appear in mid-June as small, pale yellow spots. By mid-July the yellow spots expand and a thick, raised, black stromata forms within the spot. By September, spots truly look like tar and often have a wavy or rippled surface. If severe, the disease may cause some minor defoliation, but will not significantly influence tree growth and development.

The fungi that cause tar spots overwinter on infected leaves. In the spring, overwintering fruiting bodies ripen and eject spores. Wind carries the spores to nearby developing leaves of susceptible hosts. First symptoms appear 1-2 months following the initial infection.

Outbreaks of this disease are relatively infrequent. Moist, sheltered locations allow the pathogen to easily survive the winter. Trees grown in these locations may be repeatedly infected. The most effective management practice for a home landscape is to rake and destroy leaves in the fall. This practice will help reduce inoculum capable of causing infections the following spring. Fungicides can be used to protect newly developing leaves, but are not warranted.



Common Buckeye on
sedum: This was a first for
my yard. The Red Admiral,
Painted Lady, and the
Common Buckeye are all
[True Brushfoots](#). Perhaps
the lesson learned is to plant
more sedum. *E. Kropp*

Social Wasps and Bees in the Upper Midwest

Reference: University of Minnesota Extension

Wasp is a general term referring to a group of related insects in the order Hymenoptera (wasps, bees and ants). Although some wasps are solitary, i.e. just one adult female per nest, this publication discusses social wasps, i.e. multiple individuals sharing one nest. Most social wasps belong to the family Vespidae (sometimes referred to as vespid wasps).

There are three types of social wasps in the Upper Midwest.

1. Yellowjackets, including baldfaced hornets (very common)
2. Paper wasps (very common)
3. True hornets (not found in this area)

Similarly, there are social and solitary bees. The family Apidae contains some of the most familiar social bees. Like social wasps, a colony will consist of many individual bees working together.



There are two commonly observed social bees in the Upper Midwest.

1. Honey bees
2. Bumble bees

Wasps and bees are beneficial insects. Bees are particularly valuable because of their role in plant pollination, including many agricultural crops. Wasps also pollinate to a much lesser extent and are important because they feed on a wide range of insects, including many common garden pests. Both wasps and bees have the potential to sting although they will generally not bother people if they are left alone.

People often mistakenly call all stinging insects "bees." While both social wasps and bees generally live in colonies with queens and workers, they look and behave differently. It is important to distinguish between these insects because different methods may be necessary to deal with them if they are encountered.

You can continue to read about wasps and bees on this link:

<https://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/wasp-and-bee-control/>

Potential New Project at the Oshkosh Public Museum

The Oshkosh Public Museum has asked us to help them plan and implement a new garden in the area surrounding the front door of the Sawyer House. The director has submitted a project proposal. He is interested in creating an Edwardian era garden to match the design of the house. The house is a William Waters design and was built in 1908. It is a great opportunity to come up with a design to enhance this very important Oshkosh landmark where thousands of people drive or walk by every day.

The project team will work with the museum staff on a design and planting the garden. The museum will provide the funding needed to execute the plan. The team will also train the museum staff on how to maintain the garden.

The project area is limited to the area around the original entry way. The team would get an opportunity to learn some local history and about historic garden designs. With the removal of a number of trees, the area is quite sunny allowing lots of plant opportunities.

There are a number of people interested in working on the project. We are looking for a project lead and more people that are interested in doing a little research on Edwardian era garden design and the appropriate plants. **Contact one of the officers if you are interested in participating in this project.**



Did My Tulip Break? *by Eric Kropp*

In my high school biology textbook there was a picture of a tulip with interesting color streaking. The caption said the streaking was caused by a virus. This past spring, I had a tulip that showed similar color variations. This was one that had been around for at least 10 years as a dark pink tulip.

Since this bloomed, I have read about tulip viruses and learned that this is called a breaking virus. It creates new patterns in the petals that “break” the prior coloration. Some of the coloring patterns are quite amazing (Link to an old [Dutch Catalog](#)). This is what fueled the Dutch tulip financial crisis in the 1600’s. The breaking patterns were so much in demand it led to wild price speculation that could not continue and when the prices collapsed it damaged the Dutch economy. In the early 1900’s, it was discovered that the condition was caused by a virus spread by aphids.

Tulips with breaking virus cannot be sold. These sick tulips are weakened and do not propagate as easily. The bulbs are likely to die after a couple seasons. Infected bulbs may cause additional breaking if the virus spreads. Today, hybrid tulips fill the demand for color variation similar to the broken patterns. Some of these are known as [Rembrandt Tulips](#).

I am looking forward to next spring when, hopefully, this tulip reemerges. Will the virus spread to the surrounding tulips? I hope it comes back for a few years at least.

My Broken Tulip – There are unbroken tulips in the background. *Picture by E. Kropp*



Member Meeting Minutes

Date 9/12/2017 Business Meeting

Treasurer Report: All in balance \$24,583.23

Project updates: Oshkosh Public Museum project is in need of a lead person and any interested Master Gardeners to help out with the Edwardian period style gardens. Get in on the planning and maintenance of the gardens for volunteer hours. Winchester Historical hours will no longer count toward volunteer hours. No master Gardener came forward as a project lead.

Education Committee Report: Winter Escapes / Summer Dreams speakers have been nailed down. They are: Mark Dwyer for sensational shrubs, Jennifer Lezewski for pollinators, Mark Schwartz for plant phenology, Bernadette Williams for invasive species. Set for Feb 17, 2018. Madison Garden Expo bus trip is Saturday Feb 10, 2018. For some continued Ed. Hours October 7 from 9am to 10:30am there will be a demonstration on how to put your garden to bed & tool cleanup.

State Representative Updates by Sue Egner. There are 25 educational grants available to be applied for by October 1st. Talk to Sue if interested in applying for one of these.

Linda Tobey Memorial. \$ 50.00 will be granted for a tree or something in her name.

November Elections are coming up. We will be electing a treasurer and President or co – presidents. All nominations need to be in to Ann Abraham in October. Any interested candidates please let Ann know.

Scholarship Program Committee will be Jane Kuhn, Donna Kudlas, Vicki Daniels.

Anne Murphy will be the head of newsletter staff.

The Historian Position was filled by Jeanne Callen.

New hours worksheet is being worked on and will be out soon.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting by Valerie Stabenow, second by Diana Dougherty.

Events

Oct. 7: "Putting the Garden to Bed for the Winter" is the topic of a workshop to be presented by the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association on Saturday, October 7 from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh. The program is free and open to the public. Experienced Master Gardeners will offer tips on how to prepare perennials, shrubs, trees and lawns for the cold months ahead. Some of the topics to be addressed include will be what needs to be covered, what can be pruned in the fall and how much plant material can be left standing over the winter. A highlight of the workshop will be a section devoted to best practices for keeping garden tools in good shape and getting them ready for cold season storage. No pre-registration is required for the workshop.

Oct. 16: 1:30 PM, Park View Great Room, Parkview Flowers

Oct. 17: 5:30 PM, Benvenuto's, Education Committee mtg.

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

Feb. 2018: Winter Escape, Summer Dreams

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



Beautiful lilies at the garden walk this summer at the Oshkosh Area Humane Society. Project leads are **Julie and Matt Miller**. *Picture by Kathy Schultz.*

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am elecampane. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae – Aster family. Genus: Inula L. – yellowhead. Species: Inula helenium L. – elecampane inula. Common name: elecampane. Other names: elecampagne, alant, elfwort, elf dock, horse-heal, scabwort, wild sunflower. The plant's specific name, helenium, derives from Helen of Troy; elecampane is said to have sprung up from where her tears fell. Elecampane was an important medicinal plant to the ancient Romans and Greeks. Rhizomes and roots were collected and used to treat intestinal worms, lung and air passage diseases, to improve digestion, and as an antiseptic in the treatment of wounds.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.



This red admiral is enjoying the sedum at the Park View Gardens in September. It is one of the two which visited while we made bouquets for the visiting residents and the first we have seen there. *Picture by Jane Kuhn.*

WCMGA Projects <i>Check your Member Guide for contact information.</i>		
Project	Project Lead	Next Meeting
Butterfly Garden Lutheran Homes	Jane Kuhn/Diana Dougherty	
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek	March 2018
County Fair	Sue Bohn	Aug. 1-5, 2018
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak	
Invasive Species	Lawanda Jungwirth/Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow	
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson	
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller	
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Viginia Slattery	
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	
Park View Prairie Garden	Sally Lindo	
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche	Oct. 16, 1:30 PM
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz	June 2018
Photography	Maria Talin	
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard	
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Julie Gutsmedl	
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker	

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 WIMGA grants due	2	3 Board Mtg. 6:00 PM Park View 12PM	4	5	6	7 Garden Wksp 9-10:30
8	9	10 Business Mtg 6:00 PM. Park View 12PM	11	12	13	14
15	16 Park View Flower Arranging 1:30	17 Education Comm. Benvenuto's 5:30 PM Park View 12PM	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Park View 12PM	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 				

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