

## Winnebago County Master Gardeners

### Newsletter

October 2018

#### 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.

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“Autumn is a second spring, when every leaf is a flower.”

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*Photo by Anne Murphy*

## What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am a native, flowering, herbaceous, perennial plant that can be found in zones 3-7 in almost every area in North America east of the Rocky Mountains. My late season blooms occur through October, range in color from blue to purples, lavenders and pinks and I can grow up to six feet tall. I prefer full to partial sun, rich soil but will tolerate sand, loam or clay and do best with medium moisture. I provide a critical fall nectar source for pollinators, especially monarchs, as they stock up for fall migration to Mexico.

Propagation is by seed or division although more difficult to grow from seed. Plants should be divided every two to three years in late fall to promote vigorous plants. My deer resistant plants are popular in a tall border, a cottage garden or a butterfly garden.

## 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



*Photo by Eric Kropp*

### Pollination of Native Plants presentation

Heather Holm, author of "Pollinators of Native Plants" and "Bees" will be speaking at two locations in October as part of the Fox Cities Book Festival. On Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m., she will present on "Pollination of Native Plants" at Menasha Public Library and on Oct. 9 at 10 a.m., on "Gardening for Bees and Butterflies" at the Wild Center in Neenah. Both events are free and open to the public. The full schedule is at [foxcitiesbookfestival.org](http://foxcitiesbookfestival.org).

## Species Alert- Pigweeds

Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) and waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*) are two species of pigweed spreading in Wisconsin. Both species are annual plants that are commonly found in agricultural fields, but can also be found in gardens, on roadsides, and in other areas. While other pigweed species grow in Wisconsin, Palmer amaranth and waterhemp are of particular concern because they have been known to develop resistance to herbicides. Both of these species have smooth (not hairy) stems and 1+ foot inflorescences with many small green flowers that start blooming in July. Palmer amaranth has diamond to spade shaped leaves with petioles (leaf stalks) that are longer than the leaf blade. You can check for this by folding the petiole over the leaf blade. Waterhemp leaves are more lance shaped and the petiole is shorter than the leaf blade.



To learn more about these species, check out the Palmer amaranth and waterhemp factsheets, watch this [I.D. video](#), and stay tuned to the Report a Pigweed website for more tips. If you find Palmer amaranth or waterhemp near you, please report with the GLEDN app, or follow the instructions on the [Report a Pigweed website](#) to email your report to [reportapigweed@gmail.com](mailto:reportapigweed@gmail.com).

## Letter from your Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz



*Happy Fall From Your Presidents!*

*Beautiful, colorful breezy days, cooler nights....aah we are now entering into fall. This is the time of year we wind down our gardens, bring out the mums (of which there is such a beautiful array), the straw bales and the corn stalks. And sprinkle our vegetable gardens with winter rye, as our September guest speaker encouraged us to do, right?*

*Our Level 1 Basic Training class is underway with 13 participants! The class is held each Tuesday morning so that means they will be able to attend our business meeting, as well as our interns who now are able to be at each meeting. Welcome to all of you and we hope that your experiences as members are enriching and rewarding - not only are you learning new things but you are bringing your knowledge and experience to our*

*organization. We thank you!*

*The Education Committee is all set for our seminar Winter Escape~Summer Dreams on February 16, 2019. Great speakers are in place and the venue at LaSures seldom disappoints! Workshops are also being planned for our community, and for our members. We also have a new committee being formed that will work with 4H - a great addition to our community education. Watch for these exciting updates!*

*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 can be directed to these two Vice Presidents.*

*We are updating the Membership Booklet at this time. Please take a look at your information and if it needs updating, please let us know. Also, project and committee leads, if there is any information changes in your description/information, please give us those updates as well.*

*And as the year rolls along, it is time once again for elections. The open positions this year are for vice-presidents(s), secretary and two board members at large. 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. The committee may be contacting you so please consider joining your fellow members on the board. Working on the board is a great way to learn and grow as a member - this can be interesting and fun too.*

*Check the newsletter for an article about the Golden Trowel Award...**Stan Meyer** will head up this committee again this year so as you consider someone who you may think is deserving of this award, please let Stan or his committee members know. Look for details in the article.*



WCMGA Awards Banquet is set for Tuesday, December 4, and will be held at LaSures Banquet Hall. We will have sign up and invitations available at our next business meetings. Please consider attending this evening's event, as it is a nice time getting together to mingle with our fellow master gardeners and welcoming our newest members!

Our guest speaker for October will be our own **Kimberly Miller**. Her topic will be "Defining Master Gardener Program and Association Responsibilities and Roles".

Thank you all for your energy and your support...now let us embrace this beautiful time of year!

**Kathy and Linda**

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## Ask a Plant Health Advisor

*From the client: "The liatris that I have planted in my wildflower garden on our septic mound have blackened leaves this year. I have seen this more this year than other years. I thought because liatris is a prairie plant they would compete with the grasses, but they have all died out in the middle of the garden and I have just been planting them on the eastern edge; they probably get less sun than if they were on the western edge. If I transplant them where they do not have as much competition with grasses and other plants around them, will they recover next year? The liatris that I have planted in another garden where they have more space around them are fine."*



**Find the answer later in the newsletter.**

## There's More Gardening to Do!

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Some people greet the end of the growing season with sadness while others feel a sense of relief – will those zucchinis never quit??? Here are a few tips to help you make the transition to the off-season whatever your feelings about the imminent change in weather.

Continue harvesting vegetables and deadheading annual flowers and they'll keep right on producing until frost. If you've got too many tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, zucchini, apples, pears or any other produce, local food pantries are happy to accept them.

Remove diseased plants, diseased fallen leaves, plants that have been ravaged by insects and the mulch below them. This is especially important for tomatoes, strawberries and fruit trees. Diseases may survive in soil and plant debris over the winter and re-infest next year's crop. Don't compost any of that material. Most home compost piles don't get hot enough to destroy plant diseases and insect eggs. The plant debris should be burned or put in the trash.

Healthy plant material can be composted or buried in trenches or holes right in the garden where they'll decompose and provide nutrition for soil microorganisms and next year's plants.

Instead of pulling healthy plants, cutting them off at soil level allows the roots to decompose in place. As they decompose, the spaces they occupied will allow air and water to penetrate the soil.

Don't slack off on weeding. Weeds come in annual and perennial forms the same as desirable plants do. Remove perennial weeds entirely by pulling them up. Any little piece of root or stem left in or on the soil has the potential to grow into a new plant next year. Annual weeds just need to be prevented from going to seed. If you aren't sure what's what, just pull them all. You'll thank yourself next year when your weeding duties are much lighter.

Try not to leave any bare soil over the winter. Alternating freezing and thawing destroys soil structure and allows erosion of soil and nutrients. However, do not mulch right up to the stems of shrubs or trees. Leave a few inches of space around each stem or mice will find a nice warm home in the mulch with a ready-made buffet inside. A good way to remember this is to think "bagel-not-volcano," for your mulching technique.

Spring is a busy time for gardeners, so do whatever you can this fall to get a bit ahead of next spring's work. Repair or replace fences, fix that paving stone that heaved up, spread new wood chips or other mulch, and clean pots and tools.

As you clean up the garden, make written notes of what worked, what didn't, and resolutions and ideas for next year. You might even start a shopping list that includes what seeds, transplants and tools you'll need next year. Really, write it all down. You may think you'll recall all your ideas but next spring is a long way off and you just won't remember.

## A Trio of Native Plants for Months of Bloom

By Lawanda Jungwirth



Perennial plants, those that live for more than one growing season, typically have short bloom periods. They may last a week or two, perhaps up to a month. The trick is to have a variety of plants in the perennial flower bed so that something is blooming all season long.

Here are three plants native to Wisconsin that are similar in looks and in soil and light requirements that will provide bloom from June through September. Although all three plants have “weed” in their common names, these plants are anything but weeds. Like most native plants, they need little care once established and are important in the ecological web, providing food for many insects and birds.

The first to bloom, in June and July, is swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*. It prefers full sun and moist soils, although it doesn't necessarily need to be in a “swamp.” Low wet areas, bog gardens or rain gardens are ideal, but any sunny spot will do if spring and early summer rainfall is sufficient.

Swamp milkweed grows three to five feet tall and stems are topped with vibrant pale rose to rose-purple flowers in flat clusters. The flowers are pretty from a distance, but viewed close-up are absolutely amazing. Lance-shaped leaves climb the stems.

You probably know that monarch butterflies lay eggs only on milkweed species. Swamp milkweed attracts twenty other species of butterflies as well, including the pipevine swallowtail and Baltimore checkerspot. Bees and wasps arrive to pollinate the flowers and American goldfinches eat the seeds.

Next to bloom, from July through August, is Joe-Pye weed, *Eupatorium purpureum*. Depending on soil conditions and the weather, plants grow from three to seven feet tall. Flowers are dusty rose, not as brilliant as those of swamp milkweed, befitting their mid-summer bloom season when days are bright and hot and a bit of cooler color is welcome. Joe-Pye weed blooms are more mounded in profile than those of swamp milkweed. Leaves whorl around stems which are often deep purple in color. It does fine in drier conditions and can take some light shade. Many butterflies visit Joe-Pye weed for nectar, and goldfinches, towhees, mourning doves and juncos eat the seeds.

The final bloomer is ironweed, *Vernonia fasciculata*, whose flowers provide an electric magenta finale to the bloom season. Blooming from late July into September, the flowers are in flat, dense clusters atop stems from two to six feet tall. Leaves are coarsely toothed and lance-shaped.

Ironweed prefers partial sun and moist conditions but will also grow in full sun and mostly shade. Ironweed hosts many late summer butterflies including the great spangled fritillary, monarch and tiger swallowtail. Bees visit ironweed for pollen and nectar and the plant hosts the ironweed borer moth whose larvae are eaten by small mammals and woodpeckers. The common name of the plant comes from its tough stems.

All three plants can be propagated by division in spring or fall.

## Golden Trowel Award 2018



It is time to think about your fellow Master Gardeners and who might be deserving of the annual Golden Trowel Award.

Since 2003, the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association has awarded members that have exemplified the spirit of the Master Gardener organization by providing horticultural education, community service, and environmental stewardship for our community as well as leadership to other Master Gardeners. The award is presented at the December Award Dinner.

To nominate someone, please call or send a brief note with nominee's name and a few comments on why you are nominating to any of the committee members:

- **Stan Meyer** at 327 Mark Ct. Neenah, WI 54956 phone 920-725-6486
- **Bob Potter** at 817 E. New York Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901 phone 920-233-3349
- **Arlene Kosanke** at 123 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave Oshkosh, WI 54902 phone 920-231-1873  
email: [kosankearlene48@gmail.com](mailto:kosankearlene48@gmail.com)
- **Bob Kosanke** at 123 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54902 phone 920-231-1873  
Email: [rkosanke@fastbytes.com](mailto:rkosanke@fastbytes.com)

Please have nominations in **by Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** ( the night of our next Business Meeting). If you have any questions, please contact **Kathy Schultz** [ksinhr@gmail.com](mailto:ksinhr@gmail.com) or **Linda Loker** [lloker@att.net](mailto:lloker@att.net).



## Member Meeting Minutes - September 11, 2018

**Treasurer's Report:** All in balance was read into the meeting .

**Project Updates:** December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for all projects reports from 2018 and project requests for 2019. Forms are found on WCMGA website. Two project leads are needed for Shattuck Park & Parkview Prairie.

**UWEX Updates:** 13 new interns are attending the training class. A reminder that all political views by Master Gardeners are to be kept to ourselves while working on the projects.

**Education Committee Update:** February 16<sup>th</sup> is the date for Winter Escapes~ Summer Dreams. Jeff Epping from Madison's Olbrich Botanical Gardens will give a talk on bark, berry, grasses and beyond. Amanda Thomsen author of *Kiss my Aster*, on life-long gardens and how to Adapt your garden. The cost will be \$45.00 for the day.

**New Business:** Yearly dues of \$30.00 need to be paid by September 1<sup>st</sup> to Linda Baeten.

Time sheets are due to Patty Schmitz now. Turn in your sheets even if you don't have enough hours. Talk to **Kathy Schultz** and **Linda Loker** if you don't have enough hours, they will help you make sure you have included everything. November elections we will be voting on four positions, secretary, vice president(s) and 2 board members. **Ann Abraham** and **Diane Iott** will be taking Nominations for all open positions.

The 2 scholarship winners for the State Conference are **Debbie Quandt** and **Marge Menacher**.

Project leads need to provide protocol forms to anyone donating plants to any projects, verifying that to the best of their knowledge, there are no jumping worms in their garden .

The Paine Art Center now has jumping worms in their gardens. Remember when working on these projects arrive clean and leave clean. Don't spread any more jumping worms.

## Upcoming Events - See Calendar for October Events

Nov. 12: 1:30 Flower Arranging - Park View

Nov. 20: Education Committee, Benvenuto's, 5:30 PM

Dec. 4: Awards Banquet, LaSures

Feb. 16: Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams

## Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am New England aster. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae / Compositae – Aster family. Genus: Symphyotrichum Nees – aster family. Species: Symphyotrichum novae-angliae (L.) G.L. Nesom – New England aster. Other names: hairy Michaelmas daisy, Michaelmas daisy. The root of this plant has been used for centuries in Chinese medicines. Native Americans have used the roots for pain, diarrhea, fever and to revive unconscious people. You can find this plant in the rain garden at the Coughlin Center.

References: *USDA Plants Database and associated links.*



### **Answer to Ask a Plant Health Advisor:**

*“Looks like it could be Verticillium. I have some personally that tested positive and they start out looking like that. Brian would need to test to make sure.”*

*“The two diseases I tend to see on liatris are Verticillium wilt and root/crown rots. I’d need to see a sample to properly diagnose either of those.”*

*Kimberly Miller, Horticulture Educator & Brian Hudelson, Director of Diagnostic Services*



### **PICKING ANTIQUE /HEIRLOOM APPLES**

*submitted by Lynne Slat*

<https://horticulture.wisc.edu/2016/09/27/antique-apples/> Posted on September 27, 2016 by eonelson

Autumn is just around the corner, and instead of lamenting the end of summer, many Wisconsinites embrace cooler weather with fall activities.

One favorite excursion around the state is apple picking, which goes hand-in-hand with cider, donuts and pie. Many Wisconsin pick-your-own orchards and farm stands showcase “antique” or “heirloom” apple varieties, which have been passed down through generations of growers after being found from a chance seedling. Antique apples can have unusual flavors, textures, and aromas, and usually come with an interesting back-story too. Many are of U.S. or even Wisconsin origins.

In recent years, antique or heirloom varieties have become more popular at farmers’ markets and pick-your-own orchards, as consumers are searching for apples that are essentially different from those offered by big supermarket chains. This search for a “different” kind of apple is not only driven by the

lack of choice and poor quality of apples offered by superstores, but also by a change in consumer preferences that are a consequence of increasing interest and concern regarding where and how fruit is grown. Many of these rarer varieties can be found at many Wisconsin orchards and local direct markets, but it may take a little searching to get past the rows of **Honeycrisp**. Hundreds of varieties of antique apples are available — this list is meant as a starting point only.

- [Gravenstein](#): one the first varieties to ripen in the apple season. It originated in Denmark in 1669. Ripens late July to early August.
- [Northfield Beauty](#) originated in Vermont in the early 1800s. The fruit is medium-large, with a tart flavor extremely well suited for pies and sauces. Ripens in late August.
- [Duchess of Oldenburg](#) is a cold-hardy plant, producing tart red apples, best used for making pies or sauces but also good for eating. Ripens in late August.
- [Summer Rambo](#) is a tart, crisp, juicy apple that originated in France in the 1500s. The fruit is greenish-yellow with a red blush. It's good for both eating and for sauces. Ripens in early September.
- [Holstein Cox](#) has large fruit with an intense sweet/tart flavor with intense citrus and pineapple aroma, and is good for eating or cooking. It is a relative newcomer, being developed in Germany in the early 1900s. Ripens in early September.
- [Court Pendu Plat](#) was first described in France in the 1600s, but is thought to have been brought there much earlier during the time of the Roman Empire. Ripens in early September.
- [Wealthy](#) makes a good eating apple with a mellow, sweet flavor. Having originated in Minnesota in 1868, it is very cold-hardy. Ripens in mid-September.
- [Wolf River](#) originated in central Wisconsin, and is an old-time favorite around the state. The large apples are primarily used for baking — supposedly one apple makes one pie! Ripens in late September.
- [Reinette Gris](#) produces medium-sized sweet, crisp and dry fruit, with a red blush. The trees are very hardy and fruit keep well. It originated in France in the 1600s. Ripens in late September.
- [Northwestern Greening](#) originated in Wisconsin in the late 1800s. It is the predominant apple-pie apple of the north, but is too tart for eating fresh. Ripens in October.



**Photos submitted by MG members**



***Diane Iott and Margot Castle** assisting Patrick Lake during his presentation demonstrating clean and dirty run-off at the Business Meeting on Sept. 11. Photo by **Kathy Schultz**.*



*Photo by **Eric Kropp**.*


## WCMGA Projects

*Check your Member Guide for contact information.*

Project	Project Lead(s)
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber
Park View Prairie Garden	Sally Lindo
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/ Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Julie Gutsmedl
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

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

# October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Butterfly Garden 9AM Parkview Gardens 12:30 PM Board Mtg. 6PM	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Butterfly Garden 9AM Parkview Gardens 12:30 PM Business Mtg. 6PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Butterfly Garden 9AM Parkview Gardens 12:30 PM Education Comm. 5:30 PM Benvenuto's	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 Butterfly Garden 9AM Parkview Gardens 12:30 PM	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Butterfly Garden 9AM Parkview Gardens 12:30 PM	31 			

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