

# Winnebago County Master Gardener September 2013

## 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.

### Presidents' Letter

September 1 begins a new "year" for our Master Gardener group – hours sheets have been turned in, many of the projects are either completed or are drawing to a close, and a new set of students will begin their Level I training on September 10. I had a chance to briefly meet with some of the new class at the Orientation meeting and they look like a great group!

We will move at least one of our 3 fall meetings to a 5:30 time so the class can join in for a bit, but the **September 10 meeting for Master Gardeners will start at 6:00 pm.**

**Membership dues for the upcoming year are also due on September 1.** The form that should accompany your payment is located on the Member Area of the Winnebago County Master Gardener website. While Linda Baeten is no longer Secretary, she is serving as Membership Chair and her correct mailing address is on the form. You can also pay your dues to Treasurer Sue Egner at the first business meeting.

It has been a summer of great gardens!! All the project gardens are looking beautiful, and the 3 tour gardens that Linda arranged have been awesome (if a little intimidating!!!). My garden is being totally overhauled and slowly beaten back into order – I hope all your gardens have grown well and prospered. (Does anyone need tomatoes???)

We need a team of volunteers to varnish the new Master Gardener signs that are now piled in the Plant Health Advisers cubicle. We would be able to use the Extension garage area for a work party. Please call or e-mail me to sign up.

Looking forward to seeing you in September.

Stay well

*Mary and Linda*



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The next Master  
Gardener Business  
meeting will be  
**September 10**

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## From the Advisor...

As most of you already know EAB (Emerald Ash Borer) has been found in Winnebago County. I am not going to bore you here with more details related to EAB (that will come at a later date ☺). However, EAB, as with any invasive species, is more easily treated and managed when detected early.

In order to help with the early detection of all invasive plant species in the Great Lakes region, a new network has been created. The Great Lakes Early Detection Network (GLEDN) allows citizens to be part of the process with the goal of enabling almost instantaneous sharing of data with the scientific community that can then initiate rapid response in management of these pests.

GLEDN reports locations of invasive plant species in states contiguous with a Great Lake. You may report using your computer or the new smartphone app which uses GIS to report your location. Both ways allow you to submit photos that are then verified by approved experts and added to the database. You may enter as a guest, report your sighting, download pictures that capture the key identification features and submit your report for verification. On your computer, you will use an interactive map to pinpoint the location of the sighting that then reports the longitude and latitude of that site. You can also provide a more detailed description of the location to enable verifiers to find it if necessary. The mobile app makes doing all of this even simpler and you can do it right at the site where the invasive is found. If you do not have mobile service at that site, it will store the information until you do.

This site can also serve as a resource for you since it accesses a group of large invasive plant databases with detailed descriptions and photos. With cell service, you can access the information right in the field to assist you with identification. Even if you don't report a sighting, you can still contribute to the system by adding photos taken with your phone for species that so far don't have any.

Give it a try to by going to <http://www.gledn.org> on your computer or downloading the free app to your phone through <http://apps.bugwood.org/mobile/gledn>. In addition, UW-Extension has a series of factsheets on many invasive plant species. These can be found at <http://fyi.uwex.edu/weedsci/category/invasive-plants-of-wisconsin>.

*Kimberly*



## Vancouver and Victoria

It was a wonderful trip to the Pacific Northwest - another well-planned excursion by Roy Anne Moulton. Thirty-one Master Gardeners and Friends (or soon to be friends) left the Appleton Airport for a garden adventure. With very little trouble we had a perfect landing in Vancouver, a city that sprawls around inlets and rocky coastline with a downtown of high-rise glass. We had little time to dawdle with a full itinerary planned.

We toured the University of British Columbia's Botanical Gardens which showed us all the diversity of plant life the West Coast. Next was Nitobe Garden, a beautiful serene Japanese Garden. We finished our first day of touring at Van Dusen Gardens, again we marveled at all the diversity and size of plant growth in a climate where it seldom freezes.

A ferry boat brought us to Victoria on Vancouver Island. A showing of private gardens was arranged with a Tour Guide that proved to be delightful. Joan Looy was as colorful as the gardens! Many of us agreed the private gardens were the best of the trip. There were other gardens to view as well, from butterflies to historical sites.

And then there was Butchart Gardens. I am so happy to have had the opportunity to view this spectacular world-class garden. We arrived in the afternoon and stayed late into the evening to watch the garden light up as darkness fell. Words cannot describe the sight.

On our fifth day of touring, we returned to Vancouver for Dr Sun Yat-Sen's Chinese Garden and the Capilano Suspension Bridge.

Weather was often light rain and overcast skies, but that didn't dampen our spirits. There was free time to explore both Victoria and Vancouver whether it was touring the cities, whale watching, or shopping. We traveled well together and helped each other along the way. Thank you to all my traveling companions, thank you Master Gardeners and thank you Roy Anne. Watch for a showing of photographs in the near future!

Article Contributed by Linda Baeten



## Making the Vegetable Garden Bigger Again!

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Last year, I told my husband that our vegetable garden was getting too big for me to take care of. Then, over the winter he fell for an infomercial and bought a high-powered blender that combines various greens and fruits into a very healthy drink. He asked me to grow a lot more greens this year. So we made the garden even bigger!

We began by laying big pieces of cardboard over the lawn where the extended garden would be. When we ran out of cardboard, we used layers of newspaper. Cardboard and newspaper smothers the grass and eventually decomposes. We found cinder blocks on Craig's List for a dollar a piece and laid them on the cardboard in a rectangle of eleven on each side and two on each end to make the easiest raised beds ever.

Fifteen yards of top soil was way more than we needed, but that was the minimum order for delivery. That's okay though – I like to have a pile of spare top soil to go along with my wood chip pile and my rock pile. You never know when you're going to need these things!

I put a layer of pine needles on the bottom of each of the raised beds – you guessed it, I have a stash of garbage bags full of pine needles, just in case. Then we filled the beds with topsoil. I covered the 30-inch paths between the beds with wood chips.

Planting those raised beds was so easy! You wouldn't think raising the soil just 8 inches would make much of a difference, but it really does. So much easier on the back!

I didn't know which plants would work best in the raised beds, or how good the purchased soil was, so I planted half of each crop in the new raised beds and the other half in the older part of the garden where I've been improving the soil for years with compost and shredded leaves.

At first, nothing grew. Not even a weed. I was afraid I had purchased sterile soil that perhaps had been treated with herbicide. But eventually the weeds from the farm where the soil originated began to germinate and so did my seeds. Weeding was easy sitting on the cinder blocks.

I found that some crops worked much better than others inside the cinder blocks. Zinnias, carrots, kohlrabi and tomatoes did wonderfully, while radishes, potatoes and turnips didn't do so well. At this point, I don't know if that's because of poor soil quality or the heat and faster drainage inside the blocks. As I improve the soil over the next few years, I'll be able to answer that question.

I even planted in the small holes in the cinder blocks. I found that marigolds do astonishingly well, as do Swiss chard, romaine lettuce and endive. The small, hot space wasn't suited to spinach, nasturtiums or bok choy.

This all worked out so well that we may add a couple more raised beds next year!

## What Am I?

By Jane Kuhn

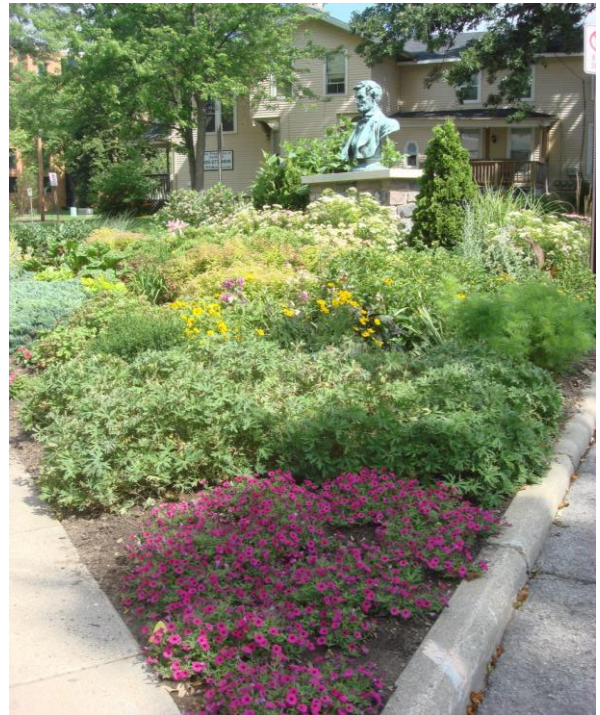
I am a broadleaf, herbaceous, perennial wildflower, a genus of late blooming plants in the aster family. I have tall, sturdy stems which grow up to six feet tall with flattish, mauve or rose colored flower heads and leaves that grow in whorls. My flowers are fragrant and occur in clusters of 5 to 7 florets per head and the corolla of each floret is tubular, making me popular with hummingbirds. Flowers appear in mid- to late summer, July-September. I am native to Eastern North America in zones 3 to 10. I prefer sun or part sun and damp, moist to wet, rich soils, but will grow in gravelly or sandy soils if there is sufficient moisture.

Because of my height, I am effective in the back row of a flower bed such as a cottage garden. I am a welcome addition to the butterfly garden, attracting many varieties. My plants can be kept shorter by cutting my stems back by half in June. Each spring, cut my plants back hard, to about 4-8". I can be propagated by division or two-node softwood tip cuttings taken in late spring. My plants can be divided in fall as they go dormant or in the spring just as shoots first appear. I can also be started from seed indoors or into the soil if growing as a wildflower.

### Lincoln School Garden >>

The Lincoln Garden project had a "bloomingly" good year. We began with a planning meeting during which we discussed future plantings and annuals for the 2013 season over coffee and sweet breakfast treats. We agreed to try Swiss Chard, Lantana, Vinca, Sweet Potato Vine, Mini Petunias, Canas and Coleus as annuals this year. We dug out a few Spring-blooming geraniums and planted Bee Balm and Daisies in their place. After moving some Penstemon, Yarrow, and Sedum, we had the perfect spot for some roses. Our Agastache that was added last year came back and looks great. As many gardeners did this year, we lost some of our grasses but planted another variety in its place. Our water supply was again donated by a rental property nearby. We secured our hose with a chain and lock and had 2 superb waterers. After noticing Garlic Mustard growing in the neighboring school yard, we pulled quite a bit of it so it wouldn't blow to our bed or spread elsewhere. Each time we are there tending the flowers, we have people stopping in their cars or walking by saying how much they enjoy the flower bed. It gives us a good feeling to know that we are contributing something of beauty to the community. Construction has begun on the Lincoln School property. We are hoping all goes well and there will be no construction surprises to our flower bed.

*Linda Christensen and Mary Haave*



## An Endive By Any Other Name . . .

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

I was so confused. What was it that I actually planted? You've heard Shakespeare's line "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"? That may be true of roses, but I planted endive and it sure didn't look like the stuff in the grocery store.

I meant to plant Belgian endive, a leafy vegetable with white or very light green leaves held tightly in small, oblong heads. What came up were large heads of greens, each the size of a dinner plate.

Going back to look at the seed packet, I found "ENDIVE" and below that, the words "Broadleaved Batavian Escarole." Some research (which should have been done before planting) was in order.

What I learned is that everyone else is confused about endive too! But here goes with the explanation.

The Belgian endive I intended to plant is actually witloof chicory, a cultivated variety of the common, blue-flowered chicory that decorates the edges of country roads this time of year. Witloof is a Dutch word meaning "white leaf." Seeds are sown in spring and the plant is allowed to grow throughout the season. In fall, plant tops are cut off and the roots are covered with mounds of soil or thick straw so the plant regrows entirely in darkness to produce its white color. Only the extreme tips of the leaves are allowed light exposure. This produces tender white heads that can be grilled, steamed, boiled or eaten raw.

This second stage of growth can be done indoors by digging the roots in fall, cutting off the tops and setting the roots upright in a deep box or flowerpot. Fill the container with potting soil to the tops of the roots and add 6-8 inches of sand above that. Keep moist and at 60-70 degrees. Harvest when the growing tips peek through the sand.

The endive I planted was really escarole, a salad green with wide, bowl-shaped heads. The seed packet says that when the heads get big enough that the plants touch each other, the outer leaves can be tied together with twine to shade the inner leaves, thus keeping the inner leaves whiter in color and milder in flavor. Harvest two or three weeks later. The mix of white and green leaves is pretty on the salad plate, but the white leaves contain less Vitamin C.

Honestly, I looked at the plants when the leaves began touching their neighbors and couldn't see how I could gather the outer leaves to tie them. Too late, I learned that upending flower pots over them would do the trick. Escarole needs about an inch of water a week so the pots would have to be lifted to make sure they get it.

I also learned that in this case when the seed packet says "Thin to 12-18 inches" they really mean it. Wherever the plants touched, they became slimy and rotten.

Careful reading of the seed packet and some timely research would have produced better results!



### Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to [dldoug5@charter.net](mailto:dldoug5@charter.net)

Please send me a picture and short paragraph about how your projects did this summer.

### Parkview Flowers and Vegetables >>>>>

The Parkview gardens have grown since some of the buildings came down. A rose garden was added as well as fruit trees, and the vegetable garden was enlarged.

The residents all enjoy the weekly bouquets and fresh vegetables. They are looking forward to harvesting potatoes that are being grown in straw bales.



### Flower Arranging

2013 dates are:  
September 23  
October 7  
November 18  
December 2

### December Awards Dinner

I am in need of baskets or unique containers to use for the gift baskets at our awards dinner in December. If you have some that you were going to get rid of please bring them to one of the next meetings.

Diana Dougherty

### Answer to: What Am I ?

I am Joe Pye weed. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae – aster family. Genus: *Eutrochium* Rafinesque. Common names: sweetscented joe pye weed, trumpetweed, Queen of the Meadow, gravel root, kidney root, mist-flower, snakeroot. It obtained its name from a Native American herbalist named Joe-Pye. Native Americans use the tea made from the roots of joe pye weed to treat fevers, colds, chills, diarrhea and liver and kidney ailments.



## 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

Carole Dorsch 589-5936

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Roy Anne Moulton 886-1283

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	Kathy Daniels	233-0410
	Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Membership	Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	Sue Bohn	685-0427
SOP & Bylaw Committee	Ivan Placko	721-9394
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012

## CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	Marge Menacher	233-3467
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
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Betty Kuen	558-9586
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
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467
The Wild Center	Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991

*September 2013*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day	3 MG Board Mtg 6:00	4	5	6	7 Farmers Market
8	9	10 ***MG Business Mtg 6:00 !!!	11	12	13	14 Farmers Market
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Farmers Market
22	23 Parkview Flower Arranging	24	25	26	27	28 Farmers Market
29	30					

*October 2013*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 MG Brd Mtg 6:00	2	3	4	5 Farmers Market
6	7	8 MG Bus Mtg 6:00	9	10	11	12 Farmers Market
13	14 Flower Arranging 1:30	15	16	17	18	19 Farmers Market
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		