



Winnebago County Master Gardener

September 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.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Impossibly, September is upon us. The very slow start seemed to make this a very short season and we are hoping for a long autumn!! Gardens are still looking beautiful and have lots of butterflies to help us enjoy them. In my yard, swallowtails are plentiful and there have been several Monarchs. More good news—several Master Gardeners have reported Monarch caterpillars on milkweeds that we planted in project or personal gardens. Thanks for your help.

September will mark the restart of our business meetings—6 pm on the second Tuesday of September, October, November, and January through May. We will welcome members of the Class of 2014 to the beginning of our meetings, so please wear your name tags so they can match names to faces.

The MG Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month and any member is welcome to visit those meetings.

Elections are held at the November meeting and the nomination process is now open. You can nominate another Master Gardener (please check first to see that the individual is willing!!) or yourself. Anne Murphy is leading the nomination team and could use another 2 members to help.

This year we will be electing vice president, secretary, and three members at large to the board. You can team with another member for the Vice President position if you like. The position titles are descriptive, but our vice president position has responsibility for administering the Project process for the group.

Congratulations on your project work this summer—we have received several letters of appreciation or other recognition from the organizations that you have helped.

See you in September!!
Marv and Linda



What is due by Sept 1st ??

- * Membership form and dues - <http://winnebagoastergardeners.org/Documents/Forms/MembershipRenewal.pdf>
- * Hours form - <http://winnebagoastergardeners.org/Documents/Forms/2013TimeSheet.pdf>
- * Mandatory Child Abuse training - <http://wcpds.wisc.edu/mandatedreporter/>



Baby Broccoli

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Every year I plant at least one new vegetable that I've never grown before. This year I planted baby broccoli, also called sprouting broccoli. Seed catalogs feature many varieties, each touting their own wonderful attributes. I chose Asparabroc Hybrid Baby Broccoli. The "aspara" part comes from the word asparagus, but this is definitely a broccoli plant. The reference to asparagus is from long stems below the broccoli heads with the diameter and tenderness of asparagus, unlike the thick, tough stems of regular broccoli.

If I were naming this vegetable, I wouldn't have used the word "baby." These plants are big, both in height and width. Each plant is well over knee high and 12-20 inches in diameter. I suppose the "baby" reference is that the broccoli heads are smaller than those of traditional broccoli. That is a plus, though, since the smaller size makes them easier to harvest and prepare.

Seeds of baby broccoli are started indoors six weeks before planting outdoors. Transplant outdoors as early as mid-April if the soil is dry enough. Seeds can also be planted outdoors as soon as the soil can be worked. Direct seeded plants will germinate and catch up to transplants quickly.

The seed package will tell you how far apart to set the seedlings. My seed packet was missing when I transplanted outdoors, so I guessed at about ten inches apart and that turned out to be just right.

Baby broccoli heads are easily harvested with a knife or sharp scissors. Several inches below each head you'll notice two leaves with tiny little buds in their intersection with the stem. Cut just above these buds and each bud will grow into a new head of broccoli within a few days. When those are cut, the same thing will happen to the two buds beneath the new heads, stimulating yet more growth. So each time you harvest one head you get two new ones, although the heads of each successive harvest are slightly smaller. I have to warn you - if you harvest diligently it gets to be like zucchini. You'll be looking for neighbors to give it away to!

Or you could freeze it. Baby broccoli is prepared for freezing just like full-size broccoli. It needs to be blanched first, which involves boiling it in water for two to three minutes, depending on the size of the heads, and then submerging it in ice water until cooled. Freeze in plastic freezer bags. Freezing it on cookie sheets before placing it in freezer bags makes it easier to separate when you are ready to use it.

Baby broccoli plants attract the same insect pests as regular broccoli, primarily cabbage worms. They stick to eating the leaves though, and leave the broccoli heads alone. Just to be safe, before preparing or freezing, swish and submerge the broccoli heads in water for a few minutes. Any insects will float to the top.

Could a Wasp Save Our Ash Trees?

By Lawanda Jungwirth

I spend an hour a week walking in circles on baseball diamonds doing biosurveillance. I'm not wearing a hazmat suit or carrying high-tech spy equipment. I need only my eyes and a pencil and paper to record what I see.

I am searching for nests of cerceris wasps, a non-stinging – to humans – native wasp that makes its nest in disturbed sandy soil. Baseball diamonds that are only occasionally groomed are the best disturbed sandy soil around.

The nest looks like an anthill, but the entrance hole is larger, about the diameter of a pencil. What's important about these wasps is that they prey on emerald ash borer, the beetle that is systematically killing ash trees across our state and nation.

I am part of Wisconsin's new First Detector Network, whose goal is to empower members of the public to take action against invasive species by providing training and volunteer opportunities. One of WIFDN's projects is to search for and monitor cerceris wasp nests at approximately 500 baseball diamonds across the state.

Cerceris wasps sting emerald ash borers which paralyzes them. Then they carry the borer back to their nest in the sand. Each ash borer is placed in a separate tunnel where an egg is laid. When the larvae hatches, it feeds on the borer.

Occasionally, a paralyzed beetle is rejected and tossed out of the nest for some unknown reason. Spotting and collecting these rejects is the most important part of the study. Emerald ash borers are not usually detected in an ash tree until it is too late – the tree is done for by the time the damage shows up. But rejected beetles can be found around wasp nests much earlier than that, giving people a chance to save their ash trees if they so desire.

Cerceris wasps prey on beetles other than emerald ash borers. Three other beetles of concern destroy oaks and other valuable trees. While these three have not yet been found in Wisconsin, monitoring the wasp nest rejects will provide an early warning system.

During my WIFDN training, I learned that emerald ash borer arrived in Detroit in 2002 in packing materials from China. Studies have shown that on their own, the beetles would have traveled less than ten miles from the port in Detroit by now. Unfortunately, humans have assisted in their spread across the United States by moving infested firewood. It was thought that emerald ash borer would stop its westward march at the Great Plains for lack of trees. And it did. Except that there is a large infestation in the Denver area. All it took was one person transporting firewood to Colorado to start an infestation that could annihilate the ash trees in the Denver area.

EAB has been detected in 29 Wisconsin counties, mostly in the southern half of the state. These counties are under quarantine, meaning it is illegal to transport firewood from them to non-quarantined counties. Be responsible and help prevent the spread of EAB.

Lavender Shortbread Cookies

1 cup butter, softened
4 teaspoons fresh lavender buds, or 2 teaspoons dried
1/2 cup sugar
2 cups all purpose flour

Detach lavender petals from their stems
Pour sugar into food processor or blender. Add lavender.
Process for approx. 30 seconds.
Place butter in mixing bowl. Add lavender/sugar mixture and mix at low or medium speed 3-5 minutes, scraping bowl as needed.
(Mixing at a slow speed avoids beating air into the butter. A properly made shortbread cookie is deliciously dense.)

Add flour at low speed and mix until mixture is smooth, about 2 minutes.
No lumps of butter should be visible when you pinch off a bit of dough and form it into a ball with your fingers.
Place dough onto work surface, roughly shape it into a disk, wrap and chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes.
Sprinkle surface with flour and roll out dough, cut into preferred shape and place on parchment paper on baking sheet.
Chill cookies 30 minutes, then bake 300 degrees just until edges begin to color - approx. 25-30 minutes.
Cool completely on baking sheet.
Optional Adornment: 1 cup powdered sugar, blended with just enough water to achieve a spreadable consistency.
Decorate with lavender petals.
Some recipes call for rose water for the liquid but very little.

*Food For Thought
Linda Loker*



2014

Flower Arranging schedule at
Parkview Health center

Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sept 22 nd | flowers from our gardens |
| October 20 th | flowers from Garden Gate |
| November 17 th | flowers from Garden Gate |
| December 15 th | flowers from Garden Gate |

Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at email dldoug5@charter.net

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 |
| | Jane Kuhn | 231-3993 |
| 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 | 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 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 |

September 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|----------------------|
| | 1 Labor Day | 2 MG Brd Mtg 6:00 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 Farmer's Market |
| 7 | 8 | 9 MG Business Mtg 6:00 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 Parkview Flower Arrng 1:30 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| 27 | 28 Parkview Flower Arranging 1:30 | 29 Same | 30 | 31 | | |

October 2014

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