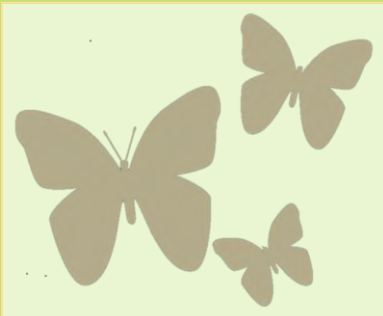


Winnebago County



Issue 10

Mission Statement: Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.



September 2015

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

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DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Board Meeting | September 1 |
| Business Meeting | September 8 |
| Parkview Cut Flowers | September 8, 15, 22, 29 October 6, 13 |
| Bo ard Meeting | October 6 |
| Business Meeting | October 13 |
| November- Elections | November 10 |

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

The Paine Project



The Oshkosh Humane Society Project



Photos by Nancy Karuhn

CUTS AND CLIPS

BY MARGE BOLDING

September Tasks Source -Wisconsin Garden Journal

House plants, Perennials, and Annuals

Cut back perennials after frost.

Week 1 – Lift gladioli corms when leaves begin to brown; dry in sun for a few days.

Divide most perennials except asters and mums that haven't bloomed.

Divide and replant peony roots until October 15. Avoid planting too deeply. Mulch after ground freezes.

Week 2 – Bring coleus, geraniums, caladium, and begonias indoors.

Place amaryllis in cool basement for a three-month resting period.

To set flower buds on Christmas cactus, place in the dark for 15 hours (overnight) for six to eight weeks. It helps to have them at 55 degree F at night.

Week 3 – Sow snapdragons, cornflowers, and other hardy annuals a few weeks before the first frost date.

Plant German bearded iris.

Vegetables and Herbs

Week 1 – Remove newly set tomato blossoms and new growth because fruit won't have time to mature.

Sow annual ryegrass or oats for winter cover and place green manure in beds that won't be planted until late in spring.

Remove all weeds from garden before they go to seed.

Week 2 – Pinch out the growing points at the top of Brussels sprouts stems so bottom sprouts will reach maturity.

Cover the garden when frost is predicted to extend the season. Water plants well for greater frost protection.

Week 3 – Dig and pot parsley, chives, and tender herbs for the transfer indoors to sunny window.

Week 4 – Harvest carrots, beets, and turnips before frost kills foliage.

Gather squash, pumpkins, and gourds when ripe and before damaged by frost. Leave 2-inch stem on vegetables for better storage.

Clear garden beds immediately after harvest. Destroy any diseased plants by burning, composting in a hot pile, or sealing in containers for disposal.

Lawns, Trees, and Shrubs

Fertilize lawn around Labor Day if applying fertilizer three or four times per year.

Aerate lawn when temperature is 60 to 70 degrees F.

Week 2 – Stop planting evergreens.

Week 4 – Late September to early October is the latest time to plant deciduous scrubs and perennials. Mulch well after planting.

Fruits and Berries

Harvest pears when still light green. Separate fruit from branch with slight twisting motion.

Harvest grapes.

Harvest apples. Rake up leaves and fallen fruit to control disease and insect problems next year. Be careful not to injure long-lived fruiting spurs when harvesting.

Cut out spent raspberry and blackberry canes after fruiting.

Prairie Plantings for Multi-Seasons Interest

From the earliest spring bloomers to the stunning ornamental grasses of fall, the flowers and grasses of the American prairie provide a full four seasons of interest. The prairie grasses reach their zenith in autumn, when they produce exuberant sprays of seed heads and don their fall plumage. The golden glow of the prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) and the fiery crimson of little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) steal the show as they dance in the cool autumn breezes. Growing 2 to 3 feet tall, these short grasses are excellent for small prairie gardens.

For larger areas, a strong architectural element can be added with taller grasses such as switchgrasses (*Panicum virgatum*, 5 to 6 feet), indiagrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*, 5 to 7 feet), and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*, 6 to 10 feet). Switchgrass and little bluestem stand up well to snow and will provide the best winter interest. Even in the dead of winter the seed heads of grasses and flowers provide structure and texture in the garden. And the birds will thank you for planting a natural birdfeeder for them as they gorge on the seeds! Using a combination of different prairie wildflowers and grasses you can create a hardy, native perennial prairie garden that provides year-around interest for you and your garden visitors.

CUTS AND CLIPS – cont.

BY MARGE BOLDING

**An Autumn Palette for Flowering Bulbs**

Through the word “crocus” tends to call up visions of spring-blooming bulbs, hardy fall-blooming varieties can add a splash of color to the autumn palette. Along with the popular autumn-blooming colchicums, crocus should be purchased in late summer and interplanted in a ground over for best aesthetic results. They send up leaf foliage in spring and then, months later, their colorful leafless flower stalks emerge. *Crocus speciosus*, *Colchicum autumnale*, and *Colchicum speciosum* are all hardy in Zone 4 and bloom from late September through November. Alliums also provide fall color: *A. stellatum*, or prairie onion, blooms from August through September. Some of the later-blooming Japanese lilies, such as *Lilium speciosum*. “*Rubrum*,” also contribute to the fall garden palette. Consider planting a ground cover such as one of the low, mat-forming sedums, wild ginger, *Vinca minor*, or *Phlox stolonifera* ‘*Sherwood Purple*’ to help protect and camouflage dying bulb foliage.

Mum’s the Word

Fall can be a great beauty in the garden. While some gardeners are getting ready to put their garden to bed for the winter, others are planting late-blooming fall mums to extend the season. Mums come in almost any color imaginable and can fit into any type of garden setting or container. Some mums exhibit unusual petals, such as ‘*Yellow Sara*,’ a spatula-petal mum that is a gorgeous bright yellow. Others, like ‘*Flashy Gretchen*,’ will change colors through the seasons, going from pink buds to white flowers that fade to a lovely lavender later in the season. Mums are wonderful planted amount perennials such as ornamental grasses, asters, sedums, and Russian sage. They are also wonderful companions to fall annuals such as pansies and kales.

Chrysanthemums are often sold as “hardy mums,” but if they’re planted in the fall, or not mulched and watered properly, they will rarely be hardy in Wisconsin. The secret to getting mums to perennialize and to provide years of fall beauty is to plant early in the season, and in well-drained soils. Plant mums in full sun (at least four to six hours of sun a day), mulch with an organic mulch layer, and water, water, water. Once established, your mums won’t need much additional watering, but they will want to be fertilized on regular basis. To keep from flopping over, some perennial mums should be pinched once during the growing season, removing 1 to 2 inches when the plants reach 6 inches tall.

**What Am I?
By Jane Kuhn**

I am an upright, herbaceous, clump-forming perennial that produces tall, rigid spikes of fluffy purple flowers which open from the top. I bloom from mid to late summer in zones 3-8, prefer full sun to partial shade, and grow best in average, well-drained soils. My height ranges from 2 to 4 feet with a spread up to one and a half feet. My leaves are green and finely textured, turning a showy bronze in the fall. Although I tolerate poor soils, I prefer moist, fertile ones and I am intolerant of wet soils in the winter. I also tolerate summer heat and humidity, drought and clay soil. With a layer of mulch, my plants will grow almost maintenance free.

Seeds can be collected after flower heads on the entire stalk have turned tan and fluffy. To propagate my plants, seeds can be sown outside in late fall or stored, stratified and sown the following spring. Plants can be divided after a few years by digging up and separating the rhizomes making sure at least one “eye” is on each segment, and then planting 12” apart. I am found in perennial borders, native plant gardens, cottage gardens and prairie areas. I am attractive to bees, butterflies and birds but am resistant to deer.

IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE

BY VIRGINIA SLATTERY

Valerie Stabenow



I attended grade school and high school on the northwest side of Chicago. After that it was on to college at UW Whitewater as a foreign language major and art minor. I taught in several high schools, including on an Indian reservation in North Dakota. I obtained a master's in counseling and worked as a high school counselor. I got interested in technology as it was being integrated into the schools so I went through Microsoft's Certified Professional program for Network Operating System and CompTia's program for hardware/software repair and then became the District's Tech Director. Now that we are in Winneconne, I do some consulting and also sub in all grade levels for the Winneconne and Omro Districts.

My parents owned a greenhouse and garden shop and all the kids in the family pitched in to help on weekends and during the summer. I remember picking dead leaves off 5,000 geranium plants in a 120-degree greenhouse.

I became certified in the Master Gardener program through the University of Illinois in 2011. After moving to Winneconne I transferred my membership to Wisconsin.

I did not really get into plants, gardens, and landscaping until I owned my own property. In all the moves I've made, I tried to leave the homes better off than before. Now that my husband and I are in Winneconne I have lots of places to apply my skills. One project we have is our 6-acre "nature preserve" (AKA The Swamp). We've cleared out a trail for summer walks and winter snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The area includes wetland and uplands.

My main interests in the garden are perennials. I love my hostas and iris and anything else that need a home. I always need to be ramped up for "deer wars" as the critters love to eat my plants. I found a recipe on the internet that uses habanero sauce and seems to be quite effective. It's funny to find bits of chewed leaves that the deer have spit out after getting a taste of the hot stuff!

I enjoy paying back through the Master Gardener program for the wonderful advice I've received. When not gardening I am out sailing, kayaking, biking, or working out. Summer goes fast!



Lawanda's Garden Path

By Lawanda Jungwirth

I try not to repeat topics here but one of the invasive plants I've mentioned before has become so prevalent and is so dangerous that it merits another go round.

Wildparsnip is blooming now in mid-summer and you might mistake it for a dill plant. It has a wide umbrella of tiny yellow flowers just like dill, but the parsnip plant is a bit sturdier. It grows in large patches or is scattered along fence rows, road and trail sides, in abandoned fields and unmown pastures.

The danger comes from touching the plant. Nothing happens immediately, but as soon as your skin is exposed to the ultraviolet light of the sun, severe burns can occur quickly or up to two days later. You may not even realize that you've been in contact with the plant until the painful burn or blistering occurs. The burn often appears as long streaks where a leaf or stem dragged across your skin. This burn hurts just as much as if you had run a hot coal over your skin and you should treat it as you would any other burn.

Covering exposed skin immediately after contact with wild parsnip prevents the reaction, but the area remains sensitized for about eight hours. However, unless you are familiar with the plant, you'll probably be unaware that you've come in contact with it until the burn occurs. "Lucky" people will experience what feels like a light sunburn. The unlucky ones will develop painful deep burns with large blisters. Unlike poison ivy, wild parsnip blisters do not spread.

Wild parsnip also differs from poison ivy in another way. You know how some people brag that they can roll around in poison ivy and not develop an itchy rash? The stupidity of that aside, no one is immune to the burn of phototoxic plants. The parsnip burn is not an allergic reaction; it is a chemical reaction between compounds found in the leaves, stems, flowers and seeds and sunlight. Every person who gets wild parsnip juice on their bare skin and is then exposed to sunlight gets burned. Warmth and perspiration increase the speed and intensity of the burn.

Wild parsnip plants live two years. Each plant spends its first year as a rosette of leaves that resemble flat-leaved parsley, close to the ground. The next year it sends up its flower stalk which can grow to five feet tall and blooms from mid-June until late summer.

Wild parsnip can be controlled by mowing with a brush cutter just after peak bloom but before plants have set seed. One follow-up cutting should take place a few weeks later. If mowing is done after seed has set, collect the cut stems, bag them and dispose of them in the trash. If the infestation is small, cut the plant's root with a shovel just below ground level. Always wear long pants, long sleeves, gloves, and glasses when controlling wild parsnip.

The News Crew

Editors: Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Eric Kropp, Mary Jo Maher

Contributors: Anne Murphy, Lawanda Jungwirth, Jane Kuhn, Marge Bolding, Lynne Slat and Linda Looker

Photographer: Nancy Karuhn



Winnebago County Master Gardener Elections

Elections for President, Treasurer and two Board members will be held at the November Business Meeting. Members of the nominating committee are Patty Schmitz, Linda Loker and Kathy Schultz. The nominating process and elections will be discussed at the September Business meeting. Nominees will be introduced at October and November meetings. If interested in serving contact one of the nominating committee members.

Good Reads

“A Woman’s Hardy Garden (1903)” by Helena Rutherford Ely

This book was written in 1903. Ms. Ely describes a 1903 garden planting of shrubs, annuals, biennials and perennials. This is a wonderful historical book that will take you back in time.

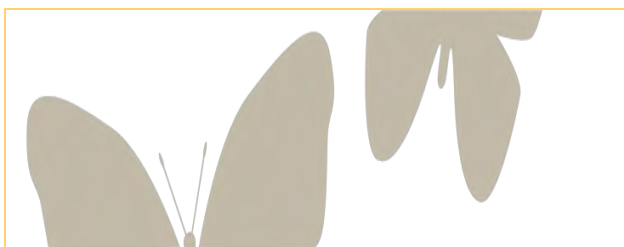
Answer to “WHAT AM I”

By Jane Kuhn

I am Blazing star. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae / Compositae – Aster family. Genus: *Liatris Gaertn.* Ex Schreb. – Blazing star. Species: *Liatris spicata* (L.) Willd. – Dense blazing star. Other names: gayfeather, colicroot, button snake, marsh blazing star. Blazing star is good for cut and dried flowers. It was used as an old fashioned antispasmodic remedy for the intestines. The protruding styles give the flower an overall feathery appearance, hence its alternate name, dense gayfeather.



References: [USDA Plants Database](#) and associated links.



Contact: Kimberly Miller, kimberly.miller@ces.uwex.edu

Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteer Training to Begin

The mission of the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension. Level I Training will be hosted in Winnebago County from September 8 through November 24. Level I Training will cost \$95 per person. Course fee includes 12 classes, training manuals, access to supplemental materials, and a 1 year membership at the state and local level. Classes will meet Tuesday evenings at the J.P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Rd Y, Oshkosh from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

This year, a flipped classroom approach will be used. Students will watch video lectures at home, and class will be a time for students to inquire about the lecture content, test their skills in applying knowledge, and interact with one another in hands-on activities. Topics include: botany, soils, woody ornamentals, herbaceous ornamentals, entomology, plant pathology, weeds, lawn care, vegetables, fruits, and backyard wildlife. For students who do not have access to a computer, accommodations to watch the videos can be made in the UWEX office during normal business hours.

Interested participants are required to attend a short orientation about the Master Gardener Volunteer program on Tuesday, August 4, at 5:30 p.m. at the J.P. Coughlin Center. Registration material (Volunteer Agreement, Consent to Background Check, and \$95 payment) can be submitted that evening, or mailed to the Master Gardener Treasurer by August 15. (Sue Egner, 931 Park Ridge Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901) Please make checks payable to the "WCMGA". The required forms can be obtained online at <http://winnebago.uwex.edu/horticulture/> or by calling the Winnebago County UW-Extension office at 920-232-1970.

SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS!!!

Photos from the members



Barb Harrison



Virginia Slattery



Linda Christensen



Buzzing Around

By Mary Jo Maher



What is your favorite flower? It seems like we all have one. My favorite is dahlias. I love the burst of color, the many different varieties, the wonderful bouquets they make for the house, and of course the reproduction for the next year.

One of my favorite vacations was going to Oregon and being around so many dahlia farms. It was incredible to see 40 acres of those lovely flowers and walk among the fields.

Here are some great places to visit in Oregon. They all have a wonderful website to visit also.

Swan Island Dahlias- 905 NW 22nd Ave., Canby, Oregon

Annual Dahlia Festival is held the last weekend of August and Labor Day weekend.

Dahlia Divas – 83703 Papenfus Road, Pleasant Hill, Oregon

Frey's Dahlia Farm- 120054 Brick Rd. SE, Turner, Oregon

Old House Dahlias- 8005 SE Mill St, Portland, Oregon

If you visit the Oregon area, here are some beautiful gardens you can visit:

Leach Botanical Gardens Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden International Rose Test Garden



Food for Thought

By Linda Loker

Submitted by Lynne Slat
Source unknown- family recipe

CHICKEN SALAD

- ❑ 1 head of Iceberg lettuce
- ❑ 2-3 half chicken breasts [poached then shredded]
- ❑ 4 oz. Toasted sliced almonds
- ❑ 1 bag Chinese noodles

FOR DRESSING:

- ❑ ¾ cups sugar [Equal works well, too]
- ❑ 1 tsp. Dry mustard [can supplement w/ Dijon: ½ to 1 tsp. Regular]
- ❑ 1 tsp. Salt
- ❑ 1/3 cup vinegar
- ❑ 1 cup oil
- ❑ 4 ½ tsp. Poppy seeds

→ SHAKE WELL

ADD noodles to salad just before serving. Shake

[Alternate Chicken salad Recipe:]

Chicken /Turkey Summer Salad

[A recipe from the mom of a playmate of Andy's]

- ✓ 3 cup diced Chicken [or turkey]
 - ✓ 1 1/2 cup sliced celery
 - ✓ 3 Tbs. Lemon juice
- COMBINE
-
- ✓ 1 cup Mayonnaise
 - ✓ ¼ cup pineapple juice
 - ✓ Salt & pepper to taste
- COMBINE

September 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 1 Board Meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 Business Meeting Parkview cutting garden | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 Parkview cutting garden | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Parkview Flower arranging | 22 Parkview cutting garden | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 Parkview cut flowers | 30 | | | |

October 2015

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 Board meeting Parkview cut flowers | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 Business Meeting Parkview cut flowers | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |