

# WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

September 2016

Issue 22



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.



Photo by Nancy Karuhn

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

Hours Due- September 1

Board Meeting- September 6

Business Meeting- September 13

Monitor Hyacinth – September 17

Carter Library work day- every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 3-7

Farmers Market Oshkosh – every Saturday

Park View gardens – every Tuesday June 26 – Oct

## *The President's Pen*

*From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker*



Summer's eve is here and fall is near. Our flower gardens have made their many blooming transitions and now the mums are showing their beautiful colors. Fall is a favorite time of year for the many that enjoy the vast color palette and preparing their beds for the winter ahead. Fall is also the time of year that vegetable gardeners are busy preserving their bounty. We resume our member meetings and it is perfect timing for Mandi Dornfeld, a Family Living Educator, Winnebago County UWEX, to be our guest speaker at this month's member meeting. She will be sharing her tips on food preservation.

September is a busy month for our organization. We begin again collecting our volunteer hours. The projects are still very active and looking great! We have such a great membership – getting involved and making great strides in improving our community. Kudos to all!

MG Basic Training Class will begin on September 6. An introductory meeting was held on August 16 with 13 interested participants. All were very interactive and one has even volunteered to help with our February seminar!

Annual membership dues will be discussed at the September meeting, and you will have the opportunity to pay these dues at the meeting if you have not already.

This is also the time of year when we begin our officer election process. Elections will be held at the November 8 meeting. The 2016 year positions to be filled are vice president(s), secretary and one board member. We are a strong and active organization in this state because of our leadership and involvement. The hours spent serving in this capacity count as volunteer hours toward certification. Please consider serving in one of these roles. So now back to enjoying the remnants of summer!

Linda and Kathy

## ***SHARING YOUR TIME***

*By Kathy Gore*

*My Mother had dementia for many years. When she could no longer live in her home, I looked for a good secure nursing home. The one I chose was beautiful inside and had a great staff but I wish I had looked at the outside. It had nothing for the residents to visit outside, only a cement patio to sit on in the hot sun. It would have been so nice to have a butterfly garden for my Mom and the residents. So I wanted to know more about the Butterfly Gardens at Lutheran Homes.*

### **Butterfly Garden at Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh** *By Jane Kuhn*

The Butterfly Garden at Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh (LHO), in its second year, is located on this campus of over 500 residents and is adjacent to Bethel Home. Goals of the project have been established in horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship and great support is provided by our sponsoring organization. This year has seen enlargement and further development of the flower beds and numerous pots including determining/acquiring perennials, annuals and herbs and garden fixtures. Plants which attract butterflies through the seasons for their nectar and those that are host plants for caterpillars are included.

The garden provides residents, staff and guests information and enjoyment in an inviting and relaxing environment. Residents have opportunities to reminisce through visual, tactile and olfactory experiences. They can come out to the garden at any time and it is enjoyable when they come and chat about their gardening experiences when we are working in the garden. An important addition to the area this year is a display case which the LHO maintenance department built for the garden. The three by six-foot case is wheelchair accessible and allows us to present educational information and photographs we have taken regarding the garden, butterflies, plants and butterfly conservation.

Project co-chairs are Jane Kuhn and Diana Dougherty who can provide additional information or answer your questions. If you are interested in helping with this project please email your information to one of the co-chairs.

Photographs from Butterfly Garden at Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh



## WHAT AM I

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am an aromatic, flowering herbaceous perennial which is native to North America and is found in zones 4 through 10. My genus consists of 30 highly fragrant varieties. I can grow to 4 feet tall and 2 ½ feet wide and am tolerant of low water and poor nutrient conditions. My stiff, angular stems with toothed-edged, lanced shaped leaves hold my flower spikes of tubular, two-lipped flowers which may be white, pink or purple. My blooms have the appearance of being coated with fuzz because they are comprised of many tiny florets. I provide my showy flowers and greenery all season long until the first frost.

Propagation can be by seed which should be sowed between 55F to 64F in early spring. Division in spring and rooting semi-ripe cuttings in summer are other methods. I am used as a back border of perennial gardens or lining a fence, in container gardens or in cut flower gardens. I attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.



News Crew-

Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Eric Kropp, Mary Jo Maher, Nancy Karuhn, Lawanda Jungswirth, Marge Bolding, Lynne Slatt, Jane Kuhn, and Anne Murphy

*Interested in taking pictures for the organization? We are currently looking for a photographer. If interested, please contact Mary Jo Maher-[mahermaryjo@yahoo.com](mailto:mahermaryjo@yahoo.com).*

*It is a fun position and your hours count!*

*Please join us in thanking Nancy!*

**Nancy has done a terrific job! She has supplied wonderful high quality pictures for the events, gardens and newsletter! Nancy was instrumental in the launching of this newsletter. She has dedicated many hours to us. We thank her from the bottom of our hearts!**

# LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Let's clean up!

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Every yard has one. Maybe it's out of sight behind your garage or on the side of the house where you never go. Perhaps it's in the back corner behind the kids' yard toys. Maybe it's inside the vegetable garden or at the back of the flower bed. Possibly it's right out front for all the world to see but you've overlooked it for so long that you've become blind to it.

What am I talking about? Overgrown, weedy, messy spots. It's time to clean up folks!

Pretend you are a visitor to your own yard. Take a walk around, looking for places that need improvement. Then walk down the street in both directions and make a critical assessment of your yard as you return home. Pay attention to what you notice first when approaching your house. Then see what catches your attention second. Does anything detract from that first, hopefully good, impression?

Is it time to get rid of some half-dead shrubs around the front porch? Or are they covering your windows and in need of trimming? Does a tree branch hang over your driveway, block your view of the street or drag on the ground? Is a weed-eater or a hand clipper needed to trim long grass from unkempt edges?

Perhaps it's time to get down on your hands and knees and pull some weeds. After a good rain, weed pulling will go easier. An inexpensive kneeling pad and a short-handled hand weeding tool will make the job easier. The tool I favor looks like a big screwdriver with a forked tip. Plunge the tool into the ground next to the weed and use it to assist in lifting the weed out while you firmly pull the top of the weed. Make sure to remove the roots so weeds don't grow back.

If weeds in your garden are completely out of control, start by pulling those around the stems of the garden plants first to give them some breathing room. Then tackle the rest. Unless the weeds have gone to seed, lay them down on the soil between the plants. They will act as mulch, keeping the earth moist and cool and will eventually compost in place to provide nutrition for the soil.

Speaking of compost, if you've got a compost pile or bin, there is probably some good, fresh compost ready to use at the bottom. Now is a good time to remove it and spread it around flowers, shrubs, fruits and vegetable plants to give them a boost going into the hottest month. The dark color of the compost will also add an attractive finished look to your beds.

Let's all resolve to take care of a messy spot or two. Whether the task takes minutes or days, whether you accomplish it yourself or need to hire someone to do it for you, your spirits will lift and you'll coast into fall feeling proud of your property.

*Note from Lawanda: The articles I write that appear in our WCMGA newsletter are originally written for the Oshkosh Northwestern. Some of the information is very basic. I assume that most Master Gardeners already know how to weed!*

## ANSWER TO WHAT AM I

By Jane Kuhn

I am agastache. Order: Lamiales. Family: Lamiaceae / Labiatae – Mint family. Genus: Agastache Clayton ex Gronov. – giant hyssop. “Agastache” is Greek for many spikes. Fresh hyssop is used in salads and soups. It can be dried for use in potpourris, sachets and teas.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

# *The Invasive Grapevine*

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

## **The Invasive Grapevine**

*(The Invasive Grapevine features a short and easy fact about invasive plant species each month)*

Want to see what invasive teasel looks like? There is a large infestation on the north side of Hwy. 21 directly across from Aurora Medical Center. A bit further west on Hwy. 21, there is more teasel on the south side, near Oakwood Road. Even if you aren't familiar with teasel, you'll be able to spot it immediately. It has a very tall, sturdy stalk topped with a pinecone-shaped purple flower.



# Cuts and Clips

By Marge Bolding

## Houseplants, 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 have not 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 a cool basement for a three month resting period

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

**Week 3.** Sow snap dragon, cornflowers, and other hardy annual seeds 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 will not 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 spring.

Remove all weeds from the garden before they go to seed.

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

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

**Week 3.** Dig and pot parsley, chives, and tender herbs for transfer indoors to a 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 stems on vegetables for better storage. Clear garden beds immediately after harvest. Destroy any diseased plants by burning, composting in a hot pile, or seal in containers for disposal

## Lawn, Trees and Shrubs

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

Aerate lawn when temperature is 60-70F

**Week 2.** Stop planting evergreens

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

*Source: Wisconsin Garden Journal*

## Prairie Planting for Multi-Season Interest

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

For larger areas, a strong architectural element can be added with taller grasses such as switch grass, indian grass, and big bluestem. Switchgrass and little bluestem stand up well to snow and will provide the best winter interest. Even in the dead of winter the seeds 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.



## The Latest Dirt

Latest news of the Winnebago Master Gardeners

**2017 International Master Gardener Conference** is going to be held July 10 – 14, 2017 in Portland, Oregon. For those interested - check the website at <http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/2017imgc/>. Early registration starts Oct. 10, 2016 for hotel discounts which are running from \$100 - \$194 per room per night for single, double, triple or even quadruple room. After Jan. 14, 2017 there will be no room discount. At present, the cost for the conference has not been set, but it should be available soon. This conference sounds so interesting and is in such a fabulous area that if anyone is interested in going let me know. I am not putting together a formal trip, but it would be fun to do some of the activities together and have hotel rooms near each other. Within Portland city limits are some fabulous places to visit including: The International Rose Test Gardens, The World Forestry Center, Hoyt Arboretum, Portland Japanese Garden, Pittock Mansion, Leach Botanical Gardens, and Lan Su Chinese Gardens. Other ideas include traveling to the Pacific Ocean (90 minute drive), Columbia Gorge and Multnomah Falls (30 minute drive), and Mt. Hood (60 minute drive). By planning some of this with others, we can share car rental expenses and plan some great side activities. Please check the website and sign up for the newsletter, if interested. I'm looking forward to hearing from some of you who would like to go to the conference and some side trips around the area. Contact Marge Menacher at [marmen4105@charter.net](mailto:marmen4105@charter.net)

### Help Monitor for Water Hyacinth

"If you see something, say something." In 2010 the Department of Homeland Security launched a campaign with this slogan to encourage people to report suspicious activity to law enforcement. Since that time, the mantra has been adopted in workplaces to encourage employees to come forth with their ideas for better ways to do things.

Last fall, Winnebago County Master Gardener Valerie Stabenow saw something in the channels off of Lake Winneconne that shouldn't have been there and she said something. What she spotted was invasive water hyacinth. She immediately reported it to the DNR. Within days, a team of people from the DNR, UW-Extension and other agencies arrived to scout the area and physically remove the plants. Because of the early discovery and quick response, the spread was contained before it became uncontrollable. Now, monitoring is necessary to be certain that it doesn't return and gain a foothold.

Like many invasive plants, water hyacinth was intentionally brought into the United States. Way back in 1884 it was introduced as an ornamental plant for water gardens at the Cotton States Expo in New Orleans. It escaped the confines of backyard water gardens and has become a serious weed of rivers, lakes, ponds, canals and reservoirs.

Large floating mats of water hyacinth displace native plants and animals, cause economic hardships to communities that depend on fishing and water sports for revenue, decrease waterfront property values, interfere with hunting, fishing, boating and other water sports, clog irrigation pumps and water supply pipelines and impede runoff and water circulation. The mats become mosquito factories, creating calm water for larvae to proliferate while denying access to mosquito larvae predators. Mats are so dense that they decrease light to submerged plants, depleting the water and animals that live in it of oxygen. Shifting mats have been known to prevent boaters from reaching their docks, stranding them offshore.

The Wisconsin Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership and River Alliance of Wisconsin are asking for volunteers to assist with a search for invasive water hyacinth, on Saturday, September 17. Volunteers should meet at 8:00 a.m. at Lake Winneconne Park, 498 Parkway Dr., Winneconne, for a short instructional session and will then spend time on the water checking the lakeshore and channels near the park for water hyacinth from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

Paddlers are asked to provide their own boats and paddles, life vests, water, sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks, etc. Canoes or kayaks can be used.

Additional learning opportunities will be available at the park until 2:00 p.m. for those who are interested in finding out more about invasive species, but are unable to paddle.

Paddlers are asked to register in advance. No registration is necessary to view the educational displays. To register, visit the River Alliance of Wisconsin's event page at <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/home/events> or contact the River Alliance's Aquatic Invasive Species Program Director, Amanda Perdsock, at [aperdsock@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:aperdsock@wisconsinrivers.org) or 608-257-2424 ext. 111.

# ***BUZZING AROUND***



*BY MARY JO MAHER*



We were looking for a place to escape to for our anniversary and came across a wonderful B&B in West Bend. Directly across the road from the B&B was the Shalom Wildlife Zoo. If it was not so convenient, I certainly would have passed it up. This is a wonderful 100-acre natural setting, which includes 4 miles of trails for walking, or using a golf cart to travel on. It includes 35 animals to see, a gift shop where you can buy feed for the animals, a picnic area, restrooms and running water. But wait! The best is yet to come. They have many prairie gardens, clear markings of the various trees, and a butterfly garden. During the month of August, the feature was a theme of “Buffalo Times” which displayed signs throughout the zoo on how the Indians used trees, plants, flowers and their relationship with the animals. There were many displays on Indian life including totem poles, shelters and the like. It is a mere hour away, and there are several garden centers to check out, both on the way and in West Bend. While in West Bend, check out the most spectacular art pieces at MOWA – the Museum of Wisconsin Art.



*SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS!!!*



All above photos by Nancy



Photo by Jane Kuhn

**September 2016**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Hours due	2	3
4	5	6 Board Mtg.  Park View Gardens	7	8	9	10
11	12 Carter Library	13 Business Mtg.  Park View Gardens	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Park View Gardens	21	22	23	24
25	26 Carter Library	27 Park View Gardens	28	28	30	

**October 2016**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Board Mtg.	5	6	7	8
9	10 Carter Library	11 Business Mtg.	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Park View Gardens	19	20	21	22
23  30	24  31	25	26	27	28	29