

# WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

SEPTEMBER-Issue 34



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## Dates to Remember

*September 5 – Board Meeting*

*September 12 – Business Meeting*

*September 19- Education Meeting at Benvenutos*

*October 17 – Education Meeting at Benvenutos*

*November 21 - Education Meeting at Benvenutos*

*February 17 – Winter Escape, Summer Dreams*

## The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



September is here already! But we are not done in our flower beds...and we are just beginning to really enjoy them! But the vegetable gardens are letting us know that it is time for picking and preserving our precious fruits of our labor. It has been a very different summer with our gardens and lawns having the necessary moisture to maintain their good looks. Less watering has been a blessing!

We were all very busy in August keeping up with our work in the projects. We hope everyone has been able to find their niche in one or more of the long term projects, and that obtaining volunteer hours has not been a problem for anyone. If so, we do ask that you reach out to us for assistance.

Our garden walks to the Oshkosh Humane Society, the Shattuck Park and the Neenah Library Butterfly Garden were a very nice example of our influence here in Winnebago Co. Thank you to all who hosted and to all who came and enjoyed. Kudos to Neenah Library for their butterfly way station certification.

The Education Committee is back in the swing of things and gearing up for Winter Escape Summer Dreams seminar in February 2018. (Mark your calendar for February 17, 2018) Speakers are being lined up and it looks to be another great year. Just to name drop - Mark Dwyer from Rotary Gardens is a well known speaker that will be joining us for the day. And the Silent Auction will be featured again this year, much to the delight of many!

Two informational meetings were held in August for any potential WCMG trainees. The turnout was very good, and attendees were very interested. We will be seeing our new trainees at our September meeting as they will join us for the educational hour.

If you have not sent in your dues for local and state fees for this year, you can do this at the September meeting. The dues are \$25 for local fee and \$5 for state fee for a total of \$30. Linda Baeten is our committee chair for this and will be at the membership meeting for anyone needing to take care of these dues.

Our speaker for our September 12 business meeting will be Greg Kirchmayer, Regional Forester for WPS, and he will be presenting the topic, "Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place". He may also talk a little about the EAB (Emerald Ash Borer). He is very excited to meet our members.

See you all at the business meeting!

Kathy and Linda

## WHAT AM I?

BY JANE KUHN

I am a spreading herbaceous perennial, native in northeastern and north central United States, which grows to a height of 4-8 feet and a width of 3-4 feet in zones 3-8. I am tall and sturdy yet delicate looking. I have large lobed leaves on branching red stems, bearing pink or peach, sweet fragrant flowers from early to mid- summer. The numerous stamens give my flower a fuzzy appearance. I prefer full sun or part shade and constantly moist but well-drained soil which is rich in organic matter. I prefer the cooler climate of the Great Lakes Region.

Propagation is by division in spring or fall. Plants spread rapidly by creeping roots, and division helps to control overexpansion. Although my plant produces numerous seeds, most seedlings fail to establish. I am non-invasive. My flowers provide pollen for insects but not nectar. I am successful in wildflower and bog gardens and am easy to care for. Diseases which may affect me are powdery mildew, rust or leaf spot.

## Reflections from Ginny

### IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE

BY GINNY SLATTERY

As it is time to “hand the torch” over to the next group, we reflect on the changes and opportunities afforded to us as planners and editors of the MG newsletter this past three years. We hope that you have enjoyed what we did!

My part in the process was mainly organizing, collecting, and editing the member bios. While doing this, I got to know a lot of newer members. It was fun learning all about them and seeing their enthusiasm for joining the Master Gardener program. I discovered a wide variety of interest and talents among the new members. Everyone has something unique to add to our group.

After twisting a few arms, I got a few long-time members to contribute their stories, too. Learning about their dedication, long years of service, and many gifts was truly humbling.

We're looking forward to seeing how the newsletter evolves as the next group takes it over and makes it their “baby”. Best wishes for a successful product!

Virginia Slattery

# LAWANDA'S GARDEN

BY LAWANDA JUNGWIRTH

## Tomato late blight is a community problem

The most serious tomato disease is late blight, a fungal disease that has been spreading quickly across the eastern United States for the past several years. This is the same blight that caused the Irish Potato Famine in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

I wrote about late blight in 2009 but it is such a serious problem that the information bears repeating. Late blight was recently found in the western part of Wisconsin and the westerly prevailing winds will likely be spreading it in our direction.

Most tomato and potato diseases can be avoided by mulching under the plants so that soil-borne bacteria doesn't splash onto the foliage, and allowing space between plants so that air can freely circulate. But late blight spores on infected plants are swept up in wind currents high into the atmosphere, where they can be carried up to 40 miles. The spores survive up there on rainy, humid, overcast days, and then fall into gardens and farm fields when it rains. There is really no way of preventing the spores from landing on your plants.

Because late blight is highly contagious and destructive, it is critical that we do our best to prevent the spread. This means inspecting plants every single day as this disease spreads so quickly that it can develop overnight.

Symptoms include leaf lesions that begin as pale green or olive green areas and quickly enlarge to become brown-black, water-soaked, and oily in appearance. Lesions on leaves produce spores that look like white-gray fuzzy growth on the undersides of the leaves.

Stems exhibit dark brown to black lesions with spores. Tomato fruit symptoms begin small, but quickly develop into golden to chocolate brown firm lesions or spots that can appear sunken with distinct rings within them. You might also see white fuzzy spores on the tomatoes themselves.

The time from first infection to lesion development and spore development can be as fast as seven days depending on the weather. High humidity, dew, wet weather and temperatures from 50 to 80°F encourage late blight.

If you find late blight on your tomatoes or potatoes, pull up and destroy the plants immediately. Also remove the plants next to the infected plants. Do not compost the diseased plants. They should be double-bagged and landfilled.

Late blight does not survive freezing in winter, but it can survive on plant parts that are kept warm in a compost pile or in storage. It is very important to buy fresh plants or seed for next year's tomatoes. Do not allow volunteer tomato plants from dropped seed to grow next year.

If you discover late blight on your tomatoes, inform your neighbors so they can be on the lookout for it in their own gardens. The only way to prevent an epidemic is if everyone does proper clean-up and disposal of their plants. Also please inform the UW-Extension of late blight by calling 920-232-1970.

*Lawanda Jungwirth is a Winnebago County Master Gardener. E-mail her at [ljungwirth@charter.net](mailto:ljungwirth@charter.net)*

## SHARING YOUR TIME

BY KATHY GORE

I have had a fun time writing the Sharing Your Time article for the Master Gardener Newsletter. Hope you have enjoyed the information I have shared on the great Master Gardener projects and a little bit about my life.

But I think I have written about all the Master Gardener projects I can. It's time for group with fresh ideas to take the newsletter and make it their own. I am looking forward to seeing it continue and grow.

Thank you for your support and help in the years I have written for newsletter.

Kathy Gore

## ANSWER TO WHAT AM I?

BY JANE KUHN

### Answer to What Am I?

I am Queen of the Prairie. Order: Rosales. Family: Rosaceae – Rose family. Genus: *Filipendula* Mill. – queen. Species: *Filipendula rubra* (Hill) B.L. Rob. – Queen of the Prairie. *Filipendula*: filum is Latin for “thread” and pendulus is Latin for “hanging.” *Rubra* is Latin for red. Native Americans have used the root of this plant in traditional medicine for treating heart problems and as an aphrodisiac. The root has high tannin content, making it useful as an astringent for treating diarrhea, dysentery and bleeding.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BY RENEE DONNER

### Strawberry Refrigerator Cake

- 1 box strawberry cake mix, prepared according to pkg. directions
- 1 container, 10oz, frozen strawberries in syrup, thawed slightly
- 1 1/2 cups cold Milk
- 1 3.5 oz instant vanilla pudding
- 1 container of cool whip--12 oz
- 1 pint of strawberries w/tops removed and cut in half
- 1/3 cup pecans---optional

Make the boxed cake mix according to the directions of the package. Pour batter into a 9x13 pan, bake, and allow to cool.

Once cool, use the handle of a wooden spoon to poke holes in the cake.

Put thawed strawberries w/syrup into a blender and puree a bit. Pour over cake and allow it to soak into the cake.

Whisk together cold milk and the instant pudding until thick. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread evenly over the top of the cake.

Sprinkle on chopped pecans—Refrigerate for four hours or more.

The Cooking Mom

## THE LATEST DIRT

September 18, October 17, November 21– Education Committee meeting @ 5:30 at Benvenutos

**Hours Due- September 1**

Business Meeting- September 12

Winter Escape- February 17

### **Formal Garden Nears Completion at the Paine**

The target date for the completion of the new Formal Garden at the Paine is fast approaching. At the writing of this article in mid-August the pillars are up, the cedar panels are being erected, there is water in the fountains, and the masons are completing their last projects. And most exciting--planting has begun!

Working quite a bit this summer has allowed for watching the process from the beginning. It seemed like just a hole in the ground for the longest time—and they just kept digging deeper! I can't wait for all the final touches and for you all to see it! It is going to be a truly spectacular addition to the Garden at the Paine.

I hope that Sheila will be able to present some wonderful pictures to you in the near future at one of our meetings.

# BUZZING AROUND

BY MARY JO MAHER

On my last trip for Buzzing Around, Kathy Gore and I took a trip to Waupaca and visited three garden centers, Silver Mist Garden Center, Bonnie's Bloomer and Cottage Garden Center. These garden Centers are all unique in their own right.

Places to eat: Wheel House or Clear Water Harbor



From Issue number 1 to Issue number 34 - we hope you have enjoyed the last three years of the Newsletter for the Winnebago Master Gardeners **“WHAT’S GROWING ON”**. We clearly remember starting this idea while cleaning up Shattuck Park one fall day, Jennifer Footit-Tank, Ginny Slattery, Kathy Gore, and I, Mary Jo Maher, thought, we should take on this challenge. It has been a great adventure and it could not have succeeded without the wonderful members who have contributed so much- Lawanda Jungwirth, Jane Kuhn, Lynne Slat, Linda Loker, Renee Donner, Anne Murphy, Nancy Karuhn, Maria Talin, Marge Bolding, and Eric Kropp and every member who has contributed pictures and news items. Thank you all- we have enjoyed the ride and hope in some small way, you al’ have too.

*Mary Jo Maher*

## September 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 <i>Board Meeting</i>	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 <i>Business Meeting</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 <i>Education Meeting</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30