

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service & environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

www.winnebagomastergardeners.org

1-920-232-1986

APRIL 2007

COMMITTEES

Education	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Historian	
John Procknow	429-4797
Membership	
Chris Bellin	233-4968
Newsletter	
Linda Baeten	232-1224
Contributing Reporter	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Judy Harms	688-5523
Liz Ginke	
Time Keeper	
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570
Trip Coordination by Education Committee & Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283

OFFICERS

President	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Vice President	
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Secretary	
Linda Werner	725-8168
Treasurer	
Marge Bolding	233-8668

SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Gardens	
Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Paine Gardens	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Rob Robinson	231-1162
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Sue Steinhilber	235-1031
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Marlene Miller	231-4339
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Curt Reese	426-4992

OPEN / CLOSED SANCTIONED PROJECTS

Community Education	
Dorothy Kunz	233-8468
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Compost	
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Lincoln School	
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Karen Wedde	235-7159
Park View Prairie	
Joel Eisch	231-0656
Refreshments	
Linda Loker	426-1435

Monthly Business Meeting
Tuesday, April 10, 5:30 pm
At the Coughlin Center
All members welcome
Training class to follow



Dear Fellow Gardeners,

A very hearty hello to you all! A day like this one really makes the gardener in me want to sing, which is a terrible thing for those around me, seeing that I am tone deaf. My voice goes into cracks one never knew existed. But what the heck, the sun is out, the temps are rising, the snow has left my yard and the day still makes me want to sing.

I was very pleased at the mixture of old and new members at our meeting March 13. I know it was a little rushed, but I wanted to be able to have Keith from Land and Water take all the time he wanted to deliver his message to us. After the meeting I talked to Keith a little and he asked us to feel free to work with them any time we can. Having done a few projects with Keith in the past I do look forward to working with his group again.

I want to encourage all of our new members to feel free to question at any time. I know this is all new to you and it is easy to get lost or confused with what is going on around you. None of us old timers try to be rude, but in our excitement we forget that there are those among us that might not understand what is happening. Please, stop us and say I don't understand what you're talking about or what does that mean? We are always happy to explain. Even though we sometimes don't think about it we all remember being new and needing a caring hand. If nothing else my phone number is (920) 734-2264, call me we'll talk.

I also know it is hard to get started with projects and getting involved with things that we have ongoing. I can only tell all of you that you are more than welcome anytime to hop in. I know the water looks deep, but we won't let you get in over your head. I do feel that the only way to become a real part of Master Gardeners is to jump in and do. You can stand back and watch and try to figure out what is going on or be a part of what is happening. It is easier to learn the ins and outs when you are in the mix rather than standing on the side watching the confusion. Remember too that we don't have the newer members doing things alone. There will always be an old timer there to show you the ropes.

What did you think of that cookbook? I think we all did a wonderful job on it. It looks really great. I think we should all thank Dorothy Kunz for the art work she did on the cover and divider pages. Lawanda Jungwirth and Gail Roush were our proof readers and editor. Vicki Schultz and Barbara Kuhn did all of the typing and arranging for us. They took all of those hunks of paper and turned them into useable computer files so we could put the book together. I want to personally tip my garden hat to all of you on a job well done. Thank you, also, to all of you that shared your recipes with us.
GREAT JOB ALL!!

While I am handing out kudos here are a ton for Roy Anne and her Education/Trip Committee. The March 17, "March into Spring" was wonderful. It is my understanding that Audrey took the lead on this one. Audrey you led us down a very special path. I didn't hear anything but praise from the people attending. You guys sure know how to do things with panache. Looking forward to what you pull out of the hat next. You are welcome to work your magic anytime.

I am going to go out into my gardens now to say hello to some old friends that have come back to wish me a happy Spring this year. I hope you have many old friends that come back to visit you too.

I'll see you in the Garden
Linda



MARCH 13 meeting attendance

Bob Potter	Gale Davey	Marge Bolding	Mary Weidenmier
Barbara Kuhn	Kathy Daniels	Sue Bohn	Linda Baeten
Pat Behm	Vicik Schultz	Dorothy Kunz	Bob Kosanke
Linda Loker	Stan Meyer	Marty Sacksteder	Arlene Kosanke
Jerry Robak	Karen Wedde	Linda Tobey	Dawn Kent
Ken Hawk	Sandy Ansfield	Debbie Quant	Betty Kuen
Ruth Freye	Pat Rockow	Marge Menacher	Kim Hoeper
Alice Graf	Mary Flanagan	David Leonard	John Zeinert
Gail Roush	Sue Hopper	Paul Hopper	Viona Ginnow
Carol Bricco	Abigail Knoll	Susanah Sandrin	Shelly Michalski
Roy Anne Moulton	Steve Schueller		

We thank all of these members for coming and lending their voices to the meeting. Remember this is your organization and you do have a vote in what happens. Please come and add your voice to ours next month.

1. **COOKBOOK:** The book is here and ready for sale. We had the book at “March into Spring” where it was very well received and will also have it at all of our other venues this year. The book is selling for \$10.00. We encourage everyone to take a few of the books to sell at other gatherings you may attend or pick up an order sheet to take orders for the books. Please do not give the book out until you have money in hand. It is very easy to forget who you gave the book to. So our policy is cash and carry. At the price we are selling them for we can’t have any just disappear.
2. **BUSINESS MEETING:** In keeping with our endeavors to assist our newer members to adjust to Master Gardeners easier, we will again have our regular business meeting on April 10 begin at 5:30 and run until 6:30. Please attend the meeting if you are at all able to do so. I will take any and all questions about hours and recording them at this meeting. Now that some of you have earned some hours we will make sure you are recording them correctly.
3. **LAST CLASS & SUMMER PICNIC:** Things are being done a little different this year. We have had a Pot Luck for our last class for several years now. Seeing that we have moved our classes to a later start date, we also have a later ending date. I have spoken to Jan Klem at Park View and she has given us permission to have our last class pot luck in the gazebo area there. We will be combining our last class, which will be June 12 , with our annual Summer Picnic. Please mark this date on your calendars. Your families are welcome to come to celebrate the end of class and the start of Summer with us.
4. **LEARN ABOUT PARK VIEW:** Our Park View projects are 4 fold. We have our Flower Garden, a Raised Vegetable Garden, a Prairie Garden and Flower Arranging. At our next meeting we will have the leads of 3 of the projects there to explain their project and pass around a sign up sheet so you can become a part of this very worthwhile endeavor.
5. **IDEAS WELCOME:** Your ideas are welcome. If you have any ideas for improving the way we do things, or something you’d like to try, tell us about it. The old is good and sometimes better, but new means growth. Nothing like seeing a new bud or leaf. We can do no worse than try and realize maybe it needs tweaking. Share your ideas by presenting them at a meeting, or give any Board member a call.

**Master Gardener Board Meeting
February 20, 2007
Coughlin Center 6 p.m.**

NEW BUSINESS:

The board met to discuss the format for the first session of the spring training class on March 6. Approximately 20 to 30 new participants are expected. Each class member will receive a white binder about Winnebago County Master Gardener Association, the gray State binder and a new binder of basic gardening information (this publication will also be available to ongoing members for \$25). The March newsletter will be handed out as well. The following agenda was developed.

1. Jason will introduce the Master Gardener program—expectations and objectives. He will emphasize that being a Master Gardener isn't just about taking a class, but a larger commitment.
2. Officers will introduce themselves by talking about what they do outside of Master Gardeners, their position in the organization and the type of gardening they like to do.
3. Susan Bohn will introduce the projects and each project leader will talk about their project in more depth. They will discuss how new members can get involved, but there will be no sign-up sheets at the first session. Project leaders will have opportunities at later sessions that coincide with regular business meetings to further explain about their projects and recruit volunteers. Only a sign-up sheet for the Home & Garden show, scheduled for March 23-25, will be available the first evening.
4. Linda Tobey will talk about the hours form and explain how to fill it out.

All current Master Gardeners are encouraged attend to network with new people, and ask questions that new members may not know to ask. A break of 30-45 minutes during the session will allow new members to get to know current members. Ongoing members will be asked to sign up to bring snacks for the break at each class session. Barbara Kuhn will organize this task.

A new members project will be developed for the Sherman Road community gardens and be introduced to the class in April. This will give them an opportunity to get an early start on their hours.

Linda Tobey will print an agenda for the first class and email it to board members.

Jason said that, through the UW Extension, he may be able to create a blog separate from the WCMGA website where members can enter questions and get responses. He will work on it and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by
Linda Werner

Minutes from the March 13th Business meeting were not available.

REPORTS

March Into Spring!

By Linda Baeten

Anyone who attended "March Into Spring" can tell you what a wonderful day we had! Herbalists Jackie Johnson and Cindy Hermsen, members of the Northeast Wisconsin Herb Society, gave a delightful presentation on herbs. Their knowledge and humorous delivery was well received. I was pleased to find out how many herbs I actually have growing already, and was inspired to try some new things. They had a table full of examples for the audience to ponder. After a great lunch from Lara's Tortilla Flats, we settled back for the Jon Wos and Glenn Spevacek show. These two teamed up to inspire us with their artistic creativity to the many possibilities of container gardening. They had us laughing the whole time and we came away with great ideas, not to mention all the plants given away, if you held a lucky ticket. Thanks to the Program Committee, especially Audrey Ruedinger for such a special event!

Announcement:

If you need supplies such as Round up, planting containers, fertilizers, potting soil, almost anything in gardening supplies for your Master Gardener project, please contact Linda Tobey by May 1st. The Master Gardener Association is able to purchase supplies at Shroth's Garden Supply. They sell wholesale to businesses, and Linda will be doing a shopping expedition soon. Plan ahead and give Linda your list.

The Scoop on Mulch

Excerpts from an article in the March edition of *Audubon Magazine*, courtesy of Linda Werner.

Every gardener knows mulch is a good thing. Right? Not always. According to an article in the March-April 2007 issue of *Audubon*, demand for some of the most common mulching materials is endangering natural areas and wildlife habitat far from our home gardens. Booming sales of cypress mulch, for example, is causing increased logging in endangered cypress swamps in Louisiana and Florida. Peat moss is another common soil supplement that is taken from ecologically valuable wetlands.

What is the environmentally conscious gardener to do?

1. Be a savvy consumer. When buying bagged mulch, look for products that are the leavings of timber harvest, not whole trees cut down and ground-up just for making mulch. Products labeled bark mulch must be at least 85 percent bark. Also note: recycled construction debris may contain wood treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA) used for many years to prevent rot in pressure treated wood. CCA contains arsenic and is a human carcinogen. A good label to look for is the Mulch & Soil Council certification. It verifies that what is in the bag is what it says it is.
2. Get creative. Mulch can come from many sources. *Audubon* suggests looking for local materials that are byproducts of commercial activities. Suggestions include finding sources for ground-up corncobs, spent hops from a local brewery or spent coffee grounds from the local coffee shop. In some places, people have even had success with ground-up invasive plants (as long as they were at least partially composted to kill remaining seeds). Grass clippings and leaves, cut up and bagged with a lawn mower, are two cheap and readily available homegrown mulches.

If you have experimented with locally available, unique mulch materials, be sure to share your results with other Master Gardeners. Inquiring minds want to know!



COOKBOOKS!

If you haven't already purchased a cookbook, please do so soon! This is our major fund-raiser for 2007. Any help you can devote to promoting our very own Cookbook will benefit our Association. They will be available at all meetings, classes and events. If you want to pick up a stack to sell, see Linda Tobey or Ken Hawk.

"What Am I?"

By Bruce Abraham



I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family *Aristolochiaceae*; Genus *Asarum*. My habitat ranges from cliffs to various forest environments: beech, boreal, Northern upland and lowland, and Southern upland and lowland. I prefer shaded areas with rich moist soil. I am 2" – 8" tall and bloom from April through June. My flower is typically red or brown with a whitish center – about 3" long and ¾" – 2" wide. I lie close to the ground and am usually somewhat hidden by my leaves. My 4" – 7" wide leaves are typically two in number, quite hairy, heart to kidney-shaped on equally hairy, erect stems. Caution...my leaves are poisonous and handling of the leaves causes dermatitis-like symptoms in some people.

My root, best harvested in autumn, is strongly aromatic – like mild pepper and ginger. The root was the source for many Native American tribes as a medicinal herb for a wide range of ailments and treatments such as: as an expectorant for coughs, colds and chest congestion; painful spasms of the bowels and painful menstruation; and even as a contraceptive for women. What Am I?



Understanding Tomatoes

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Heirloom, hybrid, determinate, indeterminate, VFN: what does it all mean?

Tomatoes have two growth patterns, determinate and indeterminate. Determinate means that the tomato will grow to a certain height and then stop. All the fruits will set and ripen within a short period of time – usually a week to ten days. This is good if you plan to can or freeze large quantities of tomatoes.

If you prefer to have tomatoes ripening a few at a time all season long, choose an indeterminate variety. The vines continue to grow in length and the fruits ripen until first frost. Indeterminate varieties need some kind of staking or support. In general, the flavor of indeterminate bush-type tomatoes is better than that of indeterminate cultivars

Hybrid tomatoes are those that have been bred specifically for certain characteristics such as fruit or plant size, color, disease or insect resistance, or intended use (slicing, canning, freezing, juicing, or cooking). Saving seeds for replanting from hybrid tomatoes will not work, as what you will get from the seeds is unpredictable. Hybrids are crosses between two or more parent plants and the seeds may revert back to the parents.

Heirloom tomatoes are what we consider the old-fashioned varieties – probably something your grandma grew. Today they are coming back into popularity mostly because of their superior taste. Heirloom variety yields are less consistent than modern hybrids, but the wonderful taste more than makes up for any lack of reliability. Seeds from heirlooms can be saved and replanted the following year. Some gardeners recommend keeping different heirloom varieties at least 30 feet apart in the garden so as to avoid cross-pollination.

You will often see the letters “V, F, N” and sometimes “T” on a tomato seed packet or plant information tag. “V” and “F” refer to verticillium and fusarium wilt, two soil-borne diseases for which there is no cure. “N” refers to nematodes and “T” is a reference to tobacco mosaic virus. Sometimes there are additional letters referring to other disease resistance. The above four are the most common; when other letters appear in a seed catalog, there should be a key to their meaning nearby. When the letters appear in a tomato description, it means that the plant has been bred to be resistant to that malady. Heirloom tomatoes

will not have these designations, but with proper care and culture, diseases can be avoided.

Plant tags at garden centers are sometimes less than completely informative as to growth habit and disease resistance. If you buy plants from a garden center or greenhouse, it is a good idea to take along one or more seed catalogs so you can look up information on the types of tomatoes offered there to make sure they fit your specifications.

UPCOMING EVENTS DON'T MISS THEM!

- **Wisconsin Gardener TV Programs**

Check your local listings for this month's programs on Wisconsin Public Television: ***Garden Design*** and ***Secret Gardens & Living Fences***. (counts for education hours)

- **April 27th - Brown Bag Program @ UWEX**

This month's topic – “Container Gardening” at the Coughlin Center. Bring your lunch. The program starts at noon. Call the Extension office if you plan to attend.

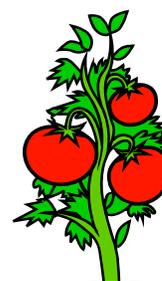
- **May 5th - Buying Trip to Madison/Oregon WI**

You won't want to miss this one. Take a coach bus to Koepke's Nursery, The Flower Factory, Stonewall Nursery and Bruce & Company. Take your plants home in the bus storage area. A registration form is included in this newsletter.

Answer to What Am I?

Answer: I am an erect perennial forb - *Asarum canadense* L.; common name: Canadian wild ginger, wild ginger, Indian ginger, heart snakeroot, Vermont snakeroot, black snakeroot, southern snakeroot, black snakeweed, colt's-foot, false colt's-foot, cat's foot, false asarabacca, colicroot

References: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/> and associated links



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

PLEASE HELP PULL GARLIC MUSTARD!

Come help pull garlic mustard along the Wiouwash Trail the first two Saturdays in May (5th and 12th) from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Meet at Brooks Road parking area (From Oshkosh, take Hwy. 45 north to County T. Turn right on T and go about 1 ½ miles. Go left on Brooks Rd. about one mile.)

Your help is welcomed even if you can come for only an hour or two! Come anytime!

Bring gloves, kneeling cushion and a dandelion digger. Garlic mustard pulls easily but a dandelion digger makes it even easier and helps ensure that the roots don't break off.

If you cannot make either of the work dates, Lawanda will meet you at the trail anytime during the first two weeks in May to pull garlic mustard. This is a rather pleasant pastime on a nice spring day. No mosquitoes yet!

Call Lawanda Jungwirth at 836-2878 or e-mail ljungwirth@new.rr.com for more information

Buying Trip to Madison/ Oregon, WI Area May 5, 2007

The bus departs the Coughlin Center at 6:30am and returns to Oshkosh at 6:00pm. You should bring:

- ❖ Your lunch (if not buying box lunch)- bring things that don't have to be refrigerated.
- ❖ Several bottles of water or soda – keep yourself hydrated for shopping.
- ❖ A large box with your name on it to put your purchases in under the bus in the storage compartment.
- ❖ Comfortable walking shoes.
- ❖ Comfortable clothes that you can wear in layers.
- ❖ Lots of money – these are really great plant buying places.
- ❖ A great attitude and ready to have a lot of fun with fellow gardeners.

Registration Form (Copy as needed)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(\$38.00 includes box lunch or \$30.00 if bringing your own lunch.)

Seating limited to 55.

Make check payable to WCMGA and mail to:

Marge Bolding, treasurer
1138 Evans Street
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Confirmation sent via postcard
No refunds after April 27, 2007

For more information email: Marge Menacher at marmen4105@sbcglobal.net

APRIL TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

Test soil before adding nutrients

Week 1. Set out pansy plants when ground is workable.

- Remove rose cones when soil thaws. Gradually remove soil mound from around rose plants. Prune rose canes if not done last fall.

Week 2. When perennial beds can be worked, spread balanced fertilizer and gently work into soil..

- Divide mums annually (before 3 inches tall); divide coreopsis, yarrow and gallardia every two to four years, and divide daises and monarda (bee balm) every three to five years.

Week 3. Set out lily-of-the-valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.

- Start fast growing annuals indoors.

Week 4. Plant roses. Do not buy plants that have broken dormancy.

- Treat gladioli corms for disease control. Plant every week through June.
- Dig and divide fall blooming perennials before vigorous tip growth.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Test soil before adding nutrients.
- Mulch garden pathways to suppress weeds.

Week 1. Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli indoors.

- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.
- When garlic plants begin growing green leaves, foliar feed with a combination of fish emulsion and powdered seaweed every two to three weeks until mid-June, when plants are finished growing green leaves.

Week 2. Plant cool-weather crops (lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnip, onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips, radishes, horseradish, peas and parsley) when soil temperature reaches 40F and night temperature is above 45F.

- If ground is too wet for planting, start peas indoors in peat pots or soil blocks. After a strong start, they can be planted in the garden a week or two later.
- When beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop. If one was not planted, top dress the bed with compost or well rotted manure

Week 3. Plant early potatoes and Jerusalem artichokes, if not planted in fall.

- Side dress asparagus and rhubarb with a light application of well-rotted manure or compost.

Lawns, Trees and Shrubs.

Week 1. Rake lawn.

- Prune non-flowering shrubs.
- Apply dormant sprays to ornamentals when temperature is above 40F and will remain above freezing (32F) for 24 hours.
- Plant trees and shrubs and water them all summer long. Select deciduous plants that have not leafed out and evergreens that have not started growth. Cover with 2 inches of mulch to control erosion, moderate soil temperature, and reduce water loss. Record information about newly planted shrubs and trees.
- Plant container grown or balled and burlapped stock at any time during the growing season.

Week 2. Begin annual pruning of all evergreens except pines and spruce.

Week 3. Fertilize ornamental shrubs.

Week 4. Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowers have faded.

- Plant grass seed from late April through May (through mid-August through mid-September is the optimal time to plant grass).

Fruits and Berries

Week 1. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.

- Plant and stake new fruit trees. Do not fertilize during the first season. Mulch with several inches of straw or compost, and water throughout the summer.

Week 2 Remove mulch from strawberries when leaves start to grow. Leave mulch near beds for late frost protection of blossoms if necessary.

Week 3. Plant strawberries as soon as ground can be worked.

- Control weeds around raspberries
- Graft apple trees when buds begin to swell.

Week 4 Fertilize all bush fruits and grapes.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Hours spent at the General Membership meetings count!
Come and see how you can be involved.

☞ PAINE GARDENS

Contact Pat Behm or Bob Potter

☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Rob Robinson.

☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

The Vegetable Garden contact Susan Steinhilber 235-1031 or email steinsb@northnet.net

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS

Contact Ruth Freye

☞ PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Toby.

☞ TRIPS

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

☞ 2007 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Contact Jason Kruse

☞ MENASHA NATURE'S WAY PROJECT

Contact Gale Davey

☞ LOOK FOR MORE PROJECTS TO COME!



APRIL 2007

(THIS CALENDAR CAN BE A HANDY WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR HOURS)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
1	2 FULL MOON ○	3 6:00 MGV Training: IPM - Insects with Phil Pelleteri @ the Coughlin Center	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 5:30 MGV Business Meeting. 6:00 MGV Training: IPM - Disease with Brian Huddleson	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 6:00 MGV Training: IPM - Weeds NW MOON ●	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 6:00 pm MGV Training To be announced	25	26	27 BROWN BAG 12:00 NOON @ COUGHLIN CTR Container Gardening	28
29	30					

HOCUS POCUS SAID THE CROCUS, NOW IT'S TIME THAT SPRING AWOKE US!

BASIC TRAINING SCHEDULE
Tuesday Evenings 6:00-9:00 pm

<i>DATE</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>
April 3	Integrated Pest Management: Insects – Phil Pelleteri
April 10	Integrated Pest Management: Diseases – Brian Huddleson
April 17	Integrated Pest Management: Weeds
April 24	TO BE ANNOUNCED
May 1	Phenology/Vegetable Gardening
May 8	Annuals/Perennials
May 15	Trees/Shrubs
May 22	Turfgrass
May 29	Natives/Invasives
June 5	Plant Health Care
June 12	Class Potluck – the gazebo @ Park View