

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER APRIL 2011 - NEWSLETTER

(click here to go directly to website) www.winnebagomastergardeners.org
920-232-1986

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Hello Gardeners!!

Spring is here!! The temperature might not feel like it but the calendar says so. What is spring? At the spring equinox, days are close to 12 hours long with days getting longer as the season progresses. With the days getting longer, that means we can enjoy the mild weather outside. Some gardeners will start planting seeds indoors or in greenhouses to put outside in May. Daffodils and tulips will be blooming soon. Grass will turn green and trees will bud; which brings us to another season-allergy.

In April many projects will start their spring clean-up. We had a busy March with numerous seminars through out the area and in our own association.

Committee Leads, please contact you committee and the new trainees to start on your volunteer hours for this year. Don't forget to attend the business meeting to get information about projects and to meet your master gardener friends.

Hope everyone has a HAPPY EASTER.

See you in the garden,
Kathy & Mary



WHERE IS IT?

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Nick's Notes:

Gardeners have a wide range of feelings about the use of pesticides in the garden and home landscape. Some are purely opposed to the use of any practice or product that is not organic. Organic in this case meaning the product meets the standards of USDA certified organics. Other gardeners are quick to ask for what pesticide should be used to kill this insect or that disease. UW-Extension takes the position, regardless of scale, that people should use Integrated Pest Management. IPM begins by looking at the pest population to determine if this pest has reached an intolerable threshold. In agriculture, this threshold is often based on economic return; however, in horticulture, homeowners often base decisions on aesthetics. "Integrated" means practitioners use a combination of cultural, biological, mechanical, and chemical practices to control the pest.

One of the biggest challenges is correctly identify the pest. For example, this past week two phone calls came into the Extension office from people asking how to control blight in the their vegetables next year. After discussion, we came to the agreement we were talking about plant pathogens. Recalling plant pathology class, there are bacteria, fungus, viruses, nematodes, and abiotic factors. Realistically, there are about 15 possible pathogens that could be causing the "blights". Much to the disappointment of callers, there is no single solution for these plant health problems. Rotation may work for soil borne fungi but not wind-blown fungi. Copper sulfate might help against bacterial blight but not late blight. At times it is necessary to submit samples to UW labs at cost to properly identify the problem with spore isolations or chemical assays.

Since many homeowners have only a general knowledge of the way pesticides functions, we need to be very precise in the way we try to explain how and when to use them. In particular, always refer any consumer to consult the product label.

When homeowners hire somebody to apply pesticides, those applicators must have the correct

category of commercial pesticide applicator certification and licensing through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). It has come to my attention that at some landscape businesses; only a few of the applicators have the certification and licenses, with employees being sent out to jobs claiming, "the boss is certified." I have checked on this at the state level and all for-hire employees applying pesticides to clients' properties must be certified and licensed. "Certified" means the applicator passed the test every 5 years. "Licensed" means the applicator filed the proper paperwork and fees with DATCP annually. Please contact me if you have questions about this process.

What do YOU want?

This is your newsletter, so we thought it would be good to ask you what you want to see in it. Please give us your ideas. We would be happy to provide it for you if at all possible.

The question now is what minutes would you like us to put in here. Do you want both, board and business, neither of them or one or the other? Now is your time to tell us. If you don't let us know we will assume you don't care and will only have the minutes available on the website.

Email linda@americanpresstech.com to give us your answer. Or call 734-2264.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Clark Harold, Chris Weston, Donna Kudlas

Save the Dates! Please mark your calendars:



March 25 - 27 – Home & Garden Show
April 2 – Fond du Lac MG Seminar
April 30 – Garlic Mustard Pull
May 7 - Tomato Cage Workshop
May 7 – Garlic Mustard Pull
May 21 & 22 – Festival of Spring

Flower Arranging Dates:

(All are Mondays, 1:30@ PV)

April 11---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
 May 23---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
 June 20---Flowers from our gardens, cutting garden
 July 18---Live flowers
 August 1---Live flowers
 August 15---Live flowers
 Sept. 12---Live flowers
 Sept. 26---Live flowers
 Oct. 10---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
 Nov. 21---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
 Dec. 5---Christmas gift bag arrangements

Find Winnebago County Master Gardener Association on Facebook

Our Facebook page has 89 fans and if you aren't one of them, you are missing out! This is a good place to share your gardening successes, challenges, and questions and to get notifications of meetings, educational seminars, volunteer opportunities, and other events both from our organization and those of nearby counties. Go to www.facebook.com and type "Winnebago County Master Gardeners" in the search box at the top of the page. Join us today!

Organic Gardening Tip of the Month

From Lawanda Jungwirth

This month's tip is not really a gardening tip, but one for making birds welcome in your yard. When you brush your dog this spring, especially as the soft under-fur of its winter coat comes out, put clumps of hair around your yard in trees or shrubs, or just lay it on the grass. Birds, especially hummingbirds and finches, will use the hair to line their nests and make a nice cozy home for their babies.

Tulips Are the Third Most Popular Flower in the World

By Lawanda Jungwirth

When children learn to draw flowers, they usually first draw a daisy-like flower, a circle surrounded by petals. By second or third grade, they add the cup-shaped tulip to their drawing repertoire. Most people, even those who don't know a lily from a lilac, recognize the tulip. It is the third most popular flower in the world, after rose and chrysanthemum.

Tulips grow wild in central Asia, through Siberia and across China. They were brought to Turkey by nomadic tribes. In fact, the word "tulip" is thought to be a corruption of the Turkish word "turbend" for turban. In the late 16th century, a European ambassador visited Turkey and was given a gift of tulip bulbs. He took them home and gave the bulbs to a botanist, Carolus Clusius, who was later appointed a professor at Leiden University in what is today the Netherlands, also called Holland. Ever since then, Holland has dominated the tulip industry.



In February of 1637, prices of tulips in Holland skyrocketed, with reports of one bulb selling for more than today's equivalent of \$41,000! Another report has a single bulb being traded for 12 acres of land. Now, in February, no tulips were growing yet, and the bulbs were underground, so no bulbs actually changed hands. It was basically a tulip futures market. Once the prices of tulip futures got so high that no one could afford them, the market crashed, causing the financial ruin of many investors.

Today there are over 3,000 registered varieties of cultivated tulips. For a flower that lasts only three to seven days, it's pretty amazing that so much time and money has been devoted to them.

There are 15 tulip classifications. They fall into a particular class depending on bloom time and structure. Rather than list them all here, I refer you to your favorite garden catalog. Choose colors and shapes you like, and select a mixture of early, mid, and late season bloomers so you have color for more than just a few days.

Tulips bloom in spring, but they require a cold winter to grow successfully, so you won't be shopping for tulip bulbs until late summer or fall. Use this growing season to decide where you can fit them into your landscape. They need a sunny

spot in well-drained soil. Bulbs are planted around October 15, pointed end up, about 2½ times as deep as the bulb is tall.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY PLEASE HELP PULL GARLIC MUSTARD!

Come help pull garlic mustard along the Wiouwash Trail on **Saturday, April 30** and **May 7** (if necessary) from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

We will also be pulling garlic mustard on weekdays before and between these dates, weather permitting. Watch your e-mail for information, or let Lawanda know if you'd like to be notified by phone.

Meet at Brooks Road parking area.

From Oshkosh, take Hwy. 45 north to the Ryf Road exit. Turn right on Cty. T at the top of the exit ramp. Go just over 1½ miles to Brooks Road. Turn left and go about 1 mile to the trail.

Or from Oshkosh, take Hwy. 76 (Jackson St.) Go under Hwy. 41 and turn left at the frontage road - Green Valley Road. Turn right on Brooks Rd. just before Stuart's Landscaping. Go 3 miles to the trail.

From the Fox Valley, take Cty. II, Larsen Rd, Oakridge Rd., Cty. JJ or Breezewood Rd. west to Hwy. 76. Turn left and go south to Green Valley Road (Hwy. 41 frontage road). Turn right on Green Valley and then right again on Brooks Rd. just before Stuart's Landscaping. Go 3 miles to the trail.

Your help is welcome even if you can come for only an hour or two!

You do not have to get there at 8:00 a.m. Come anytime!

Bring gloves, kneeling cushion or knee pads and a dandelion digger. A five gallon bucket is handy also. Garlic mustard pulls easily but a dandelion digger makes it even easier and helps ensure that the roots don't break off.

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 or JUST SHOW UP!



What am I? by Jane Kuhn

I am a low-growing, herbaceous perennial whose bell-shaped blooms precede most of the foliage in spring. One of my best features is early blooming which rivals spring bulbs such as snowdrops. I am 8-10 inches high and 8-10 inches wide with my plant forming a clump that spreads over time. My various cultivars offer lavender, white and reddish-purple flowers while my leaves are grayish-green and lacy. Silk hairs cover not only my leaves but also my stems and buds. My wispy seed heads that succeed the flowers are soft feathery plumes that are attractive in their own right.

I should be planted in full sun to part shade and in a well-drained, sandy soil with an alkaline or neutral pH. Seeds can be scattered or plants can be divided in early fall. With my short stature, clumping growth habit and need for good drainage, I do well in rock gardens. I am also useful for border edging or wildflower meadows. My plant contains a poison which is an irritant when fresh and should not be ingested or applied to the skin. My crushed leaves were applied by Native Americans as a counter-irritant in cases of rheumatism and neuralgia.

There is something special about the first blooms that greet us in early spring after a long winter!

Festival of Spring

May 21, 2011

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

(8:00 AM early admittance for Members and Master Gardeners)

Festival of Spring is a free outdoor festival featuring the Paine's annual Spring Plant Sale and more than 200 vendors of original art, fine crafts, plants and garden supplies. Visit the Corner Flea Market located at the corner of Elmwood Avenue and Congress Street, and also enjoy great food and entertainment throughout the day. Tour the Paine's spring garden showcase featuring more than 10,000 blooming spring wildflowers, tulips, daffodils and flowering trees.

Volunteers are needed throughout the day to help answer plant questions and offer suggestions. To volunteer, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at (920) 235-6903 ext. 40.

Historian Wanted

After much thought, I would like to relinquish the historian duties with Master Gardeners. My schedule is not allowing the time needed to do the job as I would wish. I know there are several other members with photography skills that might have more time than I. Maybe when I retire from full-time obligations, this would be a better fit. When you find someone, please notify me and I will put together what I have and give it to them.

Thanks for understanding, Dawn Kent

If you are interested in this position, contact one of the Board Members.

TOMATO CAGE WORKSHOP

Phil and Linda Baeten are inviting MGs to a workshop on May 7, from 9 am to noon, at their house, 1112 Merritt Ave, Oshkosh, 54901. Learn how to make a tomato cage from reinforcement wire. If you visited their garden last summer you know what the cages look like. If you didn't, Linda will bring an example to the next Business Meeting on April 12th. Basically it is a cage that stands 5 feet tall and measures 20 inches across that you place over your tomato plants. The cost is \$5 for a cage. A sign-up sheet will be passed around, or call Linda and leave a message 920-232-1224 or baeten@ntd.net for more information.





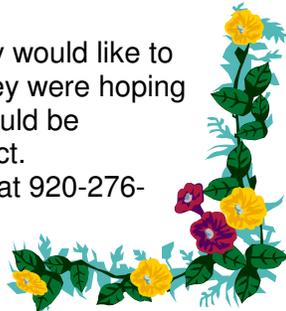
POTENTIAL PROJECT CORNER

Evergreen Retirement Community

is a non-profit organization which serves people 55 years and older. With nearly 300 residents and eight living options, we are always looking for ways to serve and enrich the lives of our residents. A member of the Life Enrichment Team has (what we think) is a great idea: to create raised garden beds for the residents to plant, grow, maintain and harvest fresh vegetables and cut flowers. We need your expertise in planning this as well as your hands-on assistance to make this project a reality. Evergreen will pay for all materials. If interested, please contact Phyllis Thompson, Volunteer Coordinator, at 237-2126 pthompson@evergreenoshosh.com for more details.

Mercy Hospital

Has a retention pond that they would like to develop a garden around. They were hoping that the Master Gardeners would be interested in making it a project. Please contact Patti Calhoun at 920-276-1663 for more information.



Dennis Leatherman will ask us to help out on a garden project for the market.

During his Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market (OSFM) presentation at our April 12th meeting, Manager Dennis Leatherman will be inviting the WCMGA to join a project intended to beautify the Farmers Market Garden Area along the sidewalk directly north of the Historic Wagner Opera House Building (currently home to Great Estates). The OSFM is arranging to have a large permanent sign erected and a bench, similar to those being placed at all of the crosswalk "bump-outs," installed in the paved "center" of the 12' x 80' strip of land.

"Currently there are a few large "urn" planters, several trees, and some evergreen shrubbery in place. Part of the area is covered by wood chips and the area was "cleaned up" by the City when Main Street was reopened last fall. The property is owned by Kris and Sarrah Larson (Becket's owners) who are the Main Street Liaison to the

OSFM. They have pledged \$500 for the purchase of perennials to add color to the area. Other donations will be forthcoming. The OSFM hopes to have everything in place by June 4th for the "Ribbon Cutting" opening of the new Market Season. The WCMGA will be given autonomy and publicized credit for the design of the project, and is encouraged to place signs at the site. More funds may become available to help with that signage."

Answer: What Am I?

I am a pasque flower. Order: ranunculales. Family: ranunculaceae (buttercup family). Genus: pulsate Mill. Common names: Easter flower, pasqueflower, prairie crocus, wind flower, meadow anemone. Pasque is the old French spelling for Easter and it is around this time of year that the plant blooms.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

MG Business Meeting

March 8, 2011

Coughlin Center

6:15 pm

Guest speaker: Keith Marquardt from the Land and Water Conservation office in Winnebago County.

Topic: Shoreland Restoration and Rain Gardens.

Thank you Keith!

Co-President, Mary Wiedenmeier called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Treasurer's Report: - Alice Graf - handout

The total of all accounts as of 2/28/11 was \$19,779.37. This does not include more incoming revenue and expenditures from our recent educational events.

Secretary's Report: Linda Baeten

Since the minutes have not been posted in the Newsletter, we are unable to ask the Membership for input or corrections to the February Minutes. Linda Baeten restated that the intent is to publish the Business meeting minutes in the Newsletter, so those members who attend our meetings can approve or disapprove and make corrections or additions. She will re-contact Linda Tobey regarding posting the Business Meeting minutes in the Newsletter. Board Minutes will be directed to Jean Reed to post on the Website for all to view. Any member is welcome to attend a Board Meeting and encouraged to become involved.

OLD BUSINESS –

Don Wolter, Facilities Chairman has sent a letter regarding the Oshkosh Senior Center planting project. Planting day will be May 31, 2011. 116 plants will be plugged in. He thanked Teresa Walotka and Curt Reese for their help with landscaping ideas.

NEW BUSINESS

2011 Projects:

- Paine Gardens Festival of Spring, 5/21/11 - Ken Hawk. The festival includes a plant sale, entertainment, food, and vendors. The MGs will have a booth in the vendor area. We give out literature, answer questions, and sell worm castings and cook books. Volunteers are needed for the booth. Hours count for Community Education. A sign-up sheet was passed around.
- Other sign-up sheets were going around
 - Farmer's Market
 - Home & Garden Show
 - Park View Flower Arranging

Education committee: Roy Anne

- Thanks to Diane Iott and Marge Menacher for hosting the bus to Chicago. A good time was had by all.
- Many Master Gardeners attended Winter Escape / Summer Dreams. The event was well received. Some problems with the AV system occurred.
- Pruning class on March 12. Doors open at 8, program starts at 8:30. Will go to Dorothy Bonnin's for hands-on experience. 26 are registered at this point.

- Left over packets are available tonight from WE/SD for anyone who wants one. Please leave the MG brochure behind if not needed.
- Various other event brochures are at the front table.
- Roy Anne will be speaking at program at Shake Rag Alley in April.

Home and Garden Show – Cindy Meszaros:

A few free tickets to H&G show March 25, 26, 27 are available on the front table tonight. Those who are working the show, need to wear their name badge to get in, and will get a postcard reminding them of their shift. They are featuring composting this year. Outagamie has donated a compost bin. A thank you was sent.

Committee leads

Ann Gratton has stepped up for the Plant Health Advisors. Ann Murray has agreed to lead the Audit Committee. Betty Kuen has taken the lead for the Paine Gardens. Dawn Kent has resigned from the Historian position. Anyone interested in this position should contact an officer or board member. The job entails collecting photos and information from various events and projects.

SOP's – Alice

We are down to a final draft which will be e-mailed or mailed to everyone by the end of the week. Please send back your comments by the end of March so there is time to address changes for final approval by the Membership.

ANY NEW BUSINESS

Kathy Daniels had a request from JJ Keller for a Master Gardener to give a presentation. They are looking for a half-hour noon-time presentation any Tuesday and Wednesday in April. It would be a Brown Bag event to promote health and wellness. Topics could be organic gardening, composting, for example. Tuesday's program would be from 11:30-12:00, and Wednesday from 12:00-12:30. Let Kathy or Mary know within the week. Hours would go toward community education.

Dennis Leatherman will give a presentation at our next Business meeting about the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. The market runs from 7:30-12:30, June 4 to October 31, and is moving to the 400/500 block of Main St. The street will be closed to traffic.

Linda Baeten asked for a show of hands for those interested in a tomato cage workshop to be held at her home, date to be announced. 7 people showed interest. A date will be set, an article will go in the

newsletter, and a sign-up will be passed around at the next meeting. Cost is \$5.00 per cage.

Cindy Meszaros will put up display boards at the Menasha Public Library. Outagamie MGs will also have a display.

Next Board Meeting April 5. All are welcome!
Next Business Meeting April 12.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten, Secretary
Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Dennis Leatherman will speak at the April Meeting on the Oshkosh Saturdays Farmers Market and New Location

After 28 years service, Dennis Leatherman retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant in 1989.

During his off-duty time with the Air Force he earned a BS degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Maryland and followed in his father's footsteps to become a self-taught Square Dance Caller and Instructor.

Upon his retirement he returned home to Menasha to care for his ailing mother and started a Square Dance class here in Oshkosh in January of 1990. One of his first students was Karlene Malone. She married her teacher that August.

Karlene is in her 20th year for the Bemis Corporation and is currently working as a software support technician, implementing major changes in Bemis' world-wide computer system.

Dennis & Karlene were prominent leaders in State and National Square Dance organizations, and were inducted into the Wisconsin Square Dance Hall of Fame in 2010.

Although, for medical reasons, they had retired from Square and Line Dancing in 2005, they still occasionally got together with former dancers to demonstrate their dancing activity to the general public.

Along came Mary Ruppenthal with an invitation to perform at the Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market; and the rest is history.

After many well received Saturday morning performances, as well as assisting Mary with several data-processing and layout and design challenges, the Leathermans were invited to join the All-Volunteer Farmers Market Committee in 2006. They became the Market Administrators during 2008 and took charge of the Market in 2009 when the Ruppenthals' health problems indicated a change was needed.

Mary still vends occasionally and faithfully serves the Committee as "Advisor Emeritus"; but it is Dennis and Karlene who have built today's outstanding Farmers Market on the solid foundation she established all those many years ago.

The Market has grown from 7 vendors to 87 vendors, and is the talk of the town in 2011.

The Market keeps Dennis occupied full-time and Karlene part-time in-between her travels for the Bemis Corporation. She recently spent 7 weeks in Ireland and is currently on temporary assignment in Philadelphia. Bemis is proud of her role in the Market and promises us that Karlene will be with us for the entire Market season.

Happy Easter



SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
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
Humane Society Memorial Garden	
Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	
Karen Wedde	231-9696
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Judy & Al Harms	688-5523
Park View Prairie Garden	
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Rushford Town hall	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Carol Dorsch	589-5936
Shared Harvest	
Ken Friedman	235-6766
Habitat for Humanity Partnership	
David Leonard	379-5860
Washington & Webster Schools	
Marge Menacher	223-3467

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Ivan Placko (CO-VP)	721-9394
Jane Kuhn (CO-VP)	231-3993
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Carole Dorsch	589-5936
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Historian	
Membership	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	
Sue Bohn	685-0427
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Ivan Placko	721-9394
Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	
Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	
Patty Schmitz	236-8887
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

BOARD MEETING – April 5
BUSINESS MEETING – April 12

OUR 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.





2011

What is Spring; but the awakening of the land.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1  April Fools Day	2 Fond du Lac MG Seminar
3	3	5 BOARD MEETING	6	7	8	9
10	11 Flower Arranging 	12 BUSINESS MEETING	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22  Earth Day	23
24 	25	26	27	28	29	30 Garlic Mustard Pull