



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER AUGUST 2012 - NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

I have been making an informal circuit of many of our Master Gardener projects and am totally impressed with how well they are doing—despite the weather challenges. Congratulations on the great job you are all doing! (Please take lots of photos!)

Hours are due by September 1. If you have questions/issues please contact any board member. Your \$30 dues are also due on the same date. Forms for membership and hours can be found on our website. This is the perfect time to make sure we have your correct address, phone, and e-mail address.

We do not have a regular business meeting in August. Instead, please take in two great garden tours on August 1 and 14—see separate article in this newsletter. It's time to start thinking about the beginning of the "new" year in September.

Business meetings will resume Tuesday, September 11, at the Coughlin center. We would like to have the new Level 1 class members attend part of the business meeting so we will start at 5:30 pm in September, October, and November.

The Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm in the Volunteer Room of the Coughlin Center.

We hope the balance of your summer is safe and happy!

Mary and Linda

Advisor's Note

Fall Class Reminder:

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.

Basic training will be on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm starting on September 4th and ending November 20th at the James P. Coughlin Center, 625 E County Rd Y. If you know someone interested in becoming a Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteer, please contact the UW-Extension office at 232-1971, with their name, address, email, and phone number so we can send them registration material. Or, direct them to the Winnebago County UW-Extension horticulture webpage to download the forms at: <http://winnebago.uwex.edu/horticulture/>.

Basic training will cost \$90.00 per person with a price break for couples. Course fee includes 1 year membership, 36 hours of lecture, and training manual. (Supplementary handbook is available for an additional cost). The class will use a mixture of live presentations and webinar. Topics include general botany, soils and nutrition, ornamentals, entomology, plant pathology, turf, fruits, vegetables, wildlife and more. An introduction to the MG program will be held at the Coughlin Center on Tuesday,, August 7 at 5:30 pm. Registrations are due by August 13th. Send payment to Treasurer Sue Egner, 931 Park Ridge Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Pruning Workshop:

Workshops will be held to show any interested individual how to properly prune trees – from new tree training to mature tree maintenance – to create a strong enduring structure, maintain vigor and achieve specific municipal objectives. The workshop will include classroom instruction on

pruning fundamentals and outdoor, hands-on practice and demonstration of personal protective equipment and pruning methods and techniques.

The workshops will be taught by Dan Traas of Ranger Services. There will be three full day workshops (Green Bay – Sept. 13, Oshkosh – Sept. 20, and Appleton – Sept. 27) and one half day workshop (Appleton – Sept. 15).

Registrations materials can be found at <http://winnebago.uwex.edu/2012/07/10/tree-pruning-workshop/> or by calling the UW-Extension office at 232-1971.

Plant Disease Presentation:

Brian Hudelson will give a presentation on common diseases in garden and landscape areas on Aug 9, 2012 from 9:30 to 11:30. Brian will discuss an array of diseases, including but not limited to powdery mildew, tomato blight, scab, and black knot.

The presentation is free to the public, however space is limited. In order to ensure a space and materials please RSVP by Aug. 7, 2012. The presentation will be held in the James P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh. To RSVP or for more information please call the Winnebago County UW-Extension office at 920-232-1971.

Water or not to water:

Abnormally dry conditions in the area pose challenges for all residents, both urban and rural. Many residents wonder what to do about their lawns, gardens and trees. While we cannot do anything about the rain, answers to many drought-related questions can be found online at University of Wisconsin-Extension, Cooperative Extension's "Extension Responds" website: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/drought2012/category/horticulture/>.

Kimberly Miller

News Letter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the News Letter Contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to didoug5@charter.net

August Garden Walks

In August, we will be having 2 evenings of Garden Walks!

Wednesday, August 1 - There will be two garden walks. First, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Carole Dorsch's (672 County Rd M, Pickett) and then go on to see Linda Merz's garden at 6802 Mountain Road, Pickett. They are very close together. If you have any questions please contact Linda Petek at 920-233-5730. Hope to see you all there!

Tuesday, August 14 - Two more ! For the first one, we will meet at the Octagon House at 6:00 p.m. The Octagon House is run by the Neenah Historical Society and is located at 336 Main Street in Neenah. You will take the Main Street exit off Hwy 41 and go over the bridge and take the first right. It is right around the corner. We will meet there at 6:00 pm. Jerry Robak will be there to guide us.

After that we will go the Community Gardens headed up by Ruth Freye. There are located at the University of Wisconsin Fox Valley Community Gardens in Menasha. The address is 1478 Midway Road.

This is a great opportunity to see projects that the Winnebago County Master Gardeners have been working on. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will have an enjoyable evening. Guests are welcome. Contact Linda Petek with questions at 920-233-5730.

Ferns

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Isn't it funny how you can have absolutely no interest in an entire group of plants and then you look at one of them one day and suddenly your interest is sparked? In my case, it happened with ferns.

There have been some ferns growing on the east side of my garage since we moved here 21 years ago and I never paid any attention to them except to dig a few up the last few springs to give to friends. It wasn't until a week ago that I even made the effort to identify what kind of ferns they are.

What triggered my recent interest was noticing that there are several kinds of ferns growing in the

woods alongside the northern part of the Wiouwash Trail in Outagamie County. I've been walking that trail for years and never paid attention to the ferns, always focusing on the wildflowers.

In my research, I discovered that Wisconsin has at least 18 species of native ferns. The fronds range from just 1/16th inch long up to several feet and may be delicately feathery in texture or very rough and coarse.

In home landscaping, ferns are used as backgrounds, fillers and blenders and sometimes as focal points. They are especially pretty next to ponds or water gardens.

Ferns grow best in dappled shade in moist, rich, slightly acidic soil. Some do well in sun if the soil is kept moist. In general, the larger the fern, the more sunlight it will withstand.

Like other perennial plants, ferns can be purchased either bare-root or potted. Before planting, loosen the soil 6-8" deep and add 3-4" of peat moss, ground pine bark or shredded leaves to acidify the soil.

If you mail-order bare-root plants, open them immediately and wrap the roots in wet newspaper until you are ready to plant. To plant bare root ferns, dig a hole, spread out the rhizomes (roots) and place the crown about 1 inch below the soil surface.

Potted ferns should be planted at the same depth that they were growing in the container. If roots are circling inside the container, use your fingers to loosen and spread them before planting. Cut off any damaged or dead fronds. They will not come back to life.

Ferns need lots of water and should be watered deeply several times a week during extended dry spells. An organic mulch of shredded bark or pine needles will help keep the soil moist and cut down on watering.

Ferns should be dug and divided every few years in spring to keep them vigorous.

In fall, the fronds will die at the first frost. Leave them on the bed over the winter to protect the crowns. By spring, the dead fronds will probably have disappeared, but if they are still there, crumble them with your hands and leave them in the bed. They will decay and serve as fertilizer for the plants. No additional fertilizer is necessary.

??? What Am I ??? by Jane Kuhn

I am a sub shrub which grows as a many stemmed clump from 3 to 4 feet tall with flower panicles at the end of each stem. My grayish white stems have lobed, deeply notched silvery gray leaves with older stems woody at the base and younger stems herbaceous and square in cross section. In late summer and autumn I produce spires of small, tubular flowers of blue or lavender in color. I require full sun but am hardy and cold tolerant. I am tolerant of dry, chalky soils, and am salt and drought tolerant. My stems and leaves give off a pungent odor when crushed or bruised.

I am usually propagated through stem cuttings but also by seed and spring or fall division. Sometimes you will find baby plants near a full grown plant late in summer and these can be easily transplanted, needing winter protection for several years. I am used in beds and borders and as cut and dried flowers. I attract bees and butterflies and am resistant to rabbits and deer.

2012 Volunteer Hours Report Due September 1

Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization committed to horticulture education, community service, and environmental stewardship. Each year we report the volunteer hours we have contributed to projects, and our own hours of continuing education. September 1 is the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association deadline for reporting your 2012 volunteer hours. You can find the 2012 Report form can on our website—it includes contact info for Patty Schmidt, who is kind enough to take responsibility for the compiling effort!!!

Master Gardeners require a minimum of 24 hours of service, which needs to include at least 5 hours of community and/or youth education. Twelve hours (24 hours for first year or uncertified members) must be on core projects or committees. The Member Booklet includes a list of these for your reference. Time spent on Business or Board meetings can be included, as can direct travel time to meetings and project sites.

In addition, each member needs 10 hours per year on continuing their own education. Your class

hours fill this requirement for first year members. There are a number of ways to fulfill the self education requirement: speakers at our meetings, presentations by extension members on horticulture topics, the Wisconsin Master Gardener programs on PBS, Larry Meiller's Garden Talk radio show on WPR, speakers at Winter Escapes/Summer Dreams and other garden symposia, Brown Bag Programs, Botanical Garden tours,Many of these programs can be time-shifted to fit your schedule by checking archived programs on your computer.

If you have any questions about the hours requirement and categories, please contact any WCMGA board member. Both our website and the Wisconsin Master Gardeners website have a wealth of info to help.

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Coping With Drought and Heat

By Lawanda Jungwirth

This summer has been a challenge in the yard and garden. I've given supplemental water to plants that I've never had to water in 21 years, and I've gotten lots of exercise walking between the rain barrels and the garden.

There are several strategies you can use to help your garden through the toughest times.

Water early in the morning or in the evening or you'll lose most of the water to evaporation. Avoid using a sprinkler for the same reason. A hand held hose, sprinkling can or soaker hose will direct the water where it is most needed. Less frequent deep watering is better than frequent light watering.

Container plants will need watering every day, perhaps even twice a day. Move containers into the shade on the hottest days even if they hold "full sun" plants.

In both the vegetable garden and flower bed, mulch is invaluable in preventing moisture from evaporating. A thin layer of chopped straw does wonders. Deeper mulch is even better.

Pull the weeds! They are stealing water and nutrients from your valuable plants.

You may want to rig up some type of shade structure to protect young plants during the hottest part of the day. It can be pretty, but it doesn't have to be – an old bed sheet draped over some tall garden stakes will work in a pinch. Sheets of cheap wooden lattice boards can be propped against each other or tall stakes to provide dappled shade. Lay your old webbed lawn chairs upside

down over the lettuce patch if you have to. Use your imagination!

Water is precious and expensive whether you live in the city or have your own well. Money, water supply or time may limit how much you can water your landscape. Each homeowner needs to decide for themselves which plants in their own yard are most important – most deserving of water. These would be the plants with the most financial value, those that provide the most benefits – like food or shade – and those having sentimental value. Decide what you could let go of if you had to, what you absolutely must protect, and rank everything else in between. Direct your water accordingly.

Here are some ideas for finding extra water for landscape use:

- Use an empty jug or bucket to catch water that would go down the drain while the dishwasher or shower warm up. Keep a bucket in the shower to catch water that passes you by.
- Use a bucket or sprinkling can to scoop water out of the kiddie pool when the water needs changing.
- Use the water from pet bowls before filling with fresh water.
- Aquarium water is loaded with nutrients plants will love.
- Save cooking water from vegetables. Let it cool before pouring it on a plant.
- Install rain barrels below downspouts. If you don't want to go that far, at least catch a bucketful or two every time it rains.

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Answer to 'What Am I ??'

I am Russian sage. Order: Lamiales. Family: Lamiaceae (mint family). Genus: Perovskia Kar – perovskia. Species: Perovskia atriplicifolia Benth – Russian sage. Common name: Russian sage. Although Russian sage has a sage-like fragrance, it is not a true sage. In its native habitat in Asia and the Middle East, flowers are often eaten fresh and the leaves are sometimes smoked like tobacco. Russian sage only became relatively well-known in the United States during the 1990's.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

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	
Linda Christensen	233-0044
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Betty Kuen	558-9586
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	
Ken Friedman	235-6766
Habitat for Humanity Partnership	
David Leonard	379-5860
Washington & Webster Schools	
Marge Menacher	233-3467
The Wild Center	
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Shepard (PRES)	235-9242
Linda Petek (PRES)	233-5730
Ivan Placko (CO-VP)	721-9394
Jane Kuhn (CO-VP)	231-3993
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Sue Egnor (TRES)	231-1729
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Carole Dorsch	589-5936
Ann Murphy	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Alice Graf	203-8252

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Membership	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	
Diana Dougherty	233-7137
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
Jane Kuhn	
Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	
Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	
Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

BOARD MEETING – Aug. 5, 6:00p.m.

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.



AUG

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	HOUR
			1 Field Trip	22	323	4 Farmers Market 8-12:30
5	6	7 Board Mtg 6:00	8	9	10	11 Farmers Market 8-12:30
12	13 Parkview flower Arranging @1:30	14 Field Trin	15	16	17	18 Farmers Market 8-12:30
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Farmers Market 8-12:30
26	27	28 Paine Last Tuesday 4-7pm	29	30	31	

SEPT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 HOURS DUE Farmers Market 8-12:30
2	3	4 Board Mtg 6:00	5	6	7	8 Farmers Market 8-12:30
9	10 Arranging @1:30	11 Business Mtn 5-20	12	13	14	15 Farmers Market 8-12:30
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Farmers Market 8-12:30
23	24	25	26	27	28	29