



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

December 2023

Mission Statement

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

December *is a simple wish that brings spectacular moments.*



Vicki Daniels and Ruth Retzlaff decorated the front pots at Bethel Homes for the holidays.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a member of a genus that contains 20 species of herbaceous or evergreen perennial flowering plants. My genus is native to much of Europe and my popularity has grown markedly in North America over the past decade.

Although in zone 6 and above my plants maintain their dark green, glossy foliage throughout winter, many are hardy to zone 4, depending on microclimates and local conditions. In areas of constant snow cover, plants will survive very cold temperatures. My flowers, which are 2 to 5 inches in diameter, have five "petals" (actually sepals) surrounding a ring of small, cup-like nectaries (petals modified to hold nectar). My white flowers, which often age to pink, generally bloom between December and March and may continue into May in colder climates. My species produces only basal leaves and has relatively bare, 6 to 9 inch, flower stalks which often produce only one or two flowers per stalk.

My plants are relatively care-free and soil preparation is the key. A well-drained base containing plenty of organic matter is best. My plants may be propagated through plant division or by seed as long as you have patience since it may take 6-18 months to germinate. I can be found in native areas or in a traditional cottage garden.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Advisory Team: Kathy Daniels & Sandy Dennis

Secretary: Anne Murphy

Treasurer: Sue Egner

Communications Team

Website: Jean Reed

Newsletter: Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Jane Kuhn

Partner Liaison: Deb Butch

WIMGA Rep: Kathy Procknow

Education Team

Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner

Meeting Teams

DECEMBER: Sandy Dennis, Linda Loker, Ruth Retzlaff, Kathy Schultz, Deby Voyles

MARCH: Deb Butch

JUNE Picnic: Sue Egner and Parkview Picnickers

SEPTEMBER: Linda Werner, Linda Baeten

Advisor: Madisen Potratz



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing to a future newsletter by writing an article, submitting a photo, or sharing a story, please let us know by the 15th of each month

by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook



at [WCMGVA](https://www.facebook.com/WCMGV). <https://www.facebook.com/WCMGV>

From your Advisory Team

Happy Holidays!! December is a month of getting together with family and friends and snow. As the temperatures get colder, we can enjoy the plant materials we left behind (or some that we didn't get cleaned up) get covered with snow. It is a pretty sight, fresh fallen snow!!! As Master Gardeners, we enjoy all seasons.

The Golden Trowel Award committee would like to acknowledge one of our own, who exemplifies the role of master gardener in Winnebago Co. The award will be presented at our January Social, January 16, 2024. Please send your completed nomination form in by December 31, 2023 to:

Linda Loker 80 N Oakwood Rd. Oshkosh WI 54904 or email lloker@att.net

As we approach December 31, it's time to register your Education Hours and Volunteer Hours. This is important to keep up current with the certification through the UW system.

Don't forget our Winter Social at Fr. Carr's Place to Be on Tuesday, January 16th. Last year we had great food and good conversation. Then Saturday, February 10, 2024, you can take the bus to The Lawn and Garden Expo in Madison. See the enclosed flyer for information. You must sign up by December 31 to get a seat.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season!!!

Kathy Daniels and Sandy Dennis



POTLUCK DINNER

**Mark your calendar for
Jan. 16, 2024!**

Our first meeting in 2024 will be a Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. It will be held in the Saint Teresa Center at Father Carr's Place 2B, located at 1062 North Koeller Street in Oshkosh. We will gather at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:00 pm. WCMGA members and a guest are invited.

Bring your favorite dish to pass. There will be a place to plug in crock pots. Cups, plates, napkins, utensils, coffee, tea, and water will be provided...or bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

We will be having an optional garden-related wrapped white elephant gift exchange. All gifts should be clean and in usable condition.

From Your Education Team:

Wisconsin Forests, Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Ledgeview Nature Center, Chilton with Frank Kirschling, DNR Forester. Free. Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wisconsin-forests-tickets-526975155877>

Xerces Society

In the Life of Monarchs East of the Rockies: Biology and the Great Migration, webinar, Thursday, December 7, noon to 1 p.m. central time. Free. Register at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oun23HtXSeyQjmS9hQFjrA#/registration

UW-Extension

Ten Cool Plant Diseases You Can Learn to Love, Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. with Brian Hudelson. Free. Register at: <https://pddc.wisc.edu/2023-pddc-plant-disease-talks/>

Bus trip to the Wisconsin Lawn and Garden Expo in Madison, Wisconsin

Date: February 10, 2024

Leave: former JC Penney's store parking lot (Highway 41 & 44) Oshkosh (where Rogan's Shoes is now)

Time: Assemble/departure at 7:15 AM, arrive at Alliant Center approximately 9 AM. Leave Alliant Center @ 3:30, return to Oshkosh @ 5:00-5:30 pm.

Cost: Includes bus, driver gratuity, Expo Ticket: \$52 for Winnebago County Master Gardener Assn. members. Friends, guests, relatives may also attend, but the cost for non-member is \$60. **If bus capacity is not reached (36), trip will be canceled and your payment returned.**

Deadline for payment: December 31, 2023, no exceptions. **Payments received after Dec. 31, 2023** will be returned. As per person cost is based on bus capacity, no refunds will be given, but you can send someone in your place. Our payment to the bus company has to be made in full, 30 days in advance of the trip (by Jan. 10, 2024), and this allows 10 days lead time for payment to reach Lamers Bus Company.

Checks payable to Winnebago County Master Gardeners. MAIL EARLY TO AVOID HOLIDAY MAIL ISSUES.

Mail to:
Valerie Stabenow
6400 Paulson Rd.
Winneconne, WI 54986

Please fill out this form and return it with your payment to Valerie Stabenow. **Checks sent without this form will be returned to you, and you will lose your place until both the check and this form are received.**

Detach HERE:

Name: _____

Phone contact: Cell phone _____ (not given out to anyone)

Additional participant: _____

Additional participant cell phone: _____

Email contact: _____ (you will receive a payment confirmation/acceptance)

Additional participant email contact: _____

Total due: \$52 for Winnebago County Master Gardener Assn. members

\$60 for non-members of the Assn.

Total payment sent: _____

DUES TIME!

It's that time of year again - time to renew your WCMGA membership. The deadline for submitting your \$5 dues for 2024 is December 31st. This is used to maintain your WIMGA membership. WIMGA continues to provide good educational opportunities for its members. We hope you see value in renewing your membership. If you are an honorary member, please contact Sandy Dennis at starcrestdals@gmail.com for further information.

Please complete the membership form below and submit it by December 31st along with your \$5 payable to WCMGA to:

Sue Egner
3241D Elk Ridge Dr
Oshkosh, WI 54904

Winnebago County Master Gardener Association Membership Renewal Form

Please submit this form by December 31st

Name	
Phone	
Address	
City/State/Zip	
Amount Enclosed: WIMGA Dues \$5 - Make check to: WCMGA	
Are you interested in learning more about becoming a Leader for the Association in October 2024?	
Please send this form along with your check to: Sue Egner 3241D Elk Ridge Dr. Oshkosh, WI 54904	If you have any questions, please call one of our Advisory Team Leaders: Sandra Dennis 608.712.6884 Sue Egner 920.216.9455 Kathy Daniels 920.420.7107 Anne Murphy (920) 379-7132

We Got A Grant!

The project team for the Morgan House - Winnebago Co Historical and Archaeological Society that is located in the Oshkosh Historic District in downtown Oshkosh - applied for and received a \$400 WIMGA grant!

The team is very excited to fulfill a vision of having a wooden, weatherproof information box on the grounds of the Morgan House. This box will display seasonal information on typical landscape around this home during the late 1800's. We will also supply this information to the public during inside tours. Examples are - typical kitchen garden right outside the kitchen door, rose garden, lilac bushes, very old burr oak tree, and many typical perennial plants that were grown.

We hope to have this information box in place next year so that we can plan our garden walk that had to be postponed this year due to water issues at the site. The Morgan House will also offer tours inside the home during our garden tour.

We look forward to a great 2024 garden season at the Morgan House!

Morgan House Project Team

Vicki Daniels and Ruth Retzlaff decorated the front pots at Bethel Homes for the holidays.



Reorganization Plan Proposal for October 1, 2022- December 31, 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>All committees uphold and support the WCMGA mission: “Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship within our community.”</i></p>	
<p>Number of member meetings per year: 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September & March: Business Meeting • December: Holiday Social & June: Spring Social
<p>Member meeting format:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December and June meetings social only • September and March are business meetings with social and/or CE components (TBD by Meeting Committee)
<p>Advisory Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 4 members including treasurer and secretary plus at least 2 directors from membership (Initial Advisory Team to include some previous leader(s) for continuity) • Meets at least twice per year prior to the September and March business meetings • 1-year terms starting October 1, but stay on through Dec. 31 to advise/support next team members. Renewable terms. • Decisions can be made via email in-between meetings 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve expenditures over \$500 2. Secure adequate liability insurance 3. Keep meeting minutes (Secretary) 4. Review new procedures, policies, SOPS, by-laws and make recommendations to the membership as needed/proposed 5. Maintain non-stock status 6. Set membership business meeting agenda 7. Coordinate with other teams 8. At-large members coordinate membership emails from committees 6. Encourage member initiative in proposing ideas 7. Zoom or live pop-ups for special topics as suggested/available
<p>Communications Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meetings • Individual tasks 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain Facebook page 2. Maintain Website 3. Maintain newsletter 4. Email communications to members/teams 5. Extension liaison 6. WIMGA representative 7. Contact/coordinator for partner organizations
<p>Strategic Planning Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form in spring of 2023? • 3-4 members • Meets as needed 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review implementation of reorganization plan 2. Make recommendations for changes 3. Member recruitment plan 4. Develop 2-year plan of goals and objectives 5. Develops budget for the plan
<p>Meeting Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 general meeting per year of everyone interested (minimum 12) • 4 (minimum) persons assigned to each of the 4 meetings (can meet or work on tasks individually) • Creativity is encouraged to make meetings more lively/interesting • Drawing on member expertise for programs, presentations, etc. is encouraged 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build on format ideas from the roundtable group 2. Work with the Education Team on CE ideas 3. Work with Advisory Team on any business needed 4. Set time, place, cost 5. Reserve venue/arrange set-up and take-down 6. Plan and carryout social component 7. Alert treasurer of any expenses and incoming payments 8. All expenses pay as you go

Education Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 members • Meet as needed 	Responsibilities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CE for membership meetings or stand-alone CE for members 2. Monitor CE opportunities for posting on Facebook and in newsletter 3. Coordinate with Meeting and Advisory Teams 4. Develop ideas for community education 5. All expenses pay as you go
Officers	
Secretary <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Takes minutes at all meetings of the Advisory Committee and general membership business meetings 2. Posts Advisory Team minutes on the website and business meeting minutes in the newsletter 	Treasurer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintains financial records in Excel 2. Pays expenses via check 3. Reports to the Advisory Team and membership at business meetings 4. Manages cash flow with approval of the Advisory Team (can be done via email) 5. Prepares simple budget of known expenses
Goals of Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize social functions • Spread the work • Simplify • Fewer meetings • Encourage/individual initiative • Make MG fun again 	<i>Notes: Roundtable Meeting/CE/Social Suggestions Presentation from WIMGA on its purpose/plans/offerings</i> <i>Apply for WIMGA grants for programs as needed</i> <i>Hands-on learning (park or garden tours, weed ID walk, partner organizations present or offer tours of facilities gardens, members offer programs/presentations)</i>

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a hellebore. Order: Ranunculales. Family: Ranunculaceae (Buttercup family). Genus: Helleborus L – hellebore. Species: Helleborus niger L – black hellebore. Common names: Christmas Rose, Lenten Rose. Despite its common name, the Christmas rose may not bloom during the holidays. Depending on climate and genes, plants may bloom any time from November to May. The name Christmas rose comes from an old legend that it sprouted in the snow from tears of a young girl who had no gift to give the Christ child in Bethlehem. An overdose of medication containing hellebore has been suggested as a possible cause of the death of Alexander the Great.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links



Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

Organization	WCMGA Liaison(s)
Carter Memorial Library 405 East Huron Street, Omro, WI 54963-1045 Volunteer Information: https://omrolibrary.org/aboutus/friends 920-685-7016 omplstaff@omrolibrary.org Volunteer Contact: Anna Ludwig, 920.685.7016 Volunteer application: https://omrolibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Volunteer%20Application.pdf Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process	Sandy Dennis
Miravida Living 225 N. Eagle St., Oshkosh, WI 54902 Volunteer Information: https://www.miravidaliving.com/volunteer/ Volunteer Contact: Joan Keltesch, jkkeltesch@miravidaliving.com Volunteer application: https://hipaa.jotform.com/220336497425155 Volunteer training sessions Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jane Kuhn
Neenah Historical Society—Octagon House 343 Smith Street, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: http://www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com/ (920) 729-0244 Neenahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage Background check performed by Neenah Historical Society	Jerry Robak

<p>Neenah Public Library 240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer 920-886-6315 library@neenahlibrary.org Volunteer policy: https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf Volunteer application: https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf Background check performed by Neenah Public Library Volunteer orientation—30 minutes Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process</p>	<p>Sue Forbes</p> <p>Bette Hoytink</p>
<p>Oshkosh Area Humane Society 1925 Shelter Court, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html Volunteer coordinator: Sarah Stoffregen, 920.424.2128, ext. 116, sarah@oahs.org Liability protection: Contact OAHS</p>	<p>OPEN</p> <p>If interested, contact Deb Butch</p>
<p>Paine Art Center and Gardens 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: Volunteer contact: Annika Holland, aholland@thepaine.org, 920-235-6903 https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/ Volunteer application: https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf Volunteer handbook available Background check performed by The Paine Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage</p>	<p>Ginny Slattery</p> <p>Kathy Gore</p>
<p>UW Madison, Extension Winnebago County 625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh Horticulture Plant Health Advising and other opportunities TBD Volunteer contact: Madisen Potratz, Horticulture Educator, madisen.potratz@wisc.edu, 920.232.1976</p>	<p>Madisen Potratz</p>


Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society—Morgan House 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 920-267-8007 Volunteer Contact: Greg Bellmer, 920.267.8007 Liability protection: Liability protection is not provided	Kathy Schultz
Winnebago County—Department of Facilities and Property Management (Coughlin Rain Garden) 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: No volunteer process Volunteer Contact: Bob Stephenson, 920.420.6405 Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jill Dombrowski Ed Dombrowski
Winnebago County Master Gardener Association 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Deb Butch
Winnebago County—Park View Health Center (Health Center gardens and Park View Prairie Garden) 725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: Volunteer contact: Missy Grundman, mgrundman@co.winnebago.wi.us, 920-237-6931 liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Health Center Gardens: Donna Kudlas Jane Kuhn Park View Prairie Garden: Carol Swannell Jerry Schaefer
YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities Volunteer application: https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	For more information: Contact Deb Butch

Houses of Worship	
First Presbyterian Church 110 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information Contact Sue Egner	Sue Egner
St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church 830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904 Volunteer Information: Contact Cindy Meszaros Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Cindy Meszaros



Upcoming Dates:

- **January 16, Winter Social, Father Carr's Place**
- **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**
 - **MG end of year celebration/picnic**
 - **Coughlin Center, Details to follow**

December 2023						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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