



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

February 2022

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.

***“February, I know
you will be
FABULOUS!”***



Submitted by Kim Willman.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a popular, old-fashioned, perennial herbaceous plant which bursts into flower in spring. My blooms last until the weather gets too hot or I become dormant in summer. I prefer semi-shaded, moist areas, and do best in alkaline soil with good drainage although I can tolerate heavy clay soil as well. My plants form a bushy, upright mound of light green foliage with a somewhat ferny appearance, growing to 24 to 36 inches tall, spreading to 18 inches with ternately compound leaves (leaflets that come in threes). My flowers are pendulous with a shape that gives me my common name. They are produced in a raceme bearing 3-15 individual flowers, each 1-2 inches long, with pink outer petals and white inner petals.

Propagation can be by seed, division, cutting or seedling. I will very often self-seed throughout the garden although not to the point of being a nuisance. To start seeds indoors, place seeds in a pot of soil, place pot in a plastic bag and put in the freezer for 6-8 weeks. Remove the pot to germinate and grow in regular seedling conditions. I am easy to divide but wait until after flowering so you don't sacrifice my blooms. I am good as an accent plant, in borders, in containers and as a cut flower and am resistant to deer and rabbits. One word of caution: some people find me to be a skin irritant from isoquinoline-like alkaloids.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents (Nominations Accepted)

Ed Dombrowski (4.30.22)

Vice President

Kathy Procknow/Deb Butch (12.31.22)

Secretary

Open

Treasurer (Nominations Accepted)

Open

Board Representatives (3 positions Nominations Accepted)

Ruth Retzlaff (12.31.22)

Sandra Gollither (4.30.22)

Advisor

Open

Newsletter Compilation

Anne Murphy



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 me 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/WCMGVA).

<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>

Letter from your President - Ed Dombrowski

JUST HANG IN THERE



Hi, I wanted to send you a smile today. If that doesn't make you smile, I will send you a picture of me with a head of HAIR!

Despite all of our frustrations with the COVID BLUES and its variants, spring will soon be upon us. Yes, remember spring, it's still there followed by summer! So for those gardener types who believe that COVID does not affect our plants (is there such a thing as COVID 2-4-D?), the following will help kick start what will hopefully be a better gardening season. (April-May)

- Treat Ash Trees, look for borer larvae
- Scan your lawn for bare spots, watch for Creeping Charlie
- Look for dead plants, work up soil
- Sow grass seed, overseed if needed
- Apply pre-emergent lawn fertilizer
- Replace non-resistant crabapple and cherry trees with resistant types (If needed)
- Harden off tender plants
- Fertilize perennials
- Start control recommendations for anthracnose/spur blight (UWEX A2128)

These startup recommendations remind me of the last time my wife Jill and I were in our favorite garden center. We were browsing through the aisles and overheard one of the store workers talking to a customer. The worker said to the customer's question, "No, we haven't had any of that in ages! Honestly, I do not know when we will be getting anymore."

The customer left and the worker's manager walked over and began chewing out the worker. "NEVER, tell a customer we can not get them something!" the manager said. "Whatever they want we can always get it on order and deliver it. Do you understand?"

The worker lowered his head and nodded. "So, what did the customer want?" asked the manager. The worker replied softly, "RAIN!"

So if you're feeling stumped about what to say or do, keep reading our articles to stay informed. Please contact Board members to ask questions. We are here to help our organization stay healthy and be the best teammates we can be.

We are going to experience some changes as we move forward into 2022; however, our Board will try to explain them to you, so JUST HANG IN THERE! Remember, these confusing times will pass. Hopefully, not like a kidney stone.

Happy Gardening, ED

Show Off Your Plant Knowledge by Learning Some New Botany Vocabulary

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Most basic Master Gardener training classes include a section on botany. Here, we learn words to describe the parts of flowers like petal, pistil and stamen; tree parts including crown, branch union, spur and leader; leaf shapes like pinnate, palmate, elliptical and ovate; and other terms like bulb, corm, tuber and rhizome.

I thought I had a decent knowledge of botany (and I thought my gardening library was complete) until I came across a book entitled *A Botanist's Vocabulary* by Susan K. Pell and Bobbi Angell. There are words to describe every little part of every plant – so many things I had never even thought of or noticed! There are words for things that I never would have imagined even needed a descriptive word. A perusal though the book for that reason alone is fun and worthwhile. It will make you more observant and appreciative of all of your plants (and their many parts).

Here are some of the words I have added to my botany vocabulary.

- Nuciferous – producing nuts. (What is wrong with “nut producer?”)
- Obdiplostemonous – I just liked the long six-syllable word! Doesn't it just roll off your tongue?? It means having two distinct sets of stamens, the outer whorl opposite the petals and the inner whorl opposite the sepals. Approximately 20 plant families have flowers like this including some you know like geraniums, oxalis, sorrels and heathers.
- Foveolate – pitted with small depressions. This is one of nineteen(!) words used to describe the surface of pollen grains or spores.
- Epicotyl – the region of an embryo or seedling above the cotyledons. If you've ever planted from seed, you know that the first leaf-like structures to appear are cotyledons, not actual leaves. The epicotyl area is the length of stem between the cotyledons and the true leaves that form shortly thereafter. Who knew? And why does that short little stem piece even need a name?
- Epigynous – flower with an inferior ovary. Inferior means “below.” An example is the daffodil. Take a look when they bloom in spring and you'll see a swelling in the stem just below the bloom – that is the ovary.
- Inosculation – the fusing together of woody stems where they come in contact with each other. Sometimes a close look at a tree will reveal that it is actually two trees growing right next to each other and attached at the bottom. This can also happen when two branches of one tree touch and fuse together. Inosculation is differentiated from “contiguous” which means “touching and continuing without a break, but not fused.”
- Radicle – the first root of a germinating seed. You can see this easily if you pre-sprout bean or pea seeds before planting or if you sprout alfalfa or other seeds in a jar on your countertop.

There are 1300 terms defined in *A Botanist's Vocabulary*! It's not the kind of book you'd want to settle in and read for a few hours on a winter afternoon, but it is interesting to find out just how much you don't know!

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am a common bleeding heart. Family: Fumariaceae. Taxon: *Dicentra spectabilis*. Common: common bleeding heart. The outstanding characteristic of bleeding hearts is no doubt the shape of the flowers. As the plants' common name suggests, bleeding hearts bear heart-shaped flowers, from which a little drop of "blood" dangles at the bottom. It has had other interesting folk names including lady's locket, lyre flower, tearing hearts, our-lady-in-a-boat, and Chinese plants.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

COVID-Approved Projects Open for Volunteers

The following is a list of projects that are COVID-approved and open to Master Gardener Volunteers:

- Butterfly Garden at Miravida Living
- Park View Cutting Gardens
- Park View Vegetable Garden
- Park View Prairie Garden
- Oshkosh Area Humane Society Memorial Garden
- Rain Garden at Coughlin Building
- Morgan House
- Paine Art Center and Arboretum
- Octagon House
- Pollinator Garden at Neenah Public Library
- Carter Memorial Library, Omro
- Sullivan's Woods-invasive removal only
- Plant Health Advising-virtual

Please see the 2021 Winnebago County Master Gardener Guide and contact the Project Lead for more information.

Continuing Education Opportunities

By Linda Werner

University of Illinois-Extension

- **Introduction to Fruit Tree Pruning**, Friday, Feb. 11, 3-5 p.m. Cost \$5. Basics of pruning, which tools to use and strategies to consider. Presented by Grant McCarty, Local Foods & Small Farms Educator. Register at:
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24795>
- **Organic Gardening**, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1:30 p.m. Free. Learn what organic gardening is and how to implement organic practices in your vegetable garden. Presented by horticulture educator Ken Johnson. Register at:
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24808>
- **Shade Gardening**, Tuesday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. Free. Learn how to increase color and add interest in your shade garden with perennials. Presented by Horticulture Educator Andrew Holsiger. Register at:
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24809>
- **WPT Garden Expo 2022**, Live event at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. For more information and advance tickets, go to: <https://wigardenexpo.com/> As in past years, not all presentations will be eligible for Master Gardening continuing education hours. Look for further information from the UW-Extension in Madison as the date gets closer.

UW-Arboretum Winter Enrichment Virtual Seminars

- Additional information and registration for all programs is at:
- <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/winter-enrichment-registration/>
- Cost: \$10 each
- **February 24 Longenecker Horticultural Gardens: Connecting People, Plants, and Place.** David Stevens, curator, Longenecker Horticultural Gardens, UW–Madison Arboretum. Stevens will discuss the ongoing efforts to engage a wider public audience about the importance of plants through learning, art, science, culture, and remembrance. Register by February 20.
- **March 17 Water Advocacy in Wisconsin: Watershed and Statewide Approaches.** Allison Madison, sustainability and development coordinator, Wisconsin Salt Wise, and Alli Wenman, WATER Project outreach coordinator, UW–Madison Arboretum. The Arboretum’s Water Action to Encourage Responsibility (WATER) Project and the Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership work to address water quality issues at watershed and statewide scales. The WATER Project supports local nonprofits with grants, training, and outreach materials to implement stormwater initiatives. Wisconsin Salt Wise began as a local coalition in Dane County and now works statewide to reduce salt pollution into lakes, streams, and drinking water by providing training and promoting best practices. Learn about their work and how you can be a freshwater advocate. Register by March 13.
- **April 7 Anticipating the Hydrologic Consequences of Emerald Ash Borer Invasion in Tribal Forested Wetlands through a Sapflux Network.** Angela Waupochick, PhD student, UW–Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Tribal communities maintain significant landholdings, including black ash–dominated forested wetlands. These

systems have not been a priority for management, but anticipated mortality induced by emerald ash borer has prompted tribal managers to seek strategies and prioritize areas for mitigation. Register by April 3

New Melinda Myers Webinars--See details about each one or view archived webinars at:
www.melindamyers.com

- **Small Space Gardening**, Wednesday, Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. Free but registration required at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X-PRrOfgRbieTJ8ZPOsmSQ
- **Dahlias--Proven Performers**, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m. Free but registration required at:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_b-jVyVoERHGAQxR3J78leg



Winter Blankets. *Submitted by Jane Kuhns.*

Please be aware of these Program Changes:

If you have problems accessing Canvas or with your Net ID, or if you have questions, please contact Valerie Stabenow, 920.582.4292 or email her at hlib34a@att.netAnnouncements

2022 Onboarding-lite is now available in our Canvas Classroom!


Due to significant updates to the program, you are required to complete 2022 Onboarding-lite before you start volunteering.

It will be a requirement of the terms and conditions in 2022. You will acknowledge acceptance of these when you log into the Online Reporting System (open mid-January, 2022).

You can claim 5 hours of continuing education. We estimate that it may take you less time than this.

You can now access the 2022 Onboarding Lite in our Canvas Classroom (netID required).

Once logged in, scroll down and look for the six Onboarding-Lite modules.


 Start Here! [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 1]

 Overview of Master Gardener Program [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 2]

 Digging Deeper into the Master Gardener Program [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 3]

 What Counts [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 4]

 What is the Online Reporting System? [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 5]

 Legal Stuff [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 6]

After you complete these modules you will be able to view the last section.

 You Did It! [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Conclusion]


WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

Project	Project Lead(s)
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Jenny Breining
Coughlin Rain Garden	Ed and Jill Dombrowski
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Valerie Stabenow/Sue Egner
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Susan Forbes/Bette Hoytink
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Oshkosh Farmer's Market	NEEDS LEADS!
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Donna Kudlas/Jane Kuhn
Park View Prairie Garden	Carol Swannell/Ruth Eberwine
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche/Diane Thompson
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber (with assistance from Renee Donner)
Plant Health Advisors	Mary Shepard
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

Project Leads: If you'd like your meetings listed on the calendar, please email information to Anne Murphy pakster0605@yahoo.com.

February 2022

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					

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