



# Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

January 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.

***“Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.”***

***– Paul Theroux***



*Fresh snow fall. Submitted by Kim Willman*

## What am I?

**By Jane Kuhn**

I am a deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub which can add color and interest to your winter garden. I am native to the eastern and central United States and can be found at the edge of the woods or in swamps. My leaves are alternate, simple, sharply toothed, two to three inches long, green above while paler and generally hairy below. Both male and female flowers are stalked and greenish-white with 5-7 petals appearing in spring. My fruits, which are present only on the female plant, are round drupes, ¼ inch in diameter, in clusters of 2 to 4, green during the growing season and ripening in fall to bright red and glossy, and persisting through the winter. My plants are dioecious; a male plant is needed for pollination of female plants. Generally one male will be sufficient for pollinating 9-10 female plants.

I grow best in full sun to partial shade – more sun means more fruit on female plants. I require a neutral to acid soil with adequate moisture and am tolerant of poorly drained soils. I am used in mass plantings, in native plantings, where soils are wet, to attract wildlife, and for fruit display in fall and winter. Propagation is best through early summer cuttings which are easily rooted; seeds possess a dormancy period making germination tricky.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

**Advisory Team:** Linda Loker, Kathy Schultz, Ruth Retzlaff

**Secretary:** Jean Reed/Anne Murphy

**Treasurer:** Deb Voyles

### Communications Team

**Website:** Jean Reed

**Newsletter:** Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Jane Kuhn, Lawanda Jungwirth

**Partner Liaison:** Deb Butch

**WIMGA Rep:** Kathy Procknow

**Education Team:** Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner

### Meeting Teams

**DECEMBER:** Susan Forbes, Sandra Dennis, Mary Wiedenmeier

**MARCH:** Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Kathy Daniels

**JUNE Picnic:** Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn, Sue Egner, Vicki Daniels, Ruth Retzlaff, Renee Donner, Bob Potter

**SEPTEMBER:** Mary Bossert, Jenny Breinin, Lil Hansche

**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 me know by the 15th of each month by emailing

[pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto: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>

## ***From your Advisory Team***

***Happy 2023!***

***We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead!***

***Please remember to have your 2022 hours in ORS by midnight on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Our reporting year stays the same, from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.***

***We are looking forward to our Winter Social at Father Carr's Place 2B on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> gathering at 5:30 PM. with dinner at 6. Details are in this newsletter!***

***Congratulations to Linda Werner! Earlier this fall, Linda submitted a grant request to WIMGA for \$400 for the Neenah Historical Society. We just heard the good news that the grant has been awarded! The following is an excerpt from the grant request that Linda wrote:***

***The City of Neenah will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary in 2023. To commemorate this milestone, the Neenah Historical Society (NHS) and the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) plan to restore the Old Council Tree to the community. Long before Neenah was incorporated, an enormous elm tree known as the Old Council Tree on the banks of the Fox River was already a well-known landmark used by the Menominee Tribe as a site for councils. It was quickly adopted by the newcomers as well, starting in the 1830's. It was felled in the 1880's when the river was dredged and widened, but not forgotten. Today, the Old Council Tree is Neenah's distinctive symbol. It is on everything from the Breezewood exit from Highway 41 into Neenah, to the City's website, water tower and even trash cans. The WCMGA and NHS want to make the Old Council Tree a living landmark once again—not just a symbol.***

***The whole community of Neenah will benefit from greater awareness of its history both before and after settlement. The City of Neenah plans to hold a planting ceremony on Arbor Day, Friday, April 28, 2023, at Kimberly Point Park near the original site of the Old Council Tree and incorporate the event into its sesquicentennial activities and history.***

***Volunteers from the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association designed and planted the Gardens of the Octagon House in 2008-2009. It is an historic home built in the 1850's that is owned by the Neenah Historical Society and used for rotating exhibits on Neenah's History. Master Gardener volunteers have maintained the gardens since that time and worked closely with the Neenah Historical Society to demonstrate 19th century gardening elements to the public. Participating in this sesquicentennial project will deepen the involvement of the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association in the Neenah community and bring additional recognition to the work we do.***

***The NHS would likely not have been able to contribute to the project without the grant. This is a shining example of how our \$5 WIMGA dues are being put to work!***

***Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 24<sup>th</sup>!***

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

<b>Education Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-4 members</li> <li>• Meet as needed</li> </ul>	<b>Responsibilities</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CE for membership meetings or stand-alone CE for members</li> <li>2. Monitor CE opportunities for posting on Facebook and in newsletter</li> <li>3. Coordinate with Meeting and Advisory Teams</li> <li>4. Develop ideas for community education</li> <li>5. All expenses pay as you go</li> </ol>
<b>Officers</b>	
<b>Secretary</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Takes minutes at all meetings of the Advisory Committee and general membership business meetings</li> <li>2. Posts Advisory Team minutes on the website and business meeting minutes in the newsletter</li> </ol>	<b>Treasurer</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintains financial records in Excel</li> <li>2. Pays expenses via check</li> <li>3. Reports to the Advisory Team and membership at business meetings</li> <li>4. Manages cash flow with approval of the Advisory Team (can be done via email)</li> <li>5. Prepares simple budget of known expenses</li> </ol>
<b>Goals of Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize social functions</li> <li>• Spread the work</li> <li>• Simplify</li> <li>• Fewer meetings</li> <li>• Encourage/individual initiative</li> <li>• Make MG fun again</li> </ul>	<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>



## ***First Meeting of 2023 will be a WINTER SOCIAL***

*The first WCMGA meeting for 2023 is a social event. Our gathering will be on TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023. We are planning a POTLUCK SUPPER. The location is FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B at 1062 North Koeller Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902. We will gather at 5:30pm with dinner at 6pm.*

*We will be providing cups, plates, napkins, and utensils. Coffee or a hot drink or water will also be provided. As Father Carr's is allowing us to use their space for no charge, we are suggesting that you bring a non-perishable food item to donate to their food pantry.*

*All WCMGA members and a guest are invited to attend. In addition to mingling and eating, we will also be having an optional garden related white elephant gift exchange. Just to get you thinking of possible items.... a no longer used garden tool, a gardening book, a flower pot, a favorite garden artwork...all items should be in usable condition.*

*There will be no charge for this event. You need to bring yourself, a guest if you wish, a dish to pass, a white elephant gift (if you wish) and your good spirits. This is a no stress, casual dress, glad to see each other again event.*

*Your Winter Meeting Committee  
Sandy Dennis, Sue Forbes, and Mary Wiedenmeier*

## **Answer to What am I?**

*By Jane Kuhn*



I am winterberry holly. Family: Aquifoliaceae (holly family). Genus: Ilex. Species: Ilex verticillata. Other common names are common winterberry, black alder, coralberry and Michigan holly. Excellent year round interest, highlighted by the showy display of red berries against white snow in winter. Warning: all illex species may be somewhat toxic if ingested.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## Deadline for Reporting Hours Extended to January 9th

Our reporting year will stay the same, January 1 - December 31. However, we know everyone is busy during the holiday season. Therefore, you will have until midnight January 9, 2023 to enter your hours for 2022. On January 10, 2023 the ORS will no longer accept hours for 2022.

Please enter your hours early.

- **You must submit organizations by January 2!** If you want to report hours toward an organization not already listed in the ORS, you must submit it for review and publishing in the ORS. Please plan accordingly. Deadline is only for 2022.
- **Holiday Hours:** There will be no technical help from the program office outside normal business hours of M-F, 9-4 PM and it will be reduced between Dec. 23 and Jan. 2. Response times will be longer., Thank you for your understanding.
- **Self-service options:** Automatic password reset and username retrieval will be functioning.
- **2022 Onboarding-Lite Required:** Remember, 2022 Onboarding-Lite is required before you start volunteering, conduct continuing education and record hours.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

*By Linda Werner*

Feb. 10-12: WPT Garden Expo, Madison

**10 Tips for Growing Better Dahlias**, Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m. Free. Sponsored by Longfield Gardens. Register at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yRsPetopS5mYt\\_K3g2TnyA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yRsPetopS5mYt_K3g2TnyA)

**Grow Beautiful Water Gardens Free of Invasive Plants**, Wednesday, February 22, 6:30 p.m. Free. Sponsored by UW Extension. Register at:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_tbxB-OaeQiOttSnaGxCz3A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_tbxB-OaeQiOttSnaGxCz3A)

Go to the UW-Extension Hort Calendar at: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/calendar/> It lists all of the upcoming webinars including the winter vegetable series that starts in January as well as other topics going into spring and summer.

**Wild Ones "Toward Harmony with Nature" on Saturday, January 28, 2023.** It is going to be in person and virtual which is great. All the information is at:

<https://www.towardharmonywithnature.org/>

## **The Golden Trowel is back!**

Committee members have been contacted to reorganize and move forward. This means we are now looking for nominations. This is such a deserving award for those who have faithfully continued to work with the designated projects, making our community proud and aware that we are here for Winnebago County!

For those of you who may be new to our organization; and as a refresher for the rest of our membership, here is a description of this award.

The Golden Trowel is an annual award that shall be bestowed upon member(s) who during the previous year(s) have exemplified the spirit of the Master Gardener organization by providing horticultural education; community service and environmental stewardship for our community and leadership to other Master Gardeners in the Winnebago County Master Gardeners or other Master Gardener organizations.

Eligibility criteria is listed as follows:

- Certified member in good standing
- Active member for 8 or more years
- Member's volunteer hours are consistent with outstanding leadership/mentoring in community education, service and environmental stewardship.

A form can be found on our member website and members can retrieve it, complete it, then return to Linda Loker one of 2 ways:

1. Email: [lloker@att.net](mailto:lloker@att.net)
2. Mail: 80 N Oakwood Rd Oshkosh WI 54901

We are hoping to have a candidate for our Dec/Jan get-together.

Thank you to all of you!



## Volunteer Opportunities

We've received some nice feedback and comments from some of the organizations at which we volunteer.

### **The Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Society - Morgan House**

*"As we are closing the book on 2022, I just wanted to personally thank you for all the wonderful work your volunteers did this past year at Morgan House. We are so proud of the landscaping around Morgan House. The care you provided to our landscape has truly beautified the property. We are hoping your group will continue to work with us in 2023. I'd love to hear what plans you have in store for the next growing season." - Randy Domer, President, WCHAS*

### **The Oshkosh Area Humane Society**

*"... we'd love to consider you for future projects with our gardens during warmer months. We aren't really equipped to handle the number of gardens we have through our own volunteers." - Sarah Stoffregen, Volunteer Coordinator, OAHS*

### **Park View Health Center**

*"It has been a great pleasure to work with your organization over the years. I have made many garden friends and learned so much about plants from your group. I hope this partnership between the Master Gardeners and Park View continues to "grow" 😊" - Tim Laurin, Lead Activity Specialist, Park View Health Center*

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these, or any other organizations, please contact the Volunteer Contact person listed in this newsletter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or one of our listed Master Gardener Liaisons.

*- Deb Butch*



Snowy pics.  
*Submitted by Kim Willman.*

## Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

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

<p><b>Neenah Public Library</b>  240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956  <b>Volunteer Information:</b>  <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer">https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer</a>  920-886-6315  library@neenahlibrary.org  <b>Volunteer policy:</b>  <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf">https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf</a>  <b>Volunteer application:</b>  <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf">https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf</a>  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><b>Oshkosh Area Humane Society</b>  1925 Shelter Court, Oshkosh, WI 54901  <b>Volunteer Information:</b>  <a href="https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html">https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html</a>  <b>Volunteer coordinator:</b> 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><b>Paine Art Center and Gardens</b>  1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901  <b>Volunteer Information:</b>  Volunteer contact: Annika Holland, aholland@thepaine.org, 920-235-6903  <a href="https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/">https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/</a>  <b>Volunteer application:</b>  <a href="https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf">https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf</a>  Volunteer handbook available  Background check performed by The Paine  Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage</p>	<p>Ginny Slattery</p> <p>Kathy Gore</p>

<b>UW Madison, Extension Winnebago County</b> 625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh Horticulture Plant Health Advising and other opportunities TBD <b>Volunteer contact:</b> Madisen Potratz, Horticulture Educator, madisen.potratz@wisc.edu, 920.232.1976	Madisen Potratz
<b>Winnebago County Historical &amp; Archeological Society—Morgan House</b> 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 920-267-8007 <b>Volunteer Contact:</b> Greg Bellmer, 920.267.8007 Liability protection: Liability protection is not provided	Kathy Schultz
<b>Winnebago County—Department of Facilities and Property Management (Coughlin Rain Garden)</b> 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> No volunteer process <b>Volunteer Contact:</b> Bob Stephenson, 920.420.6405 Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jill Dombrowski  Ed Dombrowski
<b>Winnebago County Master Gardener Association</b> 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Deb Butch
<b>Winnebago County—Park View Health Center (Health Center gardens and Park View Prairie Garden)</b> 725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> Volunteer contact: Tim Laurin, tlaurin@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


<b>YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA</b> 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities</a> <b>Volunteer application:</b> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf</a> Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	For more information: Contact Deb Butch
<b>Houses of Worship</b>	
<b>First Presbytertian Church</b> 110 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information</b> Contact Sue Egner	Sue Egner
<b>St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church</b> 830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> Contact Cindy Meszaros Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Cindy Meszaros



### Upcoming Dates:

- **January Meeting: Winter Social, Tues., Jan. 24, 2023, Father Carr's Place 2B, 5:30 PM**
- **March Meeting: March 14, 2023, 6 PM, Coughlin Ctr., Paul Whitaker speaker**



January 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 Winter Social 5:30 PM Father Carr's Place	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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