



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

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.

www.winnebagomastergardeners.org

1-920-232-1986

MARCH 2008

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
<u>Event Planning</u>	
OPEN	
Historian	
Dawn Kent	
Membership	
Chris Bellin	233-4968
<u>Newsletter</u>	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Judy Harms	688-5523
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Time Keeper	
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570

OFFICERS

Co Presidents	
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Vice President	
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Secretary	
Linda Werner	725-8168
Treasurer	
Alice Graf	424-0252

SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education

OPEN	
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
Nature's Way – Neenah	
Paine Gardens	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Sue Steinhilber	235-1031
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Marlene Miller	231-4339
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Curt Reese	426-4992

BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Tobey	734-2264
Marge Bolding	233-8668
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Dorothy Gayhart-kunz	233-8468
Bob Potter	233-3349

Business Meeting

March 11, 2008

6:15 PM

All members encouraged to attend!

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – MARCH

Welcome spring! I think with all the cold weather and snow we have had this year – we will all welcome spring, March 21, with open arms. As I write this, it is snowing again. All I can think of is when it will melt and I can get into my garden.

With spring comes yard clean-up and preparing the beds for planting. Please don't forget to volunteer at the sanctioned core projects. These projects are a valued service to our community.

At our March business meeting March 11, Donna VanBuecken, Executive Director, Wild Ones, will tell us about the new Wild Ones Ecology Center located at Guckenberg-Strum Marsh, Little Lake Buttes des Morts in Menasha. Her presentation will start at 6:15 to 7pm, with our regular meeting to follow.

The 2008 Members Booklets have been mailed out to all members. If you did not receive one, please let either Mary or I know and one can be mailed to you.

We are looking for a Lead for Community Education. If you are interested, please contact either Mary, myself or any Board Member. This is another means of obtaining your volunteer hours required for certification.

With March brings our seminars. March 15, "Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care", Dean Schiller, Greenville Public Works Supervisor and Dan & Kim Dieck, owners of by Organics Healthy Lawns for Healthy Loving, Greenville. We will have a display at the Tri-County Garden Show March 28-30. This is a very good way to get hours for education by helping out at the booth.

July 16-19 the Southeast Wisconsin Master Gardeners are hosting the Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference in Milwaukee at the Wyndham Milwaukee Airport conference Center. For more information and registration visit their website: sewmg.encampus.com. At the conference they are holding a silent auction. Every MG group is asked to donate for the auction. At the last meeting we suggested a basket filled with items from the Fox Valley. If you have an item to donate or an idea for the basket, please call Bob Kosanke.

See you in the garden!!

Kathy & Mary

Here is the list of members who attended meeting Feb. 12;

Linda Loker	Dawn Kent	Ken Hawk	Barbara Kuhn
Lind Tobey	Linda Werner	Ken Schwanke	Audrey Ruedinger
Roy Anne Moulton	Marti Norton	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz	John Procknow
Steve Schueler	Joni Pagel	Sue bohn-McDermott	Stanley Meyer
Dorothy Bonnini	Cindy Meszaros	Jean Reed	Marge Menacher
Bob Potter	Karen Wedde	Pat Behm	Ralph Giessen
Marge Bolding	Jerry Robak	Pat Rockow	Kathy Daniels
Bob & Arlene Kosanke	Sandy Ansfield	Mary Wiedenmeier	

There is one name I can't read.

MASTER GARDENER BOARD MEETING

February 5, 2008

Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Daniels, Bob Potter, Audrey Ruedinger, Ken Hawk, Linda Werner, Mary Wiedenmeier, Roy Anne Moulton, Alice Graf, Sue Bohn, Stan Meyer, Marge Bolding

Sanctioned Project Application

WCMGA member Ken Friedman gave a presentation on a project that he would like approved as an individual project. A task force has been formed in Oshkosh to explore how the 120-acre Vulcan Quarry near Knapp Street should be reclaimed when it closes sometime in the next 10 to 15 years. The owners are proposing letting it fill with water and become a lake. A group of Oshkosh residents think it has the potential to be much more than that so they are looking at options and feasibility. Some of the possibilities include a nature preserve or arboretum and opportunities for hands-on environmental education. Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island was once a quarry and is part of the inspiration for this project. The task force will be meeting to explore alternatives and Ken asked that the time he spends on the project count toward MG volunteer hours. Making it a sanctioned project for all WCMGA association members was another option.

Board members decided to ask Ken to come back to the board with a specific proposal for his role as an individual and a plan for sharing what he learns about environmental reclamation with the full group.

Treasurer's Report

Alice Graf handed out a simplified monthly financial report. The total of all WCMGA accounts at the end of January was \$14,122.73.

Secretary's Report

There was no board meeting in January. Minutes of the December meeting were accepted as printed in the January newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Introduction

Nick Schneider, the new Winnebago County UW Extension agricultural agent, was introduced to the board. He previously worked in Clark County and with its Master Gardener group.

Website

SOP and bylaws still need to be updated on the website. Jean Reed will need the information from the board to make the changes. Linda Werner will

also contact her about moving the class registration form to a more prominent place on the website. People have reported difficulty in finding it.

Disks

Roy Anne provided a short history of the Education Committee's role in providing education opportunities for the WCMGA. Because the 36-hour training is not being offered this year, the Board agreed to offer a disk for completing 15 hours of advanced training provided by the Education Committee under the title of Environmental Stewardship. One of the requirements established for the environmental stewardship disk was that all scheduled programs be attended. Now, a question has come up about absences. Since the original class schedule was published, new training opportunities have been added. Some of the details are still being worked on, but it is expected that ultimately more than 15 hours will be offered so people will have opportunities to complete 15 hours of training even if they have to miss a session. The Education Committee will continue to keep the membership informed of updates to the schedule. There was discussion on phasing out the disk program after this year. No other MG group in the state offers them.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 Budget

Alice Graf requested help from the Board in developing the 2008 budget. She needed information on past project expenses and quantities of worm castings and cookbooks still available for sale. Alice proposed grouping income and expenses by category rather than as individual line items. Some things, such as shirt sales, are just pass through funds. A motion was made and approved to table action on the 2008 budget until March to give Alice time to incorporate the new information.

Project Leads

There are several project lead vacancies including event planning, the monthly newsletter, community education, Park View cutting garden and the Paine. Current leaders will be asked to suggest replacements and an announcement will be made at the next business meeting.

Project Funding Requests

\$300 was requested for the Farmers Market Project for booth rental and materials. Marge Bolding made a motion to approve the request. Audrey Ruedinger seconded the motion and it was

approved. \$150 was requested for the Park View Prairie Garden Project. Kathy Daniels made a motion to approve the request. Stan Meyer seconded the motion and it was approved.

Park View

WCMGA has been invited to hold a board and/or business meeting at the new Park View facility. It was decided to hold the April 8 business meeting in the great room at Park View.

Education Committee Report

The first program with Dr. Lizotte was very well received. Two presentations and the annual bus trip to the WPT Garden Expo are planned for February. The March 15 session will be on organic lawn care and a presentation on ways to reduce energy consumption in the home by a WPS representative. Roy Anne Moulton is coordinating with Kathy Daniels to make sure the key to the Coughlin Building is available on class dates. Roy Anne also pointed out that she did not include class refreshments in the budget she submitted to Alice. Linda Loker is arranging for all of the refreshments and should be reimbursed for her expenses. Alice will ask her to submit receipts. In the future, Roy Anne will submit a voucher form to Alice for speaker honorariums or gift cards. Susan Bohn suggested adding the speakers to the WCMGA email list. Alice will also do a form to capture as much information as possible from interested people at the Farm Market. Nick Schneider will attend the next Education Committee meeting to discuss when to offer the next basic class.

Bylaws

Members will be asked to vote on a bylaw change to formally make the Education Committee chair a permanent position on the WCMGA Board.

Submitted by,
Linda Werner
Secretary

MASTER GARDENER BUSINESS MEETING

February 12, 2008
Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Joy Perry, a lecturer in biology, botany and ecology at the University of Wisconsin Fox Valley opened the meeting with a presentation on the benefits of buying locally produced food.

Treasurer's Report: The WCMGA's balance on January 31, 2008 was \$14,122.73.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the January business meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Nick Schneider, the new agricultural agent for Winnebago County, was introduced. He was previously the Crops and Soils Agent in Clark County and is on the state Master Gardener Advisors Board. Also introduced were new members Dorothy Bonnin, Steve Schueller, Joni Pagel and Cindy Meszaros.

Disk Requirements

The WCMGA Board has decided that members interested in earning the Environmental Stewardship disk can make-up a missed Saturday training session with other classes that the Education Committee is providing later in the spring such as the garlic mustard pull and invasive ID sessions, the wildlife walk in May and the September field trip on invasive species. The time required for the disk is 15 hours of training provided by the Education Committee. Joy Perry's presentation counts as one hour. The bus trips do not count toward the 15 hours.

NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Amendment

Karen Wedde made a motion to approve an amendment to the bylaws to require that one of the member-at-large positions on the board be reserved for the Education Committee chair. Bob Potter seconded the motion and it was approved.

Education Committee Update

All of the seats on the bus to the Garden Expo were sold. Many non-members attended as well as Master Gardeners from Fond du Lac and Outagamie counties. Members were reminded that there will be a plant buying trip to the Madison area on May 3. Flyers will be sent out soon. The next Saturday training session is on February 23. The speakers will be Anita Carpenter on the ecology and life history of Wisconsin butterflies and Annette Weissbach of the DNR on green building design. On March 15, the topic will be environmentally friendly lawn care and home energy conservation.

Presentation

Roy Anne Moulton was presented with a certificate from the state organization in honor of 1,000 hours of service to WCMGA.

Paine Update

Bob Potter reported that the first clean-up day at the Paine will be April 1 from 8 to 12 and 1 to 4. On April 26 there will be an introductory tour and clean up at the Paine from 9 a.m. until noon. The spring festival is May 17. WCMGA will be selling worm castings and cookbooks. Bob will keep members updated on this sanctioned project through the newsletter.

Project Leads

There are several project leadership vacancies. The open positions are: newsletter editor, community education chair and Park View cutting garden chair. Dawn Kent has agreed to fill the vacant post of historian. Anyone interested in the other positions should contact Kathy Daniels or Mary Wiedenmeier.

Community Education Opportunity

Nick Schneider asked for a volunteer to do a "general gardening tips" presentation at the Neenah Library on either March 30 or April 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. Anyone interested may contact him.

Name Badges

Bob Kosanke sent around a sign up sheet for people who need a new name badge. The cost is \$6 for everyone except new members. Bob also reminded members that the state MG conference is July 16-19 in Milwaukee. Registration can be done online on the state MG website.

Copying Costs

WCMGA has traditionally paid \$500 to \$600 per year to the UW-Extension to cover the cost of making copies and postage for the organization. Nick Schneider will investigate what the current charges are and report at the March board meeting on whether or not the amount needs to be increased. The cost will then be incorporated into the 2008 budget.

Tri County Home & Garden Show

A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to staff the WCMGA booth at the show. Linda Toby is the contact for other interested volunteers.

Linda Werner,
Secretary

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

It is time for new leadership for the Community Education Committee.

Community Education is in charge of doing the Home and Garden Show every year. We also set up displays in Libraries and we arrange to be at any Community activity that Master Gardeners is asked to attend.

Dorothy and Linda will lead the way again this year for the Home and Garden Show and request that the people interested in taking over join us in preparing and doing the show. This way you will learn the ropes and be ready to do it next year. We are withdrawing from the committee after the show this year.

This is a great committee and one that allows you to earn most if not all of your hours doing one event.

Contact Linda Tobey @ 734-2264 or linda@americanpresstech.com
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz @ 223-8468 or dorothy.kunz@sbcglobal.net

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

It is time again to sign up to work the annual Home & Garden Show at the Tri County Arena. The show will run from Friday March 28 through Sunday March 30.

If you have not signed up at our meeting and would like to work at the show please either call Linda Tobey @ 734-2264 or email linda@americanpresstech.com with the day and time you would like to work. We are good for Saturday afternoon, but need people for that morning. Friday we could use one or two people from 4 until close. Sunday it would be nice to have a couple morning and also afternoon. I will be sending out the schedule by mid March so please sign up soon.

PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS (PHA) @ UWEX MARCH, 2008

I was in the office working on putting together the report for last year when I realized that March and the start of calls is just around the corner. We have a few people that signed up to volunteer in the office at the membership meeting. It looks like we again will have the advertised hours on Tuesday mornings. It would really be nice to have help on other days as well. We'll be having an

organizational meeting in early April (date to be established mid March). Please let me know if you are interested if you haven't all ready signed up. I'll be sure to send you an email to remind you of the meeting which will probably be around 5:30 pm on a week day.

Please consider volunteering as a PHA. New PHA's will get help to start out. If you can't make it to the office on Tuesdays, another weekday between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm would be ok or calls can be taken at home. If you are interested, contact Curt Reese @ cbreese@new.rr.com or 426-4992.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

CLASSES SPONSORED BY WCMGA:

"Environmentally Friendly Lawn Care"

Saturday, March 15, 2007

8 a.m. – Noon, Coughlin Center

Dean Schiller, Greenville Public Works Supervisor will discuss the town's new ordinance banning fertilizers containing phosphorous.

Dan & Kim Dieck, owners of By Organics Healthy Lawns for Healthy Living, Greenville, will explain how to have a healthy, attractive lawn without environmentally harmful chemicals.

Fee: \$15

"Vermiculture"

Saturday, April 12, 2007

9 –11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Correctional Institution, 1730 W. Snell Road

A presentation and tour on vermiculture, a type of composting that uses earthworms to create a natural soil fertilizer known as worm castings. The Institution has had a successful program for many years.

Fee \$15

PLANT BUYING BUS TRIP TO SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Saturday, May 3, 2007

The bus leaves 6:30 a.m. from the Coughlin Center, Oshkosh, Returns 6:00 p.m. (approximately)

Stops include Koepke's in Oregon, and Ebert's in Ixonia. Fee \$30—Bring a brown bag lunch

Make checks payable to: WCMGA

Mail to:

Alice Graf, Treasurer
1270 Locust Street

Oshkosh, WI 54902

Watch for future announcements on:

- **Garlic mustard ID & pull April 26 & May 3** ljungwirth@new.rr.com
- **Wildflower walk May 9**
Wautoma area
- **Weekend bus trip to view Minneapolis public gardens, June**

For more information contact:

Audrey Ruedinger, (920) 231-5745 or aud@vbe.com

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS:

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN ORCHID SOCIETY's show, A Rainbow of Orchids March 1st and 2nd

The annual AOS (American Orchid Society) Judged Show and sale will be held at the Holiday Inn Neenah Riverwalk, 123 East Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI. (From U.S. Highway 41, exit #132 [Main Street], 2 miles east, in downtown, Neenah.).

A Rainbow of Orchids is open to the public on Saturday, March 1 from 10 am to 5 pm, and on Sunday, March 2 from 10 am to 4 pm. General admission is \$5; children under 12 are admitted free.

Take a break from winter. Dazzle your senses viewing colorful tropical orchid displays ranging in size from table-top to 100-square foot exhibits, with hundreds of blooming plants. Learn about our native Wisconsin orchids. Orchid-themed artwork, educational displays and seminars will also be presented. Orchid societies and vendors from throughout the upper Midwest will be participating in the show and sale. Vendor list is currently being finalized.

Schedule of Educational Presentations (times subject to change):

Saturday

12:30 pm, Growing Orchids the EnLightened Way: Gardening Under Fluorescent Lights, presentation by Ernie Gemeinhart, EnLightened Orchids, IL (www.EnLightenedOrchids.com)

2:30 pm, How to Make Corsages, Boutonnieres, and Hair Ornaments, demonstration by Phyllis White, Anything Orchids, Frankfort, IL (www.anythingorchids.com)

Sunday

1:00 pm, Repotting and Mounting Orchids, demonstration by Lorraine Heyden, NEWOS member/AOS Judge, DePere, WI

2:00 pm, Ecuador's Cool Orchids: So Many Orchids, So Little Time, slide show by Richard Baehnman, NEWOS member/Orchid Hobbyist, Appleton, WI

NEWOS was formed in 1987, seeking to promote interest in the conservation of orchids, the world's largest flowering plant family.

For more information, contact davidbluma@aol.com, 920-428-4595, or visit the NEWOS website at www.newisos.org.

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN HERBFEST.

Saturday, May 3, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Gardens of the Fox Cities - Appleton WI

1313 Witzke Blvd - Appleton WI 54911

920-993-1900 www.gardensfoxcities.org

Cost: \$3.00 for the whole day!!

Northeast Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America presents the 4th Annual Herbfest. Presentations include: Herbs 101, Aromatherapy, Designing Your Herb Garden, Herbs for Health, Nourishment and Fun, Cooking with Herbs and Natural Cleaning Products to Make for Your Home There will be on going demonstrations and vendors with herbal and garden products.

Also there will be a HUGE HERB PLANT SALE courtesy of Thistledown Greenhouse, Bonduel WI. Learn about herbs and all their uses with other herb enthusiasts

For more information contact: Jackie Johnson, 920-246-7377, scentedgardens@msn.com

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Putting out the Master Gardener Newsletter has been very enjoyable, but now I am looking forward to a change. This has been a very satisfying endeavor and in the process, I have gained many volunteer hours. I give my thanks to the dedicated people who have or continue to send information each month, such as Lawanda's interesting and informative articles, the president's report, Bruce Abraham's "What Am I" and the minutes from our meetings that serve as the backbone of the Newsletter. Thanks to Phil Baeten for proofreading. I am happy to pass the task to on to Linda Tobey and look forward to reading the news at my leisure.

Linda Baeten

"A DAY IN THE GARDEN"

Sponsored by:

Master Gardener Associations of Fond du Lac & Calumet Counties

Saturday, March 8, 2008

UW Campus - Fond du Lac LGI Room

Registration begins: 8:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

"Rose Gardens for Every Season" – Jeff Epping - Join Olbrich Botanical Gardens Director of Horticulture, Jeff Epping, for an in-depth look at how he and his staff created a beautiful new rose garden at Olbrich. Their rose garden showcases hardy, disease-resistant shrub and climbing rose varieties that need much less care than the vast majority of the roses on the market today. See how you too can combine bulbs, annuals, perennials, vines, shrubs and small-scale trees with a variety of roses to create a truly spectacular Midwestern rose garden.

10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

"Extending Seasonal Raspberry Harvest" – Dr. Robert Tomesh – Senior Horticulture Educator and WI Master Gardener Educational Director - Join Dr. Robert Tomesh in a discussion regarding the ins and outs of growing raspberries in Wisconsin and how to prune correctly. Raspberry fruit production in Wisconsin is available from June through September. With today's early fruiting summer cultivars and fall fruiting cultivar selections, one can easily have fresh raspberries available through this extended period.

12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. – LUNCH

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

“Garden Inspirations – from England to Olbrich” – Jeff Epping - The Gardens of England are among the very best in the world and are an unending source of inspiration to all that are lucky enough to pay them a visit. Join Jeff Epping for an inspiring slide presentation that illustrates these ideas both in English Gardens and at Olbrich. Epping’s beautiful images were taken at Olbrich over the last 12 years, as well as visits to over 100 gardens in both the U.S. and England.

2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

“Invasive Species” – Dr. Mark Renz, UW-Madison Extension Weed Management Specialist – Dept of Agronomy

The focus of this talk will be on perennial weed control in our gardens and invasive species control in the landscape. Mark recently came to Wisconsin from New Mexico where he had been doing extensive work with invasive species.

OR - Break-out Session – 2:45 p.m. - Limited number of participants – register early

“Fruit Tree Grafting” – Dr. Robert Tomesh - A special hands-on fruit tree grafting session will be held in another class room for a limited number of participants. You will be taking home 2 or 3 grafted apple, pear, plum or peach fruit trees. An additional fee of \$10 will be collected upon attending this session - do not send with registration. You will be notified upon registration on March 8.

University of WI-U.S. Dept. of Agriculture-Fond du Lac County Cooperative. UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming and Title IX requirements. Please advise us at time of registration if you are handicapped and desire special accommodations. Requests will be kept confidential.

UW-Extension reserves the right to cancel programs due to insufficient registration.

"A DAY IN THE GARDEN" - Registration Form
Saturday, March 8, 2008

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

Make checks payable to: Fond du Lac County Master Gardeners

Fee: \$35.00/Person (includes lunch)

_____people@ \$35.00 person = \$_____ (Total Amount Enclosed)

Yes, I'm interested in attending the \$10 Break-out Session _____

Questions - phone: Kathy Schneider - 920-929-3171

Detach and Mail by Feb. 22, 2008 to:

Kathy Schneider, Fond du Lac County

227 Administration/Ext. Bldg.

U. W. Fond du Lac - 400 University Dr.

Fond du Lac, WI 54935

2008 Perennial Plant of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Every year the Perennial Plant Association selects a Perennial Plant of the Year. The plant is selected by a vote by members of the Association. Nominations are based on several criteria including suitability for a wide range of climatic conditions, low maintenance, pest and disease resistance, availability from nurseries, multiple seasons of ornamental interest and ease of propagation.

The 2008 Perennial Plant of the Year is *Geranium* 'Rozanne.' This is not the annual red, pink or white bedding plant sold by the millions in garden centers. This plant is the hardy geranium, also called cranes bill.

'Rozanne' grows 12-24 inches tall and 18-28 inches wide with 2½-inch iridescent violet-blue, saucer-shaped flowers with purple violet veins and radiant white centers. It blooms from late spring to mid-fall, with one of the longest flowering periods of any of the hardy geraniums, indeed longer than most any other perennial. It required no mid-summer pruning or deadheading.

The plant is hardy in USDA Zones 5-8 and in Zone 4 with reliable snow cover or a winter mulch. 'Rozanne' does best in full sun to partial shade with moist, well-drained soil.

The Perennial Plant Association says "'Rozanne' may be used as a dynamic ground cover or as an attractive specimen plant. It is a good companion plant to Shasta daisy, perennial salvia, speedwell, hostas and short ornamental grasses. 'Rozanne's' energetic habit makes it a worthy tenant of patio containers, widow boxes or hanging baskets." It is also good as a filler plant between taller specimen plants such as ornamental grasses, daylilies, hydrangeas or roses.

A quick search of the internet found 'Rozanne' available at the following companies: Wayside Gardens, Heronswood, White Flower Farm and Digging Dog Nursery. Prices ranged from \$7 to \$16.95 per plant.



A LETTER FROM OUR NEW ADVISOR:

Hello Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteers,

My name is Nick Schneider and I am the new Winnebago County Agriculture Agent. Please allow me to give you a little background information about myself. When I was a youngster, my family operated a dairy farm in Lincoln County where I exhibited dairy, sheep, and crops at the county fair. In the early 1990's, we moved to the community of Bloomer in northwestern Wisconsin and through involvement in the local FFA chapter, I decided to pursue a career in agriculture. I attended the University of Wisconsin – River Falls for Agronomy. I then attended the University of Minnesota where I performed graduate research in weed ecology. Upon graduation from the University of Minnesota, I was an agronomist for a seed company in central Illinois for a few years. For the past three years, I served UW Extension as the Crops and Soils Agent in Clark County.

In Clark County, I gained experience collaborating with Master Gardener Volunteers as the advisor to the local organization. We had a lot of fun at events throughout the year. The running joke was that while I was the "county plant guy" I didn't grow anything because the house I rented was surrounded by pavement. Where I now live in Oshkosh has enough space for a few baskets! I look forward to meeting and collaborating with you as we continue to have a lot of fun through serving and learning together.

Sincerely,

Nick Schneider
Winnebago County Agriculture Agent

Editor's corner:

Welcome Nick! We look forward to working with you, and we trust you will have a great experience with the Winnebago County MGs.

On another note:

We certainly have snow cover! The rabbits are reaching over the tops of my cages! I'm not sure how those shrubs will look after nature's pruning, but I am sure you would agree we haven't seen a winter like this one in a long time...20 years?

It actually makes me happy. ☺

Linda Baeten

Wisconsin POEM FOR YOU

It's winter in Wisconsin
And the gentle breezes blow
Seventy miles an hour
At twenty-five below.
Oh, how I love Wisconsin
When the snow's up to your butt
You take a breath of winter
And your nose gets frozen shut.
Yes, the weather here is wonderful
So I guess I'll hang around
I could never leave Wisconsin
'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!



OK, Show of hands...
Who's tired of snow?

MARCH TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- March is the leanest month for wildlife, so protect shrubs and plants with wire.
- **Week 1.** Begin regular fertilization of houseplants.
- Order perennial plants and schedule delivery for when the ground is workable.
- Do not remove mulch too early. Wait till mid-April, except for areas with spring-blooming bulbs.
- **Week 2.** start seeds of slow-growing annuals. Transfer them in May to cold frame.
- Make cuttings of houseplants.
- **Week 3.** remove mulch from spring-flowering bulb beds.
- Start tender bulbs such as calla lilies indoors – move outdoors after all danger of frost is past. They will bloom from June to August.
- Keep amaryllis foliage growing by watering and feeding.
- When snow melts, check perennial beds for roots heaved from frost. Gently step down any exposed roots and cover with mulch.

Vegetables and Herbs

- **Week 2.** Harvest parsnips, carrots, and other ground-stored crops before renewed growth spoils them. Begin harvesting winter onions while they are young and tender.
- Start seedlings of cabbage, celery, cauliflower, head lettuce and parsley.
- **Week 4.** start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows that seven-week-old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results. Also start pepper seeds and broccoli.
- If the ground is not frozen and is fairly dry, rake off last season's mulches on vegetable garden soil so it can dry and be warmed by the sun. Remove any plant residue left from last year.
- Fertilize and cultivate established asparagus beds.
- Turn compost pile and add fresh kitchen scraps, composted manure and dried leaves.

Lawns, Trees and Shrubs

- Finish pruning of dormant trees
- Sharpen lawn mower blades and have mower serviced before spring rush
- **Week 3-4.** Cut out old canes of climbing roses so that new shoots can grow.
- Apply horticultural oil to gypsy moth egg masses.
- Fertilize shade trees and shrubs with high-nitrogen fertilizer (16-8-8) when buds swell.
- Fertilize evergreens with 16-8-8 at a rate of 1/3 pound per ft, of height or spread, whichever is greater.
- Prune summer-flowering (after end of June) shrubs.

Fruits and Berries

- Prune grapes early in the month. Finish pruning of other dormant fruit trees and berry bushes. Remove diseased or infected branches.
- Fertilize established fruit trees with low nitrogen fertilizer when buds begin to swell. Use 1 ounce of actual nitrogen per year of tree age, not to exceed ½ pound per season.
- **Week 4.** Apply fertilizer to grapes.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Hours spent at the General Membership meetings count!
Come and see how you can be involved.

☞ PAINE GARDENS

Contact Pat Behm or Bob Potter

☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Bill Weber.

☞ PARK VIEW-MG LIASON

Contact: VACANT!

☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

The Vegetable Garden contact Susan Steinhilber
235-1031 or email steinsb@northnet.net

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS - Menasha

Contact Ruth Freye

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS – Oshkosh

Contact: VACANT

☞ PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Toby.

☞ TRIPS

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

☞ MENASHA NATURE'S WAY PROJECT

Contact Gale Davey

☞ LOOK FOR MORE PROJECTS TO COME!



MARCH 2008

(THIS CALENDAR CAN BE A HANDY WAY TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR HOURS)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
						1 NE WI ORCHID SHOW – NEENAH
2 NE WI ORCHID SHOW – NEENAH	3	4 6:00 MG BOARD MTG	5	6	7 NEW MOON ●	8 A DAY IN THE GARDEN – FDL MG sponsored event
9 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS – SPRING AHEAD!	10	11 6:15 MG BUSINESS MTG	12	13	14	15 8-NOON ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY LAWN CARE @ COUGHLIN CTR
16	17	18	19	20 VERNAL EQUINOX	21 GOOD FRIDAY FULL MOON ○	22
23 EASTER	24	25	26	27	28 Brown Bag Program, noon @ the UWEX	29 TRI CO HOME & GARDEN SHOW @ THE ICE ARENA - MENASHA
30 TRI CO HOME & GARDEN SHOW	31					