

# 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](http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org)

1-920-232-1986

**MARCH 2009**

### COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Historian	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Membership	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Bruce Abraham	231-3747
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Hours & Time Keeper	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	
Jean Reed	729-9012

### SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
Community Gardens	
Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Lincoln School	
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Karen Wedde	231-9696
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Sue Steinhilber	235-1031
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Curt Reese	426-4992
Rushford Town hall	
Sue Bohn (temp)	685-0427

**MARCH 10 - Business Meeting – 6:15PM**

### OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Steve Schueler (VP)	426-1363
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252

### BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Bohn	685-0427
Linda Werner	725-8168
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

## MARCH - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February sure was a month full of many surprises. We had warm temperatures, a little snow and then back to winter's cold. March brings spring but we could get a lot of more snow before then.

Our Education Committee did a wonderful job this month with the Madison Garden Expo trip and the session with Sheila Glaske. The house was almost full with Master Gardeners to hear what she had to say about garden design. She did a wonderful job. Coming up next will be the pruning session with Audrey Ruedinger and Roy Anne Moulton Saturday, March 14 at 8:30 am at the Coughlin Center. Hope to see you all there.

Don't forget our Business Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 6:15pm, at the Coughlin Center. We will have short reports from Projects Leads. This is a good time to hear about the projects and sign-up for your volunteer hours. Remember to be certified everyone must have 24 hours of volunteer work before September 1. Also coming at the end of this month is the Tri-County Garden Show. At the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting there will be a sign-up sheet for the hours that need to be worked and the Leads will explain what the show involves. Let's hope for an early spring!!! See you in the garden!!

Kathy & Mary

### Shelley Ryan is looking for ideas

Shelley Ryan would like to know what YOU want to see on The Wisconsin Gardener! She is looking for suggestions of gardening issues, topics or places that you would like to see her include in future shows (or things you don't want to see). Remember that because she has to shoot ahead of time, some of these topics might not show up until next year or later.

Also, The WI Gardener has lost Fiskars as their major underwriter, so she is also looking for funding ideas. If you have any ideas of companies or businesses that might be interested in being a major (\$10,000) or associate (\$4,000) underwriter, please let her know! (The WIMGA already supports the program as an associate underwriter.)

If you have some feedback for Shelley, please respond directly to her at [shelley.ryan@wpt.org](mailto:shelley.ryan@wpt.org), being sure to include "Master Gardener" in the subject line.

## Nick's Notes – March

Last summer you may have heard a little about the Oshkosh Shared Harvest program through which people were able to donate fresh produce to area food pantries. These difficult economic times stress food pantry needs even further. With the formation of the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry there will be better facilities to handle fresh produce. I am a big believer in locally grown, fresh produce. Rather than receiving all their vegetables from a can, people who need food but can't afford it should be able to get fresh produce too.

As part of a new sanctioned Master Gardener project, in conjunction with Shared Harvest and the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry, we are going to initiate a produce variety trial with the intent that the extra produce grown will be donated to the food pantry of your choosing. I am looking for help organizing and distributing the seed plus recruiting people throughout the Master Gardener Association and community to grow the vegetables for donation. The Winnebago County Master Gardener Association has agreed to purchase the seed. Vegetable selections will be based on previous fresh market produce research. Participants will be asked to take notes on factors such as plant vigor, produce quality and most importantly yield. At the end of the trial it will be very helpful to share with stakeholders the number of pounds of produce donated through this program. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, either in planning or growing, please let me know.

## MG BIRTHDAYS OF THE MONTH MARCH



Linda Baeten, Ann Kaufmann, David Leonard and Marty Sacksteder

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALL !!!**

## **MG of the Month**

### **Bruce Abraham**

I am a life-long resident of the Oshkosh area, growing up and currently living in the Town of Algoma just west of Oshkosh. My wife, Dawn, and I were married this past July 2008 after nearly ten years of courtship. Together, our family consists of five children – Dawn's two and my three. At our home over the years the lawn has slowly been replaced by perennial gardens so that about only 1/4 of the lawn still exists on the nearly 1/2 acre lot. Most of the perennials are native as are the trees and shrubs that I have planted – with some assistance from my sons. Dawn and I also have started a raised bed vegetable garden in the past two years.

I have been employed at Mercury Marine in Fond du Lac, WI for nearly 24 years with various managerial responsibilities. My education consists of an Associate Degree in Accounting from Fox Valley Technical College and a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Lakeland College. Out of high school I was initially a biology major which is where my true interests are – various aspects of our environment and nature.

Dawn and I bought five acres with a home in Ellison Bay, Door County WI a little over two years ago. This is our "heaven on earth" with so many interesting things always going on, not least of which is the plants and animals which live in that unique ecosystem of Door County. Dawn and I share many of the same interests involving the outdoors and environment. We have planted upwards of 900 trees and shrubs on our property and many flowers and bulbs. We are working to help recover/restore the land from what was recently a small horse farm. My reference point for this property is that all we can typically hear outside are birds and the wind....so very peaceful.

My interests are: doing my own landscaping and the research of plants used (mostly natives); bird-watching and attracting birds to the yard; fishing; home improvement projects; bike riding; canoeing/kayaking; snowshoeing; x-country skiing; enjoying (and preparing) great food and wine; investing; volunteering; traveling; theater; music; history; group discussions on events/issues; and of course, family.

Finally, I started in the MG program in spring 2003 and attended all three classes, in consecutive years, offered by the UW-Extension office in

Winnebago County. During the first two classes prior to the final exam, I volunteered as a bartender at Wingers in Oshkosh as a fund-raiser opportunity for the MG's as well as a social gathering/final exam answer sharing for the MG's. I also was a MG board member for a year term. Most unbelievably, as I look back, I have authored the "What Am I?" article in the Winnebago County Master Gardener Newsletter since October 2003. This started with Linda Tobey, who sat at the same table as me for the spring 2003 class, asking if I'd like to write an article on trees for certification hours. Thanks, Linda...look at what you started!?!?! Seriously...research for these articles has been a wonderful learning experience for me.

In summary, the MG program has certainly enriched my knowledge of plants and complemented my interests. My gardening focus is on native perennials and trees that attract birds, insects, and butterflies while extending beauty for all of those interested to see. Bottom line...I am completely absorbed by nature and our environment and willingly accept the obligation to respect, maintain, and nurture what God has so graciously given to us.

### **Let Us Wish You a Happy Birthday too.**

When the renewal forms were turned in many of you did not fill out the birthday section. Those of you that are new members were not asked to fill out a form so we do not have your birthday info either. Please be a part of our birthday wishes.

To be a part of our monthly birthday celebration, send me your birth month as well as any special thing you'd like mentioned such as that special birthday. For example, the fact that you will turn 60, 70 or better this year.

Just send a note to my home address listed in the membership booklet, phone 920-734-2264 or email me at [linda@americanpresstech.com](mailto:linda@americanpresstech.com) All I need is your birth month and any special thing you'd like mentioned.



## TREE OF THE MONTH - MARCH FROM MORTON ARBORETUM PERSIMMON

(*Diospyros virginiana*)

Persimmon has distinctive, dark, chunky bark. The popular fruits ripen in mid-autumn, but the tree is attractive the entire year. Head to the Visitor Center forecourt to see the tree that produces this flavorful delight.



Persimmon has long been popular for its fruits. The yellowish to orange berries are high in Vitamin C and are often used to sweeten desserts and breads or eaten raw. But beware! Fully ripened persimmon fruits are sweet and juicy, but unripe fruits are strongly astringent and bitter tasting. Wait until the fruits are almost ready to fall off the branches or select fruits that have gone soft and are nearing the point of going bad. Those will be the sweetest and most enjoyable. The fruits ripen in early fall, usually right after the first frost, though some cultivated varieties may be ready earlier.

Persimmon is a member of the ebony family which also includes marblewood (*D. kursii*) and ebony (*D. ebenum*). All of these trees are prized for their attractive, hard woods. Persimmon is a favorite choice for golf clubs.

Mature height: 35' to 60' usually, can grow up to 90' in ideal conditions Rate of growth: slow

### Board Meeting February 3, 2009 Minutes

Present: Mary Wiedenmeier, Kathy Daniels, Steve Schueler, Linda Baeten, Alice Graf, Roy Anne Moulton, Bob Potter, Ken Hawk, Audrey Ruedinger, Sue Bohn, Nick Schneider, and Stan Meyer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. A printout of the SOPs was handed out, as well as a list of current Board Members with term expiration dates.

March 21 – Kathleen Lagare  
Nutrition from vegetable garden

April 4 – Ruth Freye  
Container Gardening

April 25 – Barb Boudry  
Organic Pest Control

May 9 – Annie Danko  
Composting, Mulching your Garden

All events in this series are scheduled from 10 am to 11:30 am at UW Extension Office at 3365 W. Brewster St. Appleton

### THE COMMUNITY GARDENS NEED YOUR HELP

A reminder that Ruth Freye, the lead of the Community Gardens at UW Fox on Midway Rd. in Menasha, needs assistance this year with the gardens. If you live in Neenah or Menasha, it is the perfect place to do your hours, and if you are new Ruth is the perfect mentor for you.

Give her a call at 734-5978 we think you'll be glad you did.

### Member changes:

Whenever we are notified of an address, email or phone change we will list it in the newsletter unless asked to not do so.

**Please change the phone number of Diane Iott to 969-9472. Thanks**



**Treasurer's Report:** A final copy of the Proposed 2009 Budget, and a balance sheet for January 2009 was available. Balance in checking is \$5,447.79. Cash on hand is \$100.00. Total of all accounts including two Certificates of Deposit, is \$15,749.19.

**Secretary's Report:** No one had additions or deletions for the January minutes as recorded in the February Newsletter.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Worm castings to Sauk County – Ken Hawk found we have 1,200 worm composting brochures. He also has the contact name of the printers, in case we need more. Discussion took place as to whether the word “organic” had to change in the brochure language. Differences between the terms “organic”, “certified organic” and “natural” were discussed. It was decided to leave the language as is.

The Sauk County Land and Water Conservation Dept picked up 49 bags of worm castings. A check will be coming from Sauk County. They will probably order more soon. It was decided to order more castings from the prison when we get down to our last 100 bags. Ken will ask Dorothy to bring some of the brochures to the next Business meeting. Information on worm castings will be forwarded on to the Newsletter and Website.

2. Environmental Stewardship Discs – Roy Anne will ask for help from Linda Tobey to determine who earned a disc in 2008. There will be no more discs in 2009,

3. Website: Mary and Kathy will meet with Jean Reed for a Website review.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Operating Procedures** – Mary asked the members to read over the SOP's and highlight areas of concern to discuss at the March Board Meeting. Sue, Stan and Mary are willing to be on a committee to update our Operating Procedures. Sue has a draft of some possible changes for handling Projects that she has forwarded to Steve. The Board plans to go through the procedures by section over the coming months. Procedures should be reviewed each year.

### 1. Receipts for reimbursement - Alice

Alice explained some problems she has had with MG financials

- Hanging on to checks for the MG Association too long. Some get handed in quite late. One check in particular was too old to get payment.
- Lack of use of our tax exempt status due to members making purchases in advance out of their own pockets and later asking for reimbursement.
- No proof of receipts when asking for reimbursement.
- Failure to hand in check requests or use a project request form in a timely manner.

Discussion took place. It was decided to reiterate the rules with a blurb in the Newsletter to remind members of the best practices to use when handling financial transactions for the MGs. Linda Baeten will write up a draft for review by the officers.

2. Procedures for Speakers: The Education/Trip Committee is responsible for booking our trips and speakers. Members were reminded to first communicate with the Committee before booking speakers or trips to avoid conflicts and overbooking. There is concern that one trip may take away from another.

## Project Applications – Steve Schueler:

Steve has received three requests.

- “Shared Harvest” Ken Friedman, MG and member of Southwest Rotary turned in a request. The purpose is to provide fresh produce to area food programs and pantries. This would happen through (1) developing drop off sites and arranging transportation to pantries, (2) grow produce through seed trials in cooperation with Nick Schneider and MGs, (3) supervise youth garden projects and (4) contract with Farmer's Markets and growers to donate excess produce. Total financial request for this project is \$100.00. Moved and seconded, Audrey/Stan to approve the project with the exclusion of goal 4. Discussion followed regarding the number of volunteers needed or available, and whether goal 4 was feasible. Motion carried excluding goal 4. Further discussion took place regarding the wisdom of starting projects early with preliminary meetings.
- “Beautification of Bare Lot” – Ruth Freye submitted a request for an individual project to landscape a twindominium located at 2627 and 2629 Kerry Ln, Appleton (Town of Menasha in Winnebago County). This Habitat home is owned by two handicapped

women. They already have \$50.00 approved for a tree Ruth would be providing on-going help. Moved and seconded, Alice/Bob to approve the project. Motion carried.

- “Fox Valley Community Garden Project” – Ruth Freye has submitted a request for \$500 to develop three raised beds in the Community Gardens. Any unspent funds would be returned. Moved and seconded, Roy Anne/Audrey to approve. Motion carried.

### **Plant Health Advisor (Curt Reese is stepping down)**

The Board discussed who could take Curt’s place out of those that have participated as PHA’s.

### **Webster Stanley School Project:**

Bob Potter explained the progress of this project in Marge Menacher’s absence. They have met with Lisa and Lori from the school and will meet again on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 pm at Mr. Cinders. A representative from Lincoln School is also interested. The project will include at least two raised beds and a rock garden. It will begin on March 30<sup>th</sup> and end on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The children are excited about the project. There is a plan to have the West High School Industrial Tech classes build and donate cold frames to grow early spring crops. No money is needed from the Master Gardeners at this point.

### **Basic Classes for 2009:**

Nick reported the curriculum for the basic classes will be the same as last time.

### **Garden Vegetable Trials:**

Nick explained that the community garden plots on Sherman road have been relocated near Picnic Point. He would like to include a community garden plot for seed trials to grow produce to be contributed to the Second Harvest Project discussed earlier. Master Gardeners would be involved in growing the produce. He asked to amend the Second Harvest Project to include another \$200, to cover the cost of the seed trials. The Board agreed unanimously.

### **Education Committee Report:**

- The next offering of education classes will be “Bones of the Garden” by Sheila Glaske of the Paine Gardens on February 19<sup>th</sup> at the Coughlin Center at 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Cost \$10.00.

- A proposal to have a bus trip to the Chicago Garden Show at Navy Pier is not being considered at this time. Other area organizations are offering this trip.
- The bus to the WPT Garden Expo in Madison on February 14<sup>th</sup> is almost full.

### **Janesville Trip:**

- 10 People have signed up for the Janesville trip so far. This trip is being organized by Alice Graf. She was in contact with Marge Menacher of the education committee. It was decided not to piggy-back the Janesville trip with the upcoming buying trip on May 2. If we get 30 people to participate, the trip will pay for itself.
- A sign-up sheet for the May 2<sup>nd</sup> buying trip has not been developed at this point.

### **Rushford Project:**

- Sue Bohn reported there will be a meeting next week to set up a schedule at the Rushford Town Hall for this landscaping project.

### **Other New Business**

- Alice will bring forward the 2009 Budget Proposal to the membership at the February Business Meeting. An extra \$60 dollars will be needed for tipping the bus driver on the Garden Expo trip. Alice said she could adjust the budget and transfer funds out of Socials to Trips. Moved and seconded Bohn/Ruedinger. Motion carried.
- A plan to call new Master Gardeners and invite them to the March Business Meeting was discussed. Board members will each make a few calls. Steve will be in contact with the project leads to remind them to come to the March meeting to briefly present their projects and pass around sign-up sheets.
- Audrey has given a presentation for the Paine Volunteers titled “Years of Garden Gleanings and Insight. Roy Anne proposed she give her talk to the MG membership at the April Business Meeting.
- Audrey announced that Roy Anne has offered her garden for a tour in June.
- The location of the Master Gardener computer and projector was discussed. There was some confusion as to where

the equipment has been kept in the past. There has been a proposal to either have the Secretary be the keeper of the equipment or keep it at the Coughlin Center in the Master Gardener office. This item was tabled for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Baeten

## Garden Trivia:

By Susan Mahr

Do you know the difference between a cantaloupe and a muskmelon? For the most part we grow muskmelons (*Cucumis melo* var. *reticulatus*). This is the heavily netted melon commonly found in the store. Cantaloupe (*Cucumis melo* var. *cantalupensis*) has little, if any netting, and a smooth, sometimes warty skin. Often cantaloupe has deep ribs like a pumpkin, but Chanterais is smooth and round as can be. Taste is different, but then each variety and/or cultivar can taste differently depending on where it is grown and when it is harvested. Study your catalogs well and make sure to choose based on your local conditions.

## DAY IN THE GARDEN SET FOR MARCH 21st

The Fond du Lac County & Calumet County Master Gardener Associations will host "A Day in the Garden" on Saturday, March 21st at UW-Fond du Lac

Beginning at 9 a.m. Luke Schmalz of Schmalz Landscaping will talk about "Spring Clean-up", pruning trees, shrubs and perennial rejuvenation. Molly Fifield Murry MSLA of UW Madison Arboretum will talk about "Rain Gardens", design, plant choice, placement, and implementation using wildflowers.

There will be a breakout session with 3 programs to choose from: Judy Hacker & Jeanne Kueler will talk about "Flower Arranging". Lynn Austin will speak about "Medicinal Herbs", Dr. Dennis Chuchel will Talk about "Bonsai Basics". Glen Spevacek & Jan Wos of Mayflower Greenhouse will complete the afternoon with a talk about "Container Mania", think about shapes, colors and textures with an artistic dimension.

The cost to attend the event is \$35.00 which includes lunch.

Pre-registration for this popular event is needed and can be done by contacting the Fond du Lac County UW-Extension office before Monday, March 16th. A detailed program brochure is available from the UW-Extension office (920-929-3171) or can be viewed/printed on the internet at [www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/fonddulac/hort/](http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/fonddulac/hort/).

## What AM I?

By Bruce Abraham

I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Liliaceae** (Lily Family); Genus **Allium L.** I am found in the following habitats – all forests: beech, boreal, northern upland, and southern upland and lowland. Typically, I prefer soils that consist of rich loose loam with abundant organic matter. I grow upwards of 4" – 12" tall. In late winter or early spring, as one of the first plants to emerge in the forest, I have two or three broad, smooth, oval-shaped leaves that are green with dark maroon coloring at the base. As the forest canopy thickens with leaves, my leaves wither leaving only a single bud on a naked stalk. This bud blooms from May through July with a spherical cluster (umbel) of creamy white florets eventually producing a three-lobed seed capsule. I have been used by Native Americans to treat coughs and colds. In addition, a poultice was made from the juice of my strong summer bulb to alleviate the pain and itching of bee stings. My leaves and bulb are very edible and a good source of Vitamin C. For those that partake of my delicious onion-garlic flavor, it is said that the odor can be detected on a person for days. Nevertheless, I am considered the best tasting member of all Alliums – commercial or wild. What Am I?

## Board Meeting February 3, 2009 Minutes

### Members Present:

Bruce Abraham, Linda Baeten, Kay Bartell, Marge Bolding, Linda Christensen, Kathy Daniels, Diana Dougherty, Ruth Freye, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Alice Graf, Becky Gratz, Mary Haave, Lil Hansche, Ken Hawk, Diane Iott, Jane Kuhn, David Leonard, Linda Loker, Marge Menacher, Stanley Meyer, Joni Pagel, Ivan Placko, Bob Potter, Janet Priebe, John Procknow, Debbie Quandt, Audrey Ruedinger,

Jerry Robak, Steve Schueler, Rosemary Smith,  
Mary Wiedenmeier, Linda Werner.

### **Treasurer's Report – Alice Graf**

The balance as of 01/31/09 is:

Cash On Hand	\$ 100.00
Checking	\$ 5,447.79
CD Renewal 7/22/09)	\$ 5,000.00
CD (Renewal 4/10/09)	<u>\$ 5,201.40</u>
Total all Accounts	\$15,749.19

A handout was available with the details.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The Minutes from the January 13, 2009 Business Meeting were approved as printed in the February Newsletter.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old Business was brought up.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Approve 2009 Budget – Alice Graf**

A handout was available of the 2009 proposed budget. It was noted that the \$1,500 in income for cookbooks represents all the books we have left, if sold at \$10.00 each. It was moved and seconded Potter/Bolding to accept the budget. Motion carried, voice vote.

#### **Rushford Project – Audrey Ruedinger**

Quite a few people have signed up for this project. A meeting is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Rushford Town Hall. A 4H representative; the architect of the plan, Mr. Marquart; and interested Towns people will also be present. They will begin to lay out a schedule.

#### **Education Committee Report - Audrey**

- The Expo Trip still has 7 openings as of this evening.
- Next week Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, Bones of the Garden by Sheila Glaske of the Paine Gardens, cost \$10.00. 32 People are signed up. It's OK to come the evening of the event as well.
- The Buying Trip to the Madison area is set for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, a sign up sheet was passed around. Cost is \$30.00. Bring your own lunch. We will stop at the Flower Factory, Koepke's, and Schonheit's. Bring a tall plastic or cardboard box that can be stacked for you plants. Send checks payable to WCMGA to Alice Graf.
- Janesville Bus Trip is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet was available. Cost is \$37.00 and includes a ticket to the Rotary

Gardens. We will be able to tour and shop Klehm's Song Sparrow and also make a stop at K&W Nursery. Bring a box for your plants. Bring your own lunch. Send your checks payable to WCMGA to Alice Graf.

### **Home and Garden Show – Joni Pagel**

The Home and Garden Show will be held March 27 to 29. A sign-up sheet was passed around. This is a good chance to get Public Education hours. Many have already signed up.

### **Basic Classes**

Nick Schneider was not able to be present tonight. He plans to offer the basic classes again in Fall of 2009. There was a concern that too much time lapses between the classes and the coming of spring planting time. It was mentioned that the State Organization sets the time frame. Others testified that having spring classes makes it difficult for new MGs to get their hours in before the September deadline.

### **Second Harvest Project**

Ken Friedman is the Lead on this new sanctioned project, but was not present this evening. Mary Wiedenmeier gave the details. Produce will be collected and distributed to food pantries. Produce from seed trials at the Sherman Road Community Gardens and individual Master Gardeners' donations will be collected. A pick up plan for produce will be in effect. A youth garden will also be established at the Christine Ann Center to grow food. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

It was noted that the Sherman Road Community Garden site will be moved to another location on Sherman Road known as the Picnic Point area.

### **Webster Stanley Project – Marge Menacher**

The Webster School project has grown to 15 people at this point. It is an after school program for K-5<sup>th</sup> grades. Approximately 70 children are involved. MGs would meet on Mondays at the school between 4 and 5 pm starting March 30<sup>th</sup>. The project ends in May, but may continue through the summer months as well. A second grade teacher at Webster has an ongoing gardening project established in the courtyard at the school and is looking for MG input. There are existing raised beds, as well as tractor tires, and kiddie pools for garden beds. There is a plan to have the West High School Industrial Tech classes build 3 cold frames for this project. Discussion on materials and cost took place. Mary suggested Marge send in a request for funds to the treasurer. A representative from Lincoln school is also

interested in the MGs doing a project at their school. Marge has a sign-up sheet. The Oshkosh School District will also require a background check and a signed confidentiality form from each volunteer.

### **Park View Gardens - John Procknow**

Dr. Weber is the Lead for this Sanctioned Project. A request for funds will be submitted to the Board. The gardens will be needing fertilizer this year, and though there were many donations of annuals last year, some new plant material will be purchased.

### **Pruning and Apple Grafting Class – David Leonard**

The UW Extension will be offering this class on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. A handout was available. Pruning will take place in the afternoon on David Leonard's property near Winchester. He has apple and pear trees as well as blackberries and raspberries. There is no fee for pruning. Bring your own loppers and shears. In the evening at the Coughlin Center, Robert Tomesh will present a class on grafting. Cost is \$10.00. Enrollment for the Apple grafting is limited. Call 920-232-1971 to register.

**Project Lead Presentations:** All Project Leads will be asked to come to the March Business Meeting to present their projects to the membership. Sign-up sheets will be available. Requests for funds should be turned in to the Board by the March meeting. This will be a good opportunity for the Projects to get off to a good start and for members to begin earning their volunteer hours.

**Habitat Project** – Larry Goglewski from the Greater Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity was absent tonight. David Leonard explained the project in his stead.

Fourteen homes are scheduled to be built this year, possibly up to 7 in the Neenah Menasha area. Six to twelve MGs would be needed to meet with home owners to discuss landscaping of the homes. A tree will be purchased and MGs will help plant and educate about landscaping. Habitat only provides lawn. Ruth Freye explained that the owners of these homes must put in 300 to 500 "sweat equity" hours building the home. They have to pay an interest free mortgage. MGs will have to work with the wishes of the home owner and more often than not, poor soil conditions. Habitat would like an MG to be a "go to" person for a year for each home they volunteer for.

### **Other New Business**

The Board has started to work on the Operating Procedures of the Association. These procedures can be found on the website. Any input is welcome.

Mary also reminded everyone to call Jean Reed with updates for the Website

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – March 3, 2009**

**NEXT BUSINESS MEETING – March 10, 2009**

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 pm

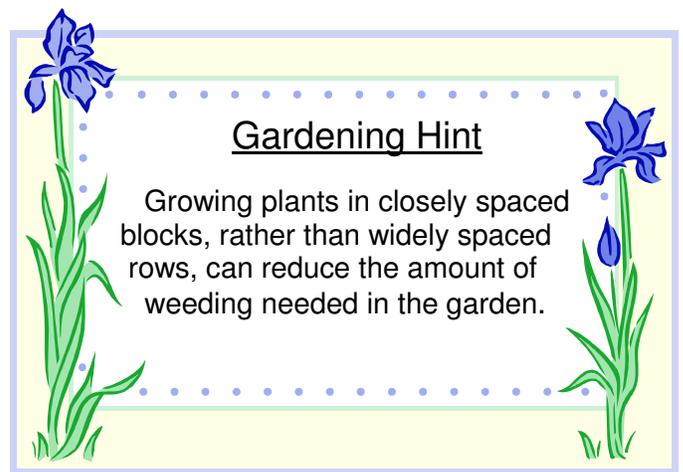
Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Baeten

### **Answer: What AM I?**

I am an erect, perennial forb/herb- Taxon: **Allium tricoccum Sol.**; common name: wild leek, ramp, spring onion



References: <http://www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/> and associated links



## UW-Ext Plant Health Advisor (PHA) Report – Calendar Year 2008

By Curtis Reese, Chairperson for Plant Health Advisors

This was our third year of answering inquiries at the office and at outreach events. A total of 293 inquiries were handled at the office vs. 272 in 2007. Inquiries at the Farm Market, Garden Show, Fair, and other events were not recorded and thus not included in the PHA numbers.

Contacts were 272, 34, and 13 by phone, walk-ins, and email respectively. Contacts from April thru October were 19, 49, 45, 60, 53, 32, and 19. The other months there were a total of 14 calls.

The following data concerns the percent a subject was raised based on the total number of contacts. Most of the contacts involved more than one subject so the percents add up to much greater than 100%. Trees and insects were each discussed about 1/3 of the time. Shrubs, fruits, and disease were talked about in 10 – 15% of the inquiries. There were 5 cases where we failed to provide information to an initial contact. This was the result of people failing to return calls or of us not able to get through to the provided phone number.

We often offered to send samples to Madison for analysis but only three agreed to pay the fee which is around \$25. Several other inquiries were emailed to Madison, to which all were replied.

A total of 159.25 hours were devoted to answering questions not including Nick's time or the assistance of the other paid people in the office. They are all very helpful. A special thanks to Nick who handled nearly 1/2 of the inquiries.

We'll be back at it again starting in April. I hope that there are enough PHA's so during the busy 4 months that 2 days a week in the office can be scheduled. Keep in mind that if you can't make the office during the day, you can still participate by answering calls from home in the evening or on weekends. Nick has said that he'd be happy to allow work after hours as well if arranged ahead of time.

## **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Home and Garden Show 2009**

Tri County Arena  
700 E. Shady Ln.  
Neenah, WI 54956

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> "2009

WCMGA will have a booth at the show with Master Gardeners available to the public to field questions, concerns, direct to references, info, etc.

Reminders to our volunteers will be sent out two weeks prior to the show. Please remember to wear your WCMGA name tag as this also gives you admittance to the show.

Anyone who would be willing to share pictures taken at events, projects, etc. over this past year please contact one of the co-chairs or bring them to our March meeting. We would like to include these in our display.

This show ushers in all of our desires to actively garden again...smiles!

Any questions or concerns please contact:  
Cindy Meszaros 233-3550  
Joni Pagel 233-6619



### **Would you like to be a Paine's docent?**

Interested in learning more about the Paine's gardens, sharing your knowledge and love of gardening and plants? The Paine invites you to become a garden docent. Docents serve as volunteer ambassadors for the organization, lead tours for visitors of all ages, and answer questions about the gardens that surround the Paine mansion.

Garden docent training begins in April. To learn more about this vital volunteer program at the Paine, please call the Volunteer Coordinator at (920) 235-6903 ext. 40. The Paine is located at 1410 Algoma Blvd. in Oshkosh.

## Herb of the year: bay laurel

The International Herb Association has designated bay laurel as its 2009 Herb of the Year. Do you have a dusty 10-year-old jar of bay leaves in your spice cabinet? This is bay laurel, or *Laurus nobilis*.

The Latin *laurus* means “laurel” and *nobilis* means “renowned.” The word laureate comes from *laurus* and means “crowned with laurels.” The phrase “poet laureate” and the term “baccalaureate” come from this word. For early Romans, bay leaves were a symbol of wisdom and glory, and a wreath of bay leaves became a mark of excellence for both athletes and poets.

The International Herb Association sees more in bay than early Roman history or the sharp leaf you fish out of your soup before it’s eaten. In order to be designated Herb of the Year, an herb must be outstanding in at least two of three major categories: medicinal, culinary or decorative. It turns out that bay is outstanding in all three categories.

Bay cannot survive our Wisconsin winters so it must be grown in containers. It can stay indoors year round in an east or south window, or be taken outdoors for the summer and placed in full to partial sun. Container soil should be kept evenly moist but not overly wet. Fertilize every four to six weeks during spring and summer.

Bay laurel grows naturally as a shrub, but many people like to train their plants into a traditional lollipop shape. This is done by choosing a straight stem when the plant is very young and clipping other stems off at the soil line. Place a support rod into the soil right next to the stem and tie the stem to it with twist ties or raffia. Check the ties monthly to make sure they aren’t too tight on the stem.

Cut off any side shoots until the main stem is as tall as you want the tree to grow. At that time, clip the top of the main stem. This stops its growth and causes the side shoots to begin to grow. Continue to cut off lower shoots, but let the upper ones grow. Trim them into a ball shape. This trimming encourages branching which will fill out the ball.

Bay leaves can be cut for use any time. In addition to soups, they can be added to stews, marinades, sauces and pickling brines. Add a rubbed bay leaf to the water when cooking rice, beans, lentils or any other grain, and in spiced fruit punches.

Bay leaves can be used fresh or dried in flower arrangements and wreaths.

Place a handful of leaves in boiling water, let it steep and add it to the bath or use it as a skin lotion to soothe the skin.

Bay has a reputation as an insect repellent. Place a leaf in flour or grain canisters to repel those creepy crawlies that sometimes get in there.

*Lawanda Jungwirth is a Winnebago County Master Gardener. E-mail her at [ljungwirth@new.rr.com](mailto:ljungwirth@new.rr.com)*

## A Weed to Watch Out For: Spotted Knapweed

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Like many invasive plants, spotted knapweed looks similar to a familiar garden flower. In this case, it’s the bachelor button.



Spotted knapweed is a wiry perennial plant with pretty pinkish or lavender flowers that fade to white during seed development. The plant blooms from late June through September, with individual flowers blooming for two to six days each. The “spotted” part of the name comes from barely noticeable black spots on the small leaves, or bracts, at the base of each flower.

In its first year, knapweed produces a low rosette of leaves tight to the ground. For the next two to nine years, it grows 2 – 4 feet tall. Each mature plant can produce more than 1,000 seeds each year and they can remain viable in the soil for five years or more.

Spotted knapweed is native to Eurasia and was probably introduced to the U.S. in the 1890s as a contaminant in alfalfa or hayseed. In recent years, it has spread rapidly throughout the upper Midwest.

The reason for concern is that the roots of knapweed release a toxin into the soil which hinders or prevents the growth of other plants, including valuable natives. A second concern is that as knapweed populations rise and other plants are excluded, runoff and sedimentation increase because the water holding capacity of the soil decreases as knapweed taproots replace the interconnected network of native plant root systems.

Knapweed prefers spots that have been tilled and then left undisturbed. It might sneak into your perennial bed, shrub border or fence row. Another place you might find it is on the edges of gravel driveways, pathways, or trails. It spreads quickly in well-drained, light-textured soil in full sun or part shade.

The best control is to identify it and pull it up right away, making sure that you get all the roots, so this is best done while the soil is moist. Flowering plants should be bagged and removed from the area and burned or land filled to make sure the seeds do not mature.

There has been some success with annual burns, but the intensity of the burn must be very hot, which can damage native plants. Mowing at the start of flowering helps to limit seed production, but mowing any later spreads viable seeds. Tilling will kill the current knapweed population but new plants will emerge from the seed bank, requiring repeated tilling.

There are a few possible chemical controls but they all have limited success, or they should not be used on just the type of soil in which spotted knapweed grows. There are twelve different insects being tested as biological controls. The tests began as early as 1970 and have continued through the present day. There has been some success in this area.

**CAUTION:** Some people develop skin irritation or inflammation from knapweed exposure so wear gloves, long sleeves and pants while handling the plants. There have been rumors that touching spotted knapweed causes skin cancer. The rumors have not been substantiated, but to be safe, avoid skin contact.

## Planning a new flowerbed in the shade

My dairy farmer neighbors sold their herd last June and have turned their attention to landscaping their farmyard. A year ago they hired a landscaping company who at great expense installed a small pond, put some plantings around it, planted a mislabeled tree, and then went out of business.

I've been asked to revive and replant the area. Many of the landscaper-installed perennials have died and weeds have taken over the bed.

Here's the problem: the area is almost entirely in the shade all day long and I am admittedly weak in knowledge of shade gardening. Hosta, violets and lily-of-the-valley are the plants that come immediately to mind and two of those have a tendency to get out of control. The third, hosta, is not a favorite of my farmer friends.

At the library I checked out every shade gardening book on the shelves. The internet is also a good resource, but I prefer books. I quickly paged through the books and chose the two best, based on good photos and growing information.

I went through the chosen books more slowly, keeping in mind that the homeowners like the colors pink, blue, lavender and white, and made a list of all the possibilities for their garden. I immediately eliminated anything that wasn't hardy in our area.

Some of the things I had to keep in mind were: 1) the pond – it is the focal point and the plants around it should look natural, be low enough so the pond can be seen, and draw the eye to the pond 2) the tree – plants grown under the tree need shallow roots so they are not competing with the tree roots. Also, tall plants won't look good in this bed with the tree nearby. 3) the location – the flowerbed is in the middle of the front yard and is viewed from all directions. Taller plants will need to be in the middle with progressively lower plants toward the edges. 4) the plants already in place – the homeowner likes these, so we'll get more of the same. Some may need to be moved. 5) deer – always a problem. The whole list had to be cross-checked with lists of plants deer like and dislike.

If the flowerbed was in my own yard, I would have spent several days or weeks just looking at the area to be planted, turning various options over in my mind before making any decisions. Since this flowerbed is a couple miles away, I have to rely on photos I took last fall.

Though I have photos and measurements, there is nothing like looking at the real thing. As soon as snow melts, I'll take my books and my lists to talk with the homeowner and make a tentative planting design plan. The final decisions on what to plant will of course be determined by which of the listed plants can be found locally or through mail order.

*Lawanda Jungwirth is a Winnebago County Master Gardener. E-mail her at [ljungwirth@new.rr.com](mailto:ljungwirth@new.rr.com)*

## PRUNING SEMINAR – OSHKOSH

Please join us for the "Pruning of Ornamental Shrubs Workshop" being held on Saturday, March 14 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh. The workshop, taught by Master Gardener Volunteers Audrey Ruedinger, Diane Iott and Roy Anne Moulton, will cover pruning basics, rejuvenation pruning, pruning of hydrangeas and sub shrubs. Near the end of the workshop we will go outdoors for "hands on" pruning to practice the techniques discussed. Pruning tools not required, but will be helpful.

**TO REGISTER:** call Audrey Ruedinger at 920-231-5745. The \$10 fee may be paid at the door on the morning of the workshop.

## PRUNING AND APPLE GRAFTING WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY

People with home orchards or fresh market businesses can learn the basics of fruit tree and bramble management during two separate workshops offered in Winnebago County on Monday, March 16th. The apple and raspberry pruning demonstration will take place from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the residence of Master Gardener Volunteer David Leonard, 5026 Grandview Rd. Larsen. An apple grafting class will follow at the James P. Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Both classes are hands-on so bring your leather gloves, pruning shears or saw and a sharp knife (utility or grafting) if you wish to partake in the on-site activities.



**Pruning Class:** Are your fruit trees and raspberries starting to look like a jungle? Have you ever wanted to learn how to manage your fruit producing plants and maintain their productivity? Pruning is necessary to keep fruit crop plants as healthy and productive as they can be, and this session will give you the information you need to do the job right. Participants will see hands-on examples of apple trees and other crops in the un-pruned state and learn how to make pruning cuts correctly to get the best performance from those crops.

**Grafting Class:** The grafting process can be used to introduce unique plant characteristics onto rooted plants. Several different procedures for successful grafting will be reviewed during the workshop according to Robert Tomesh, UW-Extension Horticulture Specialist, who will be conducting the workshop. Each participant will receive three hardy apple rootstocks. Apple scionwood from different varieties will be available for grafting or participants can bring their own scionwood. Rootstocks for grafting pears and plums will also be available at the program.

**For those wishing to collect their own scion wood for grafting purposes:** The best time to collect scion wood for grafting is early spring (February and March) while trees are dormant. Scion wood is the twig or branch from last years growth containing buds which developed last growing season. Buds from one year old water sprouts about 1/4 to 3/8 inch in diameter (pencil diameter in size) and found growing off the trunk and main branches. These have the best vigor. To keep the scions in a dormant condition after collecting and until needed, store them in moistened newspaper, wrapped in a plastic bag and stored in a refrigerator at 35 to 39 degrees. Remove any other fruit or vegetables from the refrigerator prior to scion storage as these can impact the viability of the scion.

**Registration:** These workshops are open to the general public. **The pruning workshop is free. A \$10 participant fee is charged to cover materials for the grafting workshop.** Enrollment for the grafting workshop is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, contact Winnebago County UW-Extension at 920-232-1971. Enrollments will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

**Directions:** The pruning workshop is 15 minutes from Oshkosh or Appleton. Travel on Highway 45 to one mile south of the Winchester exit. Turn east on Grandview Road for approximately 3/4 mile. The grafting workshop is at the James P. Coughlin Center on County Y just east of the Sunnyview Exposition Center.



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The Northeastern Wisconsin Orchid Society is proud to present:



March 14th and 15th  
2009



- General Admission \$5, children under 12 free.
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- View Orchid Exhibits
- Educational Presentations
- Enter the Raffle
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**Join**

**Outagamie County Master Gardeners Bus Trip  
Thursday, June 18, 2009**

**Chicago Botanical Gardens ([www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org))  
and  
Milaeger's Nursery ([www.milaegers.com](http://www.milaegers.com))**

Depart: U-W Extension, 3365 West Brewster St., Appleton, WI at 6:30am.

Second Pick-up Point: U-W Extension, 625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh, WI at 7:00a.m.

Estimated Return Time: Between 6:00pm and 7:00pm (Depending on traffic)

The bus is an air-conditioned Kobussen coach with comfortable seats and bathroom.

Stop 1: Chicago Botanic Garden. The Garden continues to strive to meet the lofty goals set more than a century ago. The Chicago Botanic Garden, with its world-renowned plant collections and displays, is one of the country's most visited public gardens and a preeminent center for learning and scientific research. The 385-acre Garden features 23 display gardens and three native habitats, uniquely situated on nine islands surrounded by lakes.

Stop 2: Milaeger's Nursery. Milaeger's Racine location has over 90 greenhouses which are open to the public. They grow over 42,000 flats of annuals; 12,000 hanging baskets; and close to 1,000 varieties of perennials. Meg will have catalogs at monthly meeting for people signed up for the trip. Milaeger's also has Tacos and Margaritas in their cafe on Thursdays.

The cost is \$33 per person, which includes bus fare and admission to garden. Bring your own lunch or meals are available at a number of restaurants at the Chicago Botanic Garden grounds. Please see their web site for options.

Please send checks payable to "Outagamie County Master Gardeners" by June 1, 2009 to reserve your seat to:

Meg Hunsader  
3161 Winnegamie Dr.  
Appleton, WI 54914

A post card with confirmation of payment will be sent to you. You are welcome to bring a guest.

# A GARDEN IS A LINK TO THE PASSING SEASONS.

Sheryl London



2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> 6:00 pm	4	5	6	7 Outagamie Cty. MG event
8 Daylight savings time begins 	9	10 <b>BUSINESS MEETING</b> 6:15 pm	11	12	13	14 Pruning Workshop  Waushara MG event  Orchid Luau
15 Orchid Luau	16	17 	18	19	20 <b>IT'S SPRING</b> 	21 Community Garden talk @ Outagamie Cty Extension Office 10 - 11:30  Day in the Garden
22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>HOME</b>	28 <b>AND</b>
29 <b>GARDEN SHOW</b>	30	31				<b>April 4</b> Container Gardening by Ruth Freye at Outagamie Ext. Office 10-11:30

**USE THIS CALENDAR TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR HOURS**