



Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

March 2022

Mission Statement

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

***“March,
when days are getting
long, Let thy growing
hours be strong to set
right some wintry
wrong.”***

-Caroline May



What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a spreading perennial, native to the deciduous and coniferous forests of North America and can be used as a ground cover. I am 4-8 inches tall, growing flat and creeping, and spread rapidly by underground root runners. My leaves are elongated, opposite and arranged in dense whorls at the shoot ends. In autumn they turn a bright red color. My flowers appear from the end of May to the end of June and consist of small greenish heads, each surrounded by four bright white bracts. In fall I form bright red berry-like drupes, a nice contrast to the green foliage. I prefer moist, acidic soil, cool summers and part or full shade. I am hardy in zones 2-7.

Propagation is by division in spring or summer or by sowing seeds in autumn. I can be used in flower beds, ground cover, underplantings, borders, rhododendron gardens, and forest gardens. I am bee and insect friendly. My berries are a food staple for many species of wild birds and other wildlife. I attract butterflies and am both a rabbit-proof flower and deer resistant perennial.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

President (Nominations Accepted)

Ed Dombrowski (4.30.22)

Vice President

Kathy Procknow/Deb Butch (12.31.22)

Secretary

Open

Treasurer (Nominations Accepted)

Open

Board Representatives (3 positions Nominations Accepted)

Ruth Retzlaff (12.31.22)

Sandra Gollhofer (4.30.22)

Advisor

Open

Newsletter Team

Anne Murphy

Kim Willman

Jane Kuhn

Lawanda Jungwirth



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

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

Follow us on Facebook  at [WCMGVA](https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA).
<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>

Sometimes Native Plants Overstep Their Bounds

By Lawanda Jungwirth

There are many places to find comprehensive lists of both native and invasive Wisconsin plants. Ideally, plants would stay put on their own lists and not cross over. However, every gardener knows that plants don't always behave the way we hope and expect they will. Given the right conditions, once in a while some of the plants on the "native" lists have a tendency to become a bit out of control.

For the most part, native plants that misbehave do so because the area has been disturbed in some way, resulting in a lack of native plant diversity. These disturbances can include removal of vegetation, suppression of fire, changing water levels, or increased runoff and erosion. In other words: interference by humans. Left alone, a healthy natural area will have enough diversity of native plants to keep would-be aggressive natives under control.

Below is a list of some of the overly-aggressive native plants that may attempt to dominate a landscape if given the opportunity. If you already have these on your property or you are considering adding them to your landscape, you really should peruse the lists of native Wisconsin plants and choose as many other natives as you can fit or afford to keep the opportunists in line. As always, remember to choose plants that will thrive in the light, soil type and moisture conditions that your landscape offers.

Please note that the native plants listed below all provide benefits to wildlife and the goal is not to eradicate them. It is merely to keep them in line by controlling them with a mix of other native plants.

Native Plants That Can Become Aggressive

Box Elder – *Acer negundo*
Honey Locust – *Gleditsia triancanthos*
Aspen, Poplar, Popple – *Populus grandidentata*, *P. tremuloides*
Gray or Panicked Dogwood – *Cornus racemose*
Redosier or Red Twig Dogwood – *C. stolonifera*, *C. sericea*
Smooth Sumac – *Rhus glabra*
Staghorn Sumac – *R. typhina*, *R. hirta*
Currant/Gooseberries – *Ribes* spp.
Raspberries/Blackberries – *Rubus* spp.
Northern Prickly Ash – *Zanthoxylum Americanum*
Virginia Creeper – *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
Wild Grapes – *Vitus* spp.
Common Ragweed – *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*
Giant Ragweed – *A. trifida*
Yellow Nutsedge – *Cyperus esculentus*

Field Horsetail – Equisetum arvense
White Snakeroot – Eupatorium rugosum
Pale-leaved Woodland Sunflower – Helianthus strumosus
Jerusalem Artichoke – Helianthus tuberosus
Virginia Waterleaf – Hydrophyllum virginianum
Wood Nettle – Laportea canadensis
Bracken Fern, Western Bracken Fern – Pteridium aquilinum
Cut-Leaved or Green-Headed Coneflower – Rudbeckia laciniata
Cupplant – Silphium perfoliatum
Canada Goldenrod – Solidago canadensis
Tall Goldenrod – S. gigantea
Stinging Nettle – Urtica dioica

Here are some resources where you can learn more about both native and invasive plants:

NATIVES

www.wildones.org

www.wildflower.org

The Midwest Native Garden by Charlotte Adelman & Bernard L. Schwartz

Landscaping With Native Plants of Wisconsin by Lynn M. Steiner

Landscaping With Native Trees by Guy Sternberg & Jim Wilson

Gardening With Prairie Plants by Sally Wasowski

INVASIVES

www.ipaw.org

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/invasives/classification.html>

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn>

Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest by Elizabeth Czarapata

WOOHOO!

Two of our MG members have been awarded the Honored Status, by the UW-Extension Master Gardener Program. Both of these Master Gardeners have contributed over 1000 hours and more than 10 years to our Winnebago County Master Gardener program. We extend warmest congratulations to:

Bob Potter, who became a member in 2006

Lawanda Jungwirth, who became a member in 1994

Mary Jane Ginke

Submitted by Linda Werner

Mary Jane Ginke, a long-time Winnebago County Master Gardener, passed away on January 24th at the age of 103. Mary Jane was a very active member who earned the Golden Trowel Award in 2004 and was honored as an Emeritus member when we had that designation. There were no funeral services. Instead, "Mary requested her family and friends get outside and enjoy a summer day in her honor." What a wonderful way to remember an individual who contributed so much!

Get Onboard for Spring! *By Linda Werner*

Like many of you, I dragged my feet on completing Onboarding Lite (OBL), but recently bit the bullet and did it. I have to say, it was some of the easiest five hours of continuing education I ever earned. If you have been a Master Gardener for a few years, you probably can complete it in about half the time. There is new information, but the quizzes are very short and easy and you can repeat them until you get it right. If you haven't done Onboarding Lite, I encourage you to just do it so you are ready to volunteer in your favorite garden when the weather warms! Onboarding Lite, as well as signing-off on the Terms and Conditions, is required before any hours can be recorded. If you are struggling to navigate the NetID process so you can do all this, or any other part of using the new computer systems, please contact Valerie Stabenow, She will be happy to guide you through.





WINTER GRACE

Patricia Fagnoli

Submitted by Linda Loker

If you have seen the snow
under the lamppost
piled up like a white beaver hat on the picnic table
or somewhere slowly falling
into the brook
to be swallowed by water,
then you have seen beauty
and known for its transience.

And if you have gone out in the snow
for only the pleasure
of walking barely protected
from the galaxies,
the flakes settling on your parka
like the dust from just-born stars,
the cold waking you
as if from long sleeping,
then you can understand
how, more than not,
truth is found in silence,
how the natural world comes to you
if you go out to meet it,
its icy ditches filled with dead weeds,
its vacant birdhouses, and dens
full of the sleeping.

But this is the slowed down season
held fast by darkness
and if no one comes to keep you company
then keep watch over your own solitude.
In that stillness, you will learn
with your whole body
the significance of the cold
and the night,
which is otherwise always eluding you.

WCMGA Scholarship

By Jane Kuhn

The WCMGA is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a current high school senior who resides in Winnebago County. The applicant must be planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution to pursue a program related to the following areas of study:

- Horticulture
- Landscaping
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Agronomy
- Arborist
- Conservation
- Natural Resources
- or other areas approved by the Scholarship Committee and the Board.

The scholarship recipient will be based on a completed application including a typed essay and letters of recommendation.

Applications are available from counselors at high schools where Winnebago County students attend and on the WCMGA web page and Facebook page. The deadline for applying is March 19, 2022. The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient in May.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am creeping dogwood. Order: Cornales. Family: Cornaceae – Dogwood family. Genus: Cornus L. – dogwood. Species: Cornus canadensis L – bunchberry dogwood. Other names: Canadian dwarf cornel, Canadian bunchberry, quatre, crackerberry. The genus “cornus” is Latin for a horn. The fruits can be eaten and have a slightly sweet flavor. They can be added to breakfast cereals and, being high in pectin, can be used for making jams, pies and puddings.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

COVID-Approved Projects Open for Volunteers

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

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

Please see the [2021 Winnebago County Master Gardener Guide](#) and contact the Project Lead for more information.

March Gardening Tips

University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Cold weather and wet soil usually stop gardeners from digging in the ground during the month of March. However, there are many other activities that satisfy the urges to start planting and other tasks that will result in a more beautiful yard once warm weather arrives. Timing and proper techniques are important for many late winter and early spring jobs.

Weekly Tips

Week 1 Plan your vegetable and flower gardens. Seed catalogs, U of M Extension Website: extension.umn.edu or the Andersen Horticultural Library at the Landscape Arboretum are great places for information.

Week 2. Purchase a shamrock (oxalis) plant at your local florist or garden center to provide a living, green, St. Patrick's Day decoration.

Week 3 Cut some branches from forsythia, flowering plums or other spring blooming plants and place in containers of warm water. Soon flowers will pop open and brighten your home before

spring arrives.

Week 4 Move pot-bound houseplants into bigger pots. Use new potting soil and water well. Fertilize all interior plants with a soluble fertilizer mixed at ½ strength.

Week 5 Clean-up and sharpen garden tools and inventory supplies you will need for the upcoming growing season.

Garden Maintenance

Pick a nice day and go outside and turn the compost pile. This will give you some exercise and get the compost “cooking” again.

March is the best month to prune flowering crabapples, oaks, mountain ash, honey locust and other trees and shrubs that are susceptible to diseases if pruned during warm weather. Remove broken, rubbing and crowded branches, and double leaders, and always make a clean cut just past the swollen branch collar. No tree wound dressing is needed.

Fruit trees and grapevines should also be pruned this month. Apples and other fruit will be larger and have better flavor if the trees have been pruned so each branch has good exposure to sunlight and is well spaced up and down and around a central trunk. Grapes will overproduce and have small berries unless the vines are pruned every year.

Older flowering shrubs that have grown too tall and are not blooming well can be rejuvenated by using “chainsaw pruning,” This involves cutting the whole plant down to within 3”-4” of the ground. It is amazing how fast shrubs will grow back following this severe pruning and they will have much better form and flowers in coming years.

What to Plant

1. Sow onion seeds indoors and provide good light for the seedlings as they emerge. Onions grown from seed and planted outdoors in May will produce the best bulbs and they will store better than ones started from onion sets.
2. Annual flowers including ageratum, impatiens, dwarf marigold and petunias may also be started indoors in March. Use a sterile seed starting mix, supplemental light and bottom heat for best results. Keep the lights close to the young seedlings and transplant to larger containers as the plants grow.
3. Plant dahlia, tuberous begonia and caladium bulbs in pots or flats using a soil mix containing slow release fertilizer. You will have good size plants that are perfect for use in mixed containers, hanging baskets or flower gardens in May.

Continuing Education Opportunities

By Linda Werner

University of Illinois-Extension

- **Shade Gardening**, Tuesday, March 8, 1:30 p.m. Free. Learn how to increase color and add interest in your shade garden with perennials. Presented by Horticulture Educator Andrew Holsiger. Register at:
<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=24809>

UW-Arboretum Winter Enrichment Virtual Seminars

- Additional information and registration for all programs is at:
- <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/winter-enrichment-registration/>
- Cost: \$10 each
- **March 17 Water Advocacy in Wisconsin: Watershed and Statewide Approaches.** Allison Madison, sustainability and development coordinator, Wisconsin Salt Wise, and Alli Wenman, WATER Project outreach coordinator, UW–Madison Arboretum. The Arboretum’s Water Action to Encourage Responsibility (WATER) Project and the Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership work to address water quality issues at watershed and statewide scales. The WATER Project supports local nonprofits with grants, training, and outreach materials to implement stormwater initiatives. Wisconsin Salt Wise began as a local coalition in Dane County and now works statewide to reduce salt pollution into lakes, streams, and drinking water by providing training and promoting best practices. Learn about their work and how you can be a freshwater advocate. Register by March 13.
- **April 7 Anticipating the Hydrologic Consequences of Emerald Ash Borer Invasion in Tribal Forested Wetlands through a Sapflux Network.** Angela Waupoichick, PhD student, UW–Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Tribal communities maintain significant landholdings, including black ash–dominated forested wetlands. These systems have not been a priority for management, but anticipated mortality induced by emerald ash borer has prompted tribal managers to seek strategies and prioritize areas for mitigation. Register by April 3

Outagamie County Master Gardener Association Garden Conference

- Saturday, March 26, 8:30-3:30
- Grand Meridian, Appleton
- Cost: \$45 (includes lunch)
- Presentations on "Reimagining Your Space with Natives" by Sue Forbes and "10 Mistakes I've Made in My Garden, Design Inspiration for a Creative Vegetable Garden" by Megan Cain are eligible for Master Gardener Continuing Education. The other two topics are not. For more information, go to: www.ocmga.net

Please be aware of these Program Changes:

If you have problems accessing Canvas or with your Net ID, or if you have questions, please contact Valerie Stabenow, 920.582.4292 or email her at hlub34a@att.net

Announcements

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

 What Counts [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 4]

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

 Legal Stuff [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 6]

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

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

WCMGA Projects

Check your Member Guide for contact information.

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

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

March 2022

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

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