



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

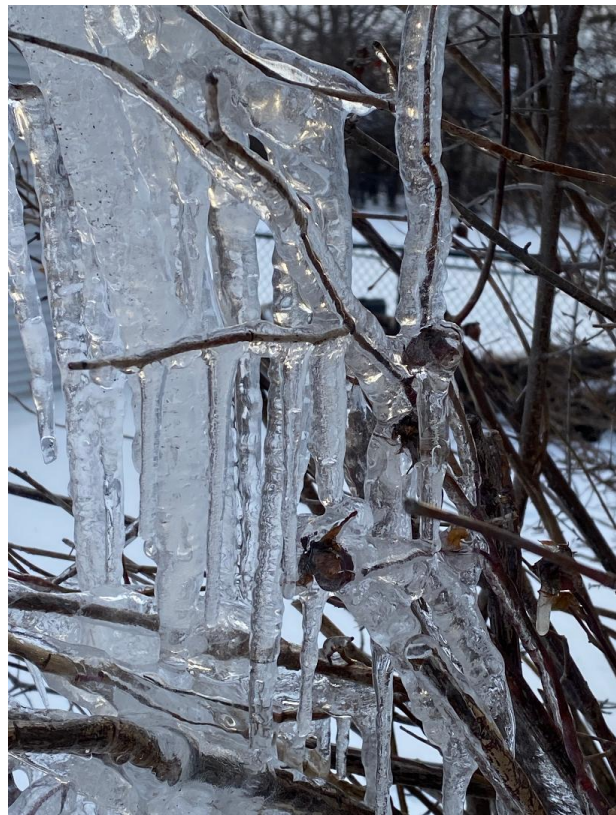
March 2023

Mission Statement

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

***"Blossom by
Blossom the
Spring Begins."***

-Algernon Charles Swinburne



Icicle Art. Submitted by Kim Willman

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am popular with gardeners because, as one of the first flowers to bloom in spring, it signals the end of winter. I am a hardy perennial with flowers that are delicate and cup-shaped in shades of yellow, white, purple and lavender, with many bi-colored. My buds have an inverted tear-drop shape formed by six petals in two whorls of three. The outer whorls' petals are slightly larger than the inner whorls. I have grassy leaves that usually have a white stripe along the center which is due to some cells having no chlorophyll. I grow two to six inches tall with a spread of three to six inches.

I grow from corms which are short, compressed stems similar to bulbs. Corms are more flattened and have eyes, or buds, at the top from which shoots emerge. Each year a new corm forms on the top of the old one, and tiny corms, called cormels, form around its base. Each corm produces from one to five blooms. When planted in proper conditions most self-sow and produce plentiful offsets. I should be planted in full sun to partial shade, prefer well-drained soil and have good drought tolerance. My spring-blooming varieties should be planted in fall and fall-blooming in late summer or early fall.

I can be used in various ways including flower gardens, naturalizing and forcing. I am beautiful planted in drifts in flower beds or allowed to naturalize in lawns. Because I like well-drained soil, I work well in rock and wall gardens. Enjoy my flowers soon as I often emerge long before the danger of snow and freezing weather has passed.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Advisory Team: Linda Loker, Kathy Schultz, Ruth Retzlaff

Secretary: Jean Reed, Anne Murphy

Treasurer: Deb Voyles

Communications Team

Website: Jean Reed

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

Partner Liaison: Deb Butch

WIMGA Rep: Kathy Procknow

Education Team: Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner

Meeting Teams

DECEMBER: Susan Forbes, Sandra Dennis, Mary Wiedenmeier

MARCH: Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Kathy Daniels

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

SEPTEMBER: Mary Bossert, Jenny Breinin, Lil Hansche

Advisor: Madisen Potratz



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

by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. 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>



From your Advisory Team

"March is a month of expectation" Emily Dickinson



Don't you always feel that when we get to March that we have made it through the harshest of winter? And then that spring snow storm comes to dash our hopes. Well, even if we do get late spring snow, we know our little plants are going to carry on.

Good news! We have 45 members strong in our association, and things are happening. We will have our business meeting on Tuesday, March 14th, and will have speaker (live) Paul Whitaker presenting "Your climate change and Impacts on Gardening in Wisconsin". Hope to see you that evening at the Coughlin Center.

Check out the many other education opportunities listed in this newsletter that are available in the next few weeks.

The Advisory team met February 7th and had a productive meeting. One of the most exciting things is that we are insured for having a booth at the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. The Farmer's Market would really like our presence there, so we will discuss how we can make this happen at the Business meeting on March 14th.

Congratulations to Valerie Stabenow who is the 2023 Golden Trowel awardee. Valerie has volunteer in many roles with our association, but it has been her past few years of tirelessly helping connect members with the on line systems and keeping a line of communication with the state office that exemplifies how Valerie lives the spirit of the Golden Trowel.

The Directors (Linda, Ruth and Kathy) attended a Zoom WIMGA Association Presidents meeting. This meeting allowed all the county associations to discuss the changes that have come from the state, how it has impacted the associations, and idea sharing on how to work through the challenges of loss of membership and difficult communication with the state office.

It was good to hear that we are not the only group that is facing these challenges. We are also very fortunate to have Madisen Potratz as our advisor - she has been very instrumental in getting information and answers to help us do things like the Farmers Market. Thanks for your support Madisen.

Finally, you will notice on any emails coming out that there will be a reminder that we need you to consider taking one of the Association roles that will be coming up in October. Please consider volunteering for one of the roles. We can assure you the roles have changed and are not as time consuming as before, and we have fun together!

Looking forward to spring and seeing all of you at upcoming events!

Ruth, Linda, Kathy

Reorganization Plan Proposal for October 1, 2022- December 31, 2023

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

Education Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 members • Meet as needed 	Responsibilities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CE for membership meetings or stand-alone CE for members 2. Monitor CE opportunities for posting on Facebook and in newsletter 3. Coordinate with Meeting and Advisory Teams 4. Develop ideas for community education 5. All expenses pay as you go
Officers	
Secretary <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Takes minutes at all meetings of the Advisory Committee and general membership business meetings 2. Posts Advisory Team minutes on the website and business meeting minutes in the newsletter 	Treasurer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintains financial records in Excel 2. Pays expenses via check 3. Reports to the Advisory Team and membership at business meetings 4. Manages cash flow with approval of the Advisory Team (can be done via email) 5. Prepares simple budget of known expenses
Goals of Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize social functions • Spread the work • Simplify • Fewer meetings • Encourage/individual initiative • Make MG fun again 	<i>Notes: Roundtable Meeting/CE/Social Suggestions Presentation from WIMGA on its purpose/plans/offerings</i> <i>Apply for WIMGA grants for programs as needed</i> <i>Hands-on learning (park or garden tours, weed ID walk, partner organizations present or offer tours of facilities gardens, members offer programs/presentations)</i>



WE NEED YOU!

Think about volunteering for one of the Advisory positions that will be open next Fall. You can get an idea from the current group and learn the ropes. It's really quite painless and we can continue to move forward with our Association! THANK YOU!

Continuing Education Opportunities

Olbrich Gardens Webinars

Attracting Bees and Beneficial Insects with Native Plants, by biologist Heather Holm. Thursday, April 27, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost \$15 non-members. Register at:

<https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/attracting-bees-and-beneficial-insects-with-native-plants-zoom-webinar/2949094>

Resilient In Nature at Olbrich Gardens, by Olbrich Hort staff. Thursday, May 25, 7-8:30 p.m. Cost \$15 non-members. Register at:

<https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/resilient-in-nature-at-olbrich-gardens/2949095>

SEWISC

2023 Spring Invasive Plant Management Workshop at Ellwood H. May Environmental Park, Sheboygan. Saturday, June 3, 2023, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost \$60. Registration opens May 1st at: <https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop> Limited to 20 participants.

2023 Fall Invasive Plant Management Workshop at the Kenosha County Center, Bristol, WI. Saturday, September 9, 2023, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost \$60. Registration opens August 6th at: <https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop> Limited to 20 participants.

Outagamie County Master Gardener Association and the Kimberly Public Library (For more information go to: <https://www.ocmga.net/education-events/> Registration is not yet open for all presentations)

Seed Starting Workshop, live presentation by Peg Ebben and Tom Wentzel. Monday March 27, 7 p.m. Free.

Peonies, webinar with Michelle Ovans of the Wisconsin Peony society and the owner of Ovans Peony Farm. Monday, April 10, 7 p.m. Free.

Perennials, webinar with Kathy Baum, Monday, April 24, 7 p.m. Free.

Columbia County Master Gardener Association "Let's Get Green & Growing" Conference, Saturday, March 25, 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., Rio High School. Keynote and numerous breakout sessions. All sessions will count for MG continuing education except F, G & W. Cost \$20 in advance, \$30 at the door. Registration closes March 13. Full schedule and registration form at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lets-get-green-growing-2023-registration-503368608057>

Learn the Basics of How & When to Prune Shrubs, Wednesday, March 1, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more information and to register go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qXlrhwBBQfGNSi-gqnNHYQ

Grow Your Own Flowers for Bouquets, Containers and Gardens, Wednesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more information and to register go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_89d9nUQ-R5uBYqxCO6aw

Create an Oasis on Deck, Patio or Balcony, Wednesday, March 15, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more information and to register go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FO9HbFXTSPmY3YnT4-e25Q

Planning, Planting and Caring for Your Rain Garden, Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more information and to register go to:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SCKLaPHBS6i5xKPzgzhH5w

In a Pot You Can Grow a Lot, Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more information and to register go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RVOyPjIIQ7eOzsOp181CZQ

Understanding Gardening Basics to Boost Your Garden Success, Wednesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m. Free. For more information and to register go to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_7IkSmIXcTsKaJnrML9dEFQ



Icicle Art. Submitted by Kim Willman.

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a crocus. Order: asparagales. Family: iridaceae. Common name: crocus. The most commonly grown bloom in spring, but others bloom in fall. The name is derived from the Latin crocatus, meaning saffron yellow. The spice saffron is obtained from the stamens of the *Crocus sativus*, a fall-blooming variety. It should be kept in mind, however, that most varieties of crocus are extremely poisonous.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links



Have a Gardening Question ??

Ask a gardening question year round to Wisconsin Horticulture at UW-Madison Division of Extension. Click on the link:

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question/>, complete the form and attach relevant photographs concerning your garden issue. Your inquiry will be responded to by an Extension staff member or a Master Gardener Volunteer in your area.

Some beautiful icicle art pictures submitted by Kim Willman.





Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

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

<p>Neenah Public Library 240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer 920-886-6315 library@neenahlibrary.org Volunteer policy: https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf Volunteer application: https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf Background check performed by Neenah Public Library Volunteer orientation—30 minutes Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process</p>	<p>Sue Forbes</p> <p>Bette Hoytink</p>
<p>Oshkosh Area Humane Society 1925 Shelter Court, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html Volunteer coordinator: Sarah Stoffregen, 920.424.2128, ext. 116, sarah@oahs.org Liability protection: Contact OAHS</p>	<p>OPEN</p> <p>If interested, contact Deb Butch</p>
<p>Paine Art Center and Gardens 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: Volunteer contact: Annika Holland, aholland@thepaine.org, 920-235-6903 https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/ Volunteer application: https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf Volunteer handbook available Background check performed by The Paine Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage</p>	<p>Ginny Slattery</p> <p>Kathy Gore</p>
<p>UW Madison, Extension Winnebago County 625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh Horticulture Plant Health Advising and other opportunities TBD Volunteer contact: Madisen Potratz, Horticulture Educator, madisen.potratz@wisc.edu, 920.232.1976</p>	<p>Madisen Potratz</p>

Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Society—Morgan House 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 920-267-8007 Volunteer Contact: Greg Bellmer, 920.267.8007 Liability protection: Liability protection is not provided	Kathy Schultz
Winnebago County—Department of Facilities and Property Management (Coughlin Rain Garden) 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: No volunteer process Volunteer Contact: Bob Stephenson, 920.420.6405 Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jill Dombrowski Ed Dombrowski
Winnebago County Master Gardener Association 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Deb Butch
Winnebago County—Park View Health Center (Health Center gardens and Park View Prairie Garden) 725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: Volunteer contact: Tim Laurin, tlaurin@co.winnebago.wi.us, 920-237-6931 liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Health Center Gardens: Donna Kudlas Jane Kuhn Park View Prairie Garden: Carol Swannell Jerry Schaefer
YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities Volunteer application: https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	For more information: Contact Deb Butch

Houses of Worship	
First Presbyterian Church 110 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information Contact Sue Egner	Sue Egner
St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church 830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904 Volunteer Information: Contact Cindy Meszaros Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Cindy Meszaros



Upcoming Dates:

- **March Meeting: March 14, 2023, 6 PM, Coughlin Ctr., Paul Whitaker speaker**
- **Summer Picnic: June 6, Coughlin Center, 5:30 Gathering, 6:00 Dinner More info to come!**
- **September Meeting: Sept. 6, 2023, Coughlin Ctr.**

March 2023						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Business Mtg. 6 PM Coughlin Ctr.	15	16	17 	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

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