



# Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## Newsletter

March 2024

### 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.

*“Daffodils, that come before the swallow dares, and take the winds of March with beauty.”*

*-William Shakespeare*



*Photo by Kim Willman*

## What am I?

**By Jane Kuhn**

I am a low-growing, herbaceous perennial whose bell-shaped blooms precede most of the foliage in spring. One of my best features is early blooming which rivals spring bulbs such as snowdrops. I am 8-10 inches high and 8-10 inches wide with my plant forming a clump that spreads over time. My various cultivars offer lavender, white and reddish-purple flowers while my leaves are grayish-green and lacy. Silk hairs cover not only my leaves but also my stems and buds. My wispy seed heads that succeed the flowers are soft feathery plumes that are attractive in their own right.

I should be planted in full sun to part shade and in a well-drained, sandy soil with an alkaline or neutral pH. Seeds can be scattered or plants can be divided in early fall. With my short stature, clumping growth habit and need for good drainage, I do well in rock gardens. I am also useful for border edging or wildflower meadows. My plant contains a poison which is an irritant when fresh and should not be ingested or applied to the skin. My crushed leaves were applied by Native Americans as a counter-irritant in cases of rheumatism and neuralgia. There is something special about the first blooms that greet us in early spring after a long winter!

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

**Advisory Team:** Kathy Daniels & Sandy Dennis

**Secretary:** Anne Murphy

**Treasurer:** Deby Voyles

### Communications Team

**Website:** Jean Reed

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

**Partner Liaison:** Deb Butch

**WIMGA Rep:** Kathy Procknow

### Education Team

Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner

### Meeting Teams

**DECEMBER:** Sandy Dennis, Linda Loker, Ruth Retzlaff, Kathy Schultz, Deby Voyles

**MARCH:** Deb Butch

**JUNE Picnic:** Sue Egner and Parkview Picnickers

**SEPTEMBER:** Linda Werner, Linda Baeten

**Advisor:**



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 us know by the 15th of each month

by emailing [pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com). Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

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

## *From your Advisory Team*

...and it's March! What an unusual winter, if you could call it that. Mother Nature has everything and everyone so confused! Spring bulbs are poking through, the migrating birds are back, everyone has the itch to get out into the garden. It's a good time to plan, prep and tie up loose ends before we all get into full-blown gardening mode.

If you haven't logged in to Canvas and completed Onboarding Lite, it's a requirement for all and a good thing to get out of the way. Plus, it counts as five 2024 Continuing Ed hours, which you can log once ORS is back on-line. There are plenty of other Continuing Ed opportunities as well - check out the UW Extension Vibe and WIMGA newsletters to see what's available.

The next WCMGA meeting is Tuesday, March 12th, at 6 pm in Room B of the Coughlin Center. Our guest speaker is Chad Muche, Regional Retail Manager & Nursery Purchasing Manager at Stuart's Landscaping & Garden Center. His presentation will be followed by the business meeting. One of the meeting agenda items is the updated WCMGA Guidelines. Proposed Guidelines are included in this newsletter. Please take a minute to review and bring your questions to the meeting. Since this is one of only two actual business meetings scheduled for 2024, we hope you can attend. See you there!

*Kathy Daniels and Sandy Dennis*



## ***From Your Education Team:***

### **UW-Extension**

Plant Diagnostics: The Step-by-Step Approach to Identifying Plant Problems, self-paced online course from Thursday, Feb. 1 through Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Cost: \$49 for Master Gardeners. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events/?trumbaEmbed=eventid%3D170732860%26seotitle%3DPlant-Diagnostics-The-Step-by-Step-Approach-to-Identifying-Plant-Problems-online-course%26view%3Devent%26-childview%3D>

### **University of Illinois Extension**

**Growing Great Vegetables**, 5-week webinar series, Tuesdays, February 27-March 26, 6-7 p.m. Presented by U of Illinois Extension educators. Cost \$10. 1) Where Will You Garden 2) Seed & Plant Choices and Soils and Fertilizers 3) Cool Season Vegetables 4) Warm Season Vegetables 5) Insects and Diseases. Bonus Q&A Session on April 23 For more information or to register, go to:

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/growing-great-vegetables-4>

### **UW-Extension**

**Ask the Experts Monthly Garden & Landscape Q&A**, third Mondays, starting February 19, 1-2 p.m. Register at: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/2024-garden-and-landscape-qa-series/>

### **Wild Ones Fox Valley**

Native Plant Certification class schedule will be available soon at: <https://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/classes/>

### **Outagamie County Master Gardener Association**

**Garden Conference**, Saturday, March 16, 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Bridgewood Conference Center, Neenah. Cost \$50 includes refreshments, buffet lunch, vendors. Topics: **Science-Based Approach to Pruning Trees and Shrubs** with Eamonn Lenagham; **Principles of Planning Design with Perennials** with keynote Ben Futa; **Embracing an Alternative Lawn** Ben Futa; and **Impact and Controls of Invasive Plants** with Mackenzie Manicki. Register online at: [Education/Events – Outagamie County Master Gardener Association](https://www.outagamiecountymastergardener.org/education/events)

**Garden Preparation**, webinar through the Kimberly Public Library, Monday, March 11, 7 p.m. with Tom Wentzel, Outagamie County Master Gardener. Register at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84461212345?pwd=ZlZkd-uvqTwvHNIHhe1S6gaRwZBXmLINhPyP#/registration>

**Melinda Myers Webinars/Registration and Information at:** <https://www.melindamyers.com/>

**Growing Summer Bulbs in Containers**, Friday, March 8, 6:30 p.m. Free

**Hydrangea Selection, Pruning and Care**, Wednesday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. Free

**How to Select Rain Garden Plants**, Thursday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., Free

**Maximize the Beauty and Enjoyment of Any Small Space**, Wednesday, March 20, 6:30 p.m. Free

**How to Start a Garden for Beginners**, Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m. Free

### **Olbrich Botanical Garden Webinars**

**Spring Ephemeral Wildflowers**, Friday, March 15, 1-3 p.m. \$23 members/\$28 non-members.

Presented by Health Prince, Fearless Gardening. Registration by March 8 at:

<https://www.olbrich.org/calendar/virtual-spring-ephemeral-wildflowers>

**Native and Native Woody Plants for Small Spaces**, Wednesday, March 27, 12-1:30 p.m. \$14 members/\$18 non-members. Presented by Lisa Johnsonn, UW-Extension. Registration by March 20 at:

<https://www.olbrich.org/calendar/virtual-native-and-nativer-woody-plants-for-small-spaces>

### **University of Wisconsin Extension Webinars/Free Registration at:**

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events/>

**Composting in the Vegetable Garden**, Thursday, March 7, 6 p.m.

**Wisconsin Spring Wildflowers**, Monday, March 11, 6 p.m.

**Cover Crops for the Vegetable Garden**, Thursday, March 14, 6 p.m.

**Ask the Experts Monthly Q&A**, Monday, March 18, 1 p.m.

**Rain Gardens and Native Plants**, Monday, March 18, 6 p.m.

**Seed Saving, Harvesting and Storage**, Thursday, March 21, 6 p.m.

**Perennials for Sun**, Monday, March 25, 6 p.m.

**Fundamentals of Plant Diseases**, Wednesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m.





**Master gardeners at Park View, working on flower arrangements with the residents. Donna Kudlos, Bob Potter, Ruth Retzlaff, Lil Hansche, Sue Egner, & Debra Butch. Submitted by Debra Butch.**

## Reorganization Plan Proposal for October 1, 2023- December 31, 2024

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>All committees uphold and support the WCMGA mission:            "Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship within our community."</i></p>	
<p>Number of member meetings per year: 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September &amp; March: Business Meeting</li> <li>• January: Holiday Social &amp; June: Spring Social</li> </ul>
<p>Member meeting format:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January and June meetings social only</li> <li>• September and March are business meetings with social and/or CE components (TBD by Meeting Committee)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advisory Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shall include Director(s), Treasurer, Secretary and Educational Team (optional).</li> <li>• Meets at least twice per year prior to the September and March business meetings</li> <li>• 1-year terms starting October 1, but stay on through Dec. 31 to advise/support next team members. Renewable terms.</li> <li>• Decisions can be made via email in-between meetings or may meet as needed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve expenditures over \$500</li> <li>2. Secure adequate liability insurance</li> <li>3. Keep meeting minutes (Secretary)</li> <li>4. Review new procedures, policies, SOPS, by-laws and make recommendations to the membership as needed/proposed</li> <li>5. Maintain non-stock status (Treasurer)</li> <li>6. Set membership business meeting agenda (Director)</li> <li>7. Coordinate with other teams</li> <li>8. Invite all association members/teams and horticulture advisor to the Advisory Team meetings.</li> <li>6. Encourage member initiative in proposing ideas</li> <li>7. Zoom or live pop-ups for special topics as suggested/available</li> </ol>
<p><b>Communications Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No meetings</li> <li>• Individual tasks</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain Facebook page</li> <li>2. Maintain Website</li> <li>3. Maintain newsletter: Compile information for monthly newsletter: Advisory Team message, "What is This? Article, education info, any other articles that are sent for inclusion. Create newsletter. Send to Editor to check links. Send file to members and webmaster to upload to web. Currently using 15th of month for submission of articles so that can be sent to membership before 1st of month (eg; newsletter for September, articles due by Aug. 15, uploaded before Sept. 1, sent to membership before Sept. 1 or during that first week of Sept.) General guidelines. Very flexible.</li> <li>4. Email communications to members/teams (UW will mail to members without computers)</li> <li>5. Extension liaison</li> <li>6. WIMGA representative</li> <li>7. Project liaison for partner organizations</li> </ol>
<p><b>Strategic Planning Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shall include past and current Directors, Secretary, Treasurer and volunteers from membership</li> <li>• Meets as needed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Periodical review of Guidelines</li> <li>2. Make recommendations for changes</li> <li>3. Develop Member recruitment plan</li> <li>4. Develop 2-year plan of goals and objectives</li> <li>5. Develops budget for the plan (Treasurer)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Meeting Team</b></p>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set time, place and reserve venue for meeting</li> <li>2. Work with the Education Team on CE ideas</li> </ol>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Members volunteer to plan and facilitate each of the four meetings (can meet or work on tasks individually)</li> <li>• Creativity is encouraged to make meetings more lively/interesting</li> <li>• Drawing on member expertise for programs, presentations, etc. is encouraged</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Work with Advisory Team to create agenda</li> <li>4. Arrange set up and take down of venue</li> <li>5. Plan and carryout social component (refreshments)</li> <li>6. Alert treasurer of any expenses and incoming payments (complete check request forms and attach receipts. Check Request Forms are available on the website).</li> <li>8. Facilitate meeting</li> </ol>
<p><b>Education Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As many as needed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Responsibilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Schedule CE for membership meetings or stand-alone CE for members</li> <li>2. Monitor CE opportunities for posting on Facebook and in newsletter</li> <li>3. Attend Advisory Team and Membership Business Meetings</li> <li>4. Develop ideas for member and community education</li> <li>5. Submit expenses to Treasurer. All expenses pay as you go</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officers</b></p>	
<p><b>Director</b></p> <p>Agendas are prepared for the spring and fall Advisory Team and Business meetings. Agendas are emailed ahead of the meetings. The Advisory Team agendas are sent to current team members and the Business meeting agendas are sent to entire membership from WCMGA email.</p> <p>Lead Fall and Spring Advisory Team meetings.</p> <p>Give update at two Social meetings</p> <p>Answer questions/concerns, direct to appropriate team members</p> <p>Responsible for membership emails through WCMGA email. Email list updated by Treasurer and sent to Director.</p> <p>Write monthly Director letter for newsletter</p> <p>Review Strategic Plan Guidelines yearly</p>	
<p><b>Secretary</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Takes minutes at all meetings of the Advisory Committee and general membership business meetings</li> <li>2. Posts Advisory Team minutes on the website and business meeting minutes in the newsletter</li> <li>3. Get prior approval of Advisory Team minutes before uploading.</li> <li>4. If unable to attend meetings, find alternate</li> </ol> <p><b>WIMGA Rep Role:</b></p> <p>Attend WIMGA meetings, via Zoom, twice/year</p> <p>Communicate meeting info to Advisory Team</p> <p>Communicate info to association membership as requested by WIMGA</p> <p><b>Project Liaison Role</b></p> <p>Compile organization info that is provided and relay to members via newsletter, website and meetings</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>Maintains financial records, including the checkbook, invoices and expenses files, Check Request forms, the Monthly Reconciliation Report and the Annual Budget. Manage payments to WIMGA fore all association members and maintain member list with current email and mailing addresses. Submit the member file each year to the WIMGA leadership</p> <p>At the Start of the Year:</p> <p>Prepare a simple budget file in Excel; present to the Advisory Team</p> <p>Directors for approval</p> <p>File annual Non Stock Status Report in February</p> <p>Monthly Tasks:</p> <p>Enter all income and expenses in the Reconciliation Report and the Budget file in Excel. Print off the monthly Bank Statement, and verify balance on the Reconciliation Report</p> <p>Staple all check requests with corresponding receipts and file in the Invoice File</p> <p>Staple all deposit slips to the Bank Statement and file in the Statement File</p> <p>Print the Reconciliation Report and updated Budget file and put into the 3-ring binder</p> <p>At End of Year:</p> <p>Schedule an audit. File audit form in 3-ring binder in December file</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Pays expenses via check</li> <li>3. Reports to the Advisory Team and membership at business meetings</li> </ol>



	<p>4. Manages cash flow with approval of the Advisory Team (can be done via email)</p> <p>5. Prepares simple budget of known expenses</p>
<p><b>Goals of Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasize social functions</li> <li>• Spread the work</li> <li>• Simplify</li> <li>• Fewer meetings</li> <li>• Encourage/individual initiative</li> <li>• Make MG fun again</li> </ul>	<p>Notes: Roundtable Meeting/CE/Social Suggestions Presentation from WIMGA on its purpose/plans/offering</p> <p>Apply for WIMGA grants for programs as needed</p> <p>Hands-on learning (park or garden tours, weed ID walk, partner organizations present or offer tours of facilities gardens, members offer programs/presentations)</p>

## Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am a pasque flower. Order: ranunculales. Family: ranunculaceae (buttercup family). Genus: pulsate Mill. Common names: Easter flower, pasqueflower, prairie crocus, wind flower, meadow anemone. Pasque is the old French spelling for Easter and it is around this time of year that the plant blooms.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

<b>Winnebago County Historical &amp; Archaeological Society—Morgan House</b> 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 920-267-8007 <b>Volunteer Contact:</b> Greg Bellmer, 920.267.8007 Liability protection: Liability protection is not provided	Kathy Schultz
<b>Winnebago County—Department of Facilities and Property Management (Coughlin Rain Garden)</b> 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> No volunteer process <b>Volunteer Contact:</b> Bob Stephenson, 920.420.6405 Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jill Dombrowski  Ed Dombrowski
<b>Winnebago County Master Gardener Association</b> 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Deb Butch
<b>Winnebago County—Park View Health Center (Health Center gardens and Park View Prairie Garden)</b> 725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> Volunteer contact: Missy Grundman, mgrundman@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
<b>YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA</b> 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities</a> <b>Volunteer application:</b> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf</a> Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	For more information: Contact Deb Butch



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



### Upcoming Dates:

- **Tuesday, March 12, 6:00 PM**
  - **WCMGA Business Meeting, Coughlin Center**
- **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**
  - **MG end of year celebration/picnic**
  - **Coughlin Center, Details to follow**

March 2024						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Business Mtg. 6 PM Coughlin Ctr.	13	14	15	16
17 Happy St. Patty's Day!	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.