

# 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

## NOVEMBER 2006

### SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Gardens	
Open	
Education & Eradication of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Michael & Eileen Meeker	582-7309
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Paine Gardens	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
John Procknow	429-4797
Park View Cutting Garden	
Rob Robinson	231-1162
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Sue Steinhilber	235-1031
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Marlene Miller	231-4339
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Curt Reese	426-4992

Historian	
John Procknow	429-4797
Membership	
Chris Bellin	233-4968
Newsletter	
Linda Baeten	232-1224
Contributing Reporter	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Socials	
Lynne Goudreau	722-8233
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Judy Harms	688-5523
Marlene Konsek	725-8856
Time Keeper	
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570
Trip Coordination by Education Committee &	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283

### OPEN / CLOSED SANCTIONED PROJECTS

Community Education	
Dorothy Kunz	233-8468
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Compost	
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Lincoln School	
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Karen Wedde	235-7159
Park View Prairie	
Joel Eisch	231-0656
Refreshments	
Barbara Elmer	235-4381

### COMMITTEES

Education	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745

### OFFICERS

President	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Vice President	
<b>POSITION OPEN!!!!!!!!!!</b>	
Secretary	
Dorothy Gayhard-Kunz	233-8468
Treasurer	
Marge Bolding	233-8668

### MEETING NOTICE

**Monthly Business Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 2006**  
**Doors open at 6:00 pm**  
**Meeting begins at 6:15**  
**At the Coughlin Building**  
**See you there!**

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

We have been working on the Holiday Party and Awards Dinner, and it looks like good old Mother Nature is doing her best to get us in that Holiday mood. To keep you all posted on what is happening, Lynne Goudreau and I have met with the owners of Garden View and have things set for our party. We will again have the entire building to ourselves with appetizers and an open bar beginning at 6:00. Dinner will be served around 7:00. We have some things a little different this year. I think you'll like the changes. Come join us for dinner and find out. Invitations will be in the mail soon if you haven't already received them. Mark it on your calendars now so you don't forget. December 4 at Garden View in Oshkosh where we will have good food, good company, awards and prizes. This is the one event that we do go all out on every year so plan to be there. It is a special MG night.

Our Business meetings have really been fun the last few months. The Co-Chair of the meetings is working out very well. We are seeing different styles of conducting meetings and seeing that they all work equally well. Last month we had Bob Kosanke as our Co-chair and this month it will be Jerry Robak. Come and join us to see how this meeting goes and maybe you can volunteer to be my co-chair next month.

It has been great to see that we have had volunteers to be co-chairs without much coaxing. I won't say not any coaxing, but really very little. It has been good to see that the turnout for the business meeting is at a nice level. We want you to know that you are welcome to join us too. We always want a larger group but those that are coming are interested and engaging in dialogue. It is much easier to lead this group if you are there to give direction. I do thank all of you that are involved for being there and extend an invitation to any others to come and join us.

Audrey had a really interesting speaker for us at the last meeting. She gave us very good information on homemade soaps. Her specialty is soap made from goat's milk. It may sound strange, but it was very interesting. Believe me, it smelled good too. Audrey will have another speaker for us at the next meeting. I'm not sure of the topic right now, but with Audrey at the helm it's always good. If you have any ideas for speakers, know of a good speaker or have something you would like to present, please let Audrey know.

I am going to try to get out today to get the brick laid around the new hosta bed I put in last week. You know the one I mean. The one I said I wasn't going to put in. The one my husband laughed about when I said "There, that's it I won't do another bed. Enough is enough" when I put in the last one I wasn't going to put in. Next I think it is just about time to get the bulbs in the ground or I'll be using an ice pick to plant them like I did a couple of years ago. If the rain stops for a day or two, I'll be able to get all of my pre-winter work finished. I think I hear you laughing at me just like my husband did. I'll ignore that laughter though just like I ignore my husbands.

See You in the Garden,  
Linda

#### October Meeting Attendance

<b>Linda Tobey</b>	<b>Janet Priebe</b>	<b>Ruth Freye</b>	<b>Karen Wedde</b>
<b>Susan Bohn</b>	<b>Ken Hawk</b>	<b>Audrey Reudinger</b>	
<b>Marge Bolding</b>	<b>Bob Potter</b>	<b>Linda Loker</b>	
<b>Marlene Miller</b>	<b>Stan Meyer</b>	<b>Gale Davey</b>	
<b>John Procknow</b>	<b>Diane Iott</b>	<b>Amy Asenbrener</b>	
<b>Bob Kosanke</b>	<b>Judy Harms</b>	<b>Marge Menacher</b>	
<b>Arlene Kosanke</b>	<b>Al Harms</b>	<b>Linda Baeten</b>	

We thank all of these members for coming and lending their voices to the meeting. Remember this is your organization and you do have a vote in what happens. Please come and add your voice to ours next month.

1. **BOARD MEETING:** The Next Board meeting will be Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> at the Coughlin Center at 6:00. You as a member are always welcome to sit in on any board meeting. Your views are always welcome.
2. **NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICES:** As you know the offices of Vice President and Secretary are up for election in November. We have one of our great members, Susan Bohn, who has come forward to be nominated for the office of Vice President. As of yet we have had no one put in nomination for Secretary. If you would be interested please let Linda know before the meeting on November 14. Two years is a long time to go without a Secretary but if nobody comes forward I guess we will have to. It isn't right of any of us to expect Dorothy to take on the job endlessly especially with her handling of the Farmers Market and the Home & Garden Show. I am looking forward to your call 734-2264.
3. **WHO CAN RUN FOR OFFICE?** This question has come up a few times in the past week or so. Any member can run for any office as long as they are a certified member. You are certified if you have turned in your 24 hours this past August and had the 10 continuing education hours if you needed them. This holds true if you have been a member for 10 years or if this is just your first. By turning in your hours you have met the requirements for certification. In December you will officially receive your award at our Awards Dinner.
4. **HOURS AWARDS:** Any "first year" who has completed the necessary hours and class requirements for certification will receive their certification awards and their official Master Gardener name badge at our Holiday Party and Awards Dinner. Any member who has exceeded 100 hours, and/or any additional 50-hour hops (for example 150, 200, 250 etc.), will also be given an award for those hours. Even if you don't think you have an award coming please come to our dinner to recognize those that have made it this year.
5. **POT LUCK:** The Pot Luck Picnic held on October 7 at Park View was a great success. Pat Behm. Gail Roush and Amy Asenbrenner should be congratulated for the very nice get together they planned. The day was beautiful, infact I think it was our last truly nice day of the season. The food was outstanding and center pieces were very festive. I am looking forward to the next event they ladies plan. If you made it I'm glad you were able to enjoy that time together and hope the rest will be there to enjoy our next get together.
6. **NATURES WAY – MENASHA:** If you are interested in this proposed project please let Jason or Gale Davey (722-6542) know of your interest. Gale will be the project chair if the project is approved. Jason will be setting up an informational meeting with the City of Menasha to answer all of our questions and see where we want to start and our scope of involvement.



## Master Gardener Board Meeting

October 2, 2006

Coughlin Center 6:00 PM

Members present: Stan Meyer, Ken Hawk, Bob Potter, Marge Bolding, Arlene and Bob Kosanke, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Linda Tobey, Sue Bohn, Audrey Ruedinger, Marlene Miller.

The meeting was called to order by president, Linda Tobey.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Hours Progress Report

A MOTION was made and passed to have 50 hour increments for awards starting with 100 hours. Linda presented an updated hours report. Members should be aware that these reports are only good for one year. They are updated every year.

#### Projects Reports

Funded projects need to submit an end of the year report. Marge Bolding suggested putting the reports in the newsletter. Non-funded reports also need to be turned in. We need to know what

you are doing with your project. Send in reports to Marge Bolding for an October accounting.

#### Name Badges

66 members were members certified. 11 of the certified members were new members who took the training course this year. We purchase name badges for new members which are presented at the awards banquet.

#### Christmas Party

Will be at Garden View. Lynn and Linda will meet with Garden View to work on the menu, gifts, door prizes, etc. Any dinner problems from last year will try to be resolved such as people sitting at the same table need to be served together, etc. Marlene Miller is in charge of door prizes with Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz assisting her. There will be no gift exchange. The Golden Trowel awards will be chosen by that committee consisting of Audrey Ruedinger, Stan Miller and Marlene Miller. There will be a cost of \$15 per person with Master Gardeners picking up the rest of the bill. Marlene Miller, Audrey Ruedinger and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz will put the awards in the proper envelopes for the presentations. Linda Tobey will order the awards.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Oshkosh Neighborhood Project

Member discussed some of the improvements that could be made if this project is held again. Communication and organization could be improved. The role of the Master Gardener needs to be defined. We advise but we don't do the physical project. We need help for that. The site with the free bulbs drew the most people. Not all sites had as many people attending. Only the owners were notified of the project instead of notifying all the renters as well. This could have provided more participation.

##### Menasha Site

Ken Hawk reported there would be no area for rain garden in the project. We need to have the role of the Master Gardeners defined in the project before we can decide to take it on.

##### Officers

Nominations for Vice President and secretary are in order for the October meeting. We will need another member -at-large.

There was a MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, secretary

## **Master Gardener October 10th Business Meeting.**

Bob Kosanke co-chaired the meeting with president, Linda Tobey. Bob called the meeting to order.

A MOTION was made and passed to accept the treasurer's report. Marge Bolding reported a balance of \$7,979.41. She announced that we had received a check from 'Pick 'n Save' for \$50.76 from their 'We Care' fund.

A MOTION was made and passed to accept the secretary's report as published in the newsletter with no corrections.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### Menasha Nature's Way Project

Jason Kruse, our adviser, explained more about this project. This is a low income project for single families and multi-family units. Construction will begin in the spring. Gale Davey agreed to chair a committee of interested members. A meeting will be held to discuss participation.

##### Nominations for Officers

###### Vice-President

Sue Bohn will be nominated for Vice President. The job of secretary is still open. Elections will be held in November. We will be needing two board members to fill Board seats.

##### Business From the Floor

After discussion a MOTION was made and passed to give the Lincoln School committee a budget, not to exceed \$300.00. Karen Wede will submit a bill for plants purchased.

##### Recipes for our Cookbook

Keep them coming! No restrictions on what kind of recipes you submit. A committee will work on design and layout. Send to Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, 1155 West Linwood Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 or e-mail to [dorothy.kunz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dorothy.kunz@sbcglobal.net) . PLEASE- WE NEED RECIPES

##### Golden Trowel Award

Nominations are closed for this award.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

### MG END of the Year Hours

Hours have been mailed to Madison by Linda Tobey. Linda reported that we have 17 people less in the group but we earned 317 hours more. She passed out a comparison sheet at the meeting.

### Co-Chair for November Meeting

Will be Jerry Robok

### New Business from the Flour

Audrey Ruedinger has planned several fun/learning days to learn how to identify and remove Buckthorn on her Waukau Creek property. Audrey suggested breaking down into smaller work groups and asked members to wear gloves to protect their hands as the Buckthorn will be cut and treated with Roundup. This Saturday, and two weeks from Saturday from 9-noon.

### Basic Training Course

Jason may bring a couple of other speakers, otherwise he will be the main speaker.

Course starts in January, Wednesday nights from 6-9 PM. Names collected during the summer Farmer's market and the Fair will be mailed to Jason.

### State News

Bob Kosanke will take orders for the Wisconsin Garden Journal for \$12.50. He also announced an international MG logo and slogan contest. He has forms if you are interested.

Next meeting is: November 7- Board meeting and Members meeting on November 14.

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz  
Secretary

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

November monthly meeting guest is Nick Thill from Thill's Honey Farm, West Bend, Wi. He is a young beekeeper with 13 years experience. Please join us for an interesting hobby turned business on Tuesday the 14th.

Blessings and Love,  
Audrey

## **REPORTS**

### ***KUDOS TO MG PAINE VOLUNTEERS***

The Paine Gardens benefited greatly from the volunteer hours that a faithful Master Gardener group contributed during this year's planting and growing season. Sheila Glaske, Curator of Horticulture at the Paine, in particular, as well as John and Audrey, wish to give special thanks to Sandy Ansfield, Pat Behm, Kay Bartell, Ruth Debruin, Carole Dorsch, Dee Kehrberg, Barbara Kuhn, Debbie Quandt, Martha Skruby and Chris Weston who worked on a regular basis. But there is one other special individual, by the name of Bob Potter, who devoted over 100 hours to the Paine Gardens and deserves an extra special thank you.

The Paine Gardens were exceptional this year because they were correlated in color combinations to augment the Tiffany lamp exhibition, and the corners of the Algoma Blvd. and Congress St. intersection were designed and replanted by the Paine. This notable improvement is especially worthwhile, it being an important entry into the city of Oshkosh. With the massive influx of 19,000 visitors to the wonderful Tiffany exhibit, another 10,000 who attended 50 weddings celebrations and a few thousand more who came to the Faire on the Green, the Gardens were enjoyed by many more than ever before! Since the Paine Art Center and Gardens is a historical jewel in our community, take pride MG gardeners in being someone who had helped to polish the edges, plant and enhance the beauty of the grounds.

And of course, there is still more to be done before the growing season completely ends and in spite of the recent freezing weather. The planting of thousands of tulip bulbs and other spring blooming bulbs will be taking place on October 24th, 25th and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Sheila will be supervising two shifts on those days from 8:00 AM – 12:00 noon and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. She is asking the usual team of Master Gardener volunteers, as well as any other willing MGs, to help in this endeavor during any of these times. You merely need to make yourself available by appearing at the Paine for an assignment – no other notification in advance is necessary. Following the completion of the bulb planting there is the so-called "putting the garden to bed for the winter", a clean-up, raking, covering and mulching, which will go on until the snow flies. The work hours remain the same as above, so make an appearance whenever you can. This is

a real opportunity to acquire volunteer hours for your accreditation very early.

We are very pleased with your accomplishments at the Paine Art Center and Gardens. The Paine Gardens will be one of those that will be offered and hosted by Sheila during the 2007 summer months for a MG members' meeting, when we can all view its diversity and beauty. Kudos and more kudos to Master Gardeners who make a difference!!

*Appreciatively, John and Audrey*

## **FARMERS MARKET**

### Year end Report 2006

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Farmer's Market. We set up five tables of information. We signed up people interested in taking the training course. We answered questions and/or directed people to sites where they could find the information they were looking for. We explained how our organization works and how we support the community in various ways. We also sold \$300.00 worth of our famous "worm castings". We feel it was a worthwhile project which also served our own members by providing education hours. We worked from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm each Saturday, (June through the first of October) all summer long. It was fun, sociable, informative and tasty. (Special Olympics hamburgers and brats, freshly made egg-rolls, kettle corn, honey, fresh produce,. Great music, kid's days, beautiful flowers, crafts, soaps, lotions, wind, rain and sun – you name it...) And lots of chatting and trading garden know-how. Many people thanked us for participating at the market.

These MGs participated: Pat Rockow, Linda Van Ness, Martha Skruby, Ken Hawk, Sue Tappy, Terry Tappy, Bob Potter, Sandra Goliher, Chris Weston, Bob Kosanke, Arlene Kosanke, Debbie Quant, Kay Bartell, Marge Bolding, Joel Eisch, Barbara Kuhn, Linda Loker, Diane Kehrberg, Janet Priebe, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Sandy Anfield and Mary McDaniel.

Janet sent out a reminder postcard each week. Everyone showed up. Thanks. We couldn't do this project without having a lot of participants. We appreciate your dedication to the Master Gardener Organization. We are hoping to continue this project next year. Please consider signing up again. If you haven't had a chance to participate, we welcome you to sign up for it next year!

Thanks again,

*Janet Priebe and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz*

## **PARK VIEW FLOWER ARRANGING**

The flowers were in great abundance at Park View this summer. Between the pallet of colorful flowers tended by the Master Gardeners and those that were brought from our own volunteers, the bouquets at Park View never looked more splendid. It wouldn't have been possible without the ladies who arrived every Monday afternoon to assist the residents with the arranging. Thank you Pat Behm, Kathy Daniels, Mary Ginke, Arlene Kosanke and Marti Norton for sharing your time and special talents, and especially for the Fair bouquets. I would like to give a special thank-you to Pat's neighbor who brought containers stuffed with flowers from their own yards for the Fair project.

Jan Klemm, Activity and Volunteer director at Park View called and left a message of thanks and appreciation. She reported that several awards were given for our residents' bouquets and single flower displays. Our thanks and appreciation to Rob Robinson and his crew of volunteers for giving us the variety and quality [of flowers] to help achieve this. I did get to work with most of you ladies and it was so enjoyable to see the response of the residents when their bouquets were finished - a job well done everyone. Thank you!

*Marlene Miller*

*Park View Flower Arranging*

## **WINNEBAGO COUNTY MG ASSOCIATION 2006 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) has 89 members of which 11 are newly certified and 58 are recertified.

In 2006 we volunteered # hours in youth education

# hours in community education

# hours in support services

and participated in # hours of continuing education.

(evidently the numbers aren't available yet)

WCMGA participated in many activities besides those listed below. Members are involved in Home and Garden shows, the Winnebago Co. Fair and demonstration gardens at Lincoln School. In cooperation with the City of Oshkosh Planning Committee and the Near East Side Neighborhood Restoration project, WCMGA gave

local residents demonstrations on fall pruning, tree planting, fall clean-up and other topics.

#### Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. WCMGA participated as a part of Tri-County MGs in sponsoring the WIMGA Annual Conference. The conference had the largest attendance at a Wisconsin state conference.
2. WCMGA had a booth at the Paine Arboretum Spring Plant Sale where information was passed out about the benefits of using worm castings, plants, and the MGA. Worm castings were also sold as a fund raiser.
3. The WCGMA again had a presence at the Oshkosh Farmers Market on a weekly basis from June through October. MGVs staffed the booth on a rotating basis, passing out information about plants, and worm castings were sold and their benefits explained. A children's area was set up to give kids the hands on experience of planting a plant and taking it home to watch it grow.
4. Every year MGVs plan, plant and maintain the gardens at Park View Health Center along with the patients. The cutting gardens are used to teach the patients flower arranging, the raised beds enable handicapped patients to grow vegetables, and the perennial gardens and prairie garden demonstrate how plants grow in a natural environment. At the end of the season, patients enjoy entering their displays in the County Fair.
5. MGVs answered phoned in horticulture questions in the UW-Extension Office on a scheduled basis, which was well received by the public and UWEX. The most commonly asked question in the spring was "Why are the leaves on my tree turning brown?" and in the fall it was "Why do my tomatoes have black spots?"

#### Highlighted Project: Community Gardens at the UW Fox Valley Campus:

WCMGA has been working with the UW-Extension and UW Fox Valley and The Community Garden Partnership for several years. Our introduction to Community Gardens began with the creation of 3 raised beds used by handicapped children to experience gardening. This program was so successful that we were asked to put in a demonstration perennial bed. This bed had several iterations finally ending up being 5 raised beds that we dubbed the Mosaic Gardens.

The Mosaic Gardens display plantings from the prominent ethnic groups in our area. The beds feature plants native to Poland, Laos/Thailand,

Latino areas, Germany, and Native American cultures as well as Great Britain. The MGVs took an unkempt, overgrown area and designed, built and planted 5 individual 10 x 20 ft gardens turning the area into a very special place for the community to visit. It shows what other nationalities plant both to beautify their living spaces and to feed their families.

The five beds are located in a small grove of mainly cottonwood trees. There are beginnings of pathways connecting the gardens and leading to a gazebo area complete with picnic table. Benches will also be scattered throughout the garden. Signs at each garden note the ethnic groups the garden represents as well as naming the selected plantings. The Mosaic Gardens are very impressive, enough to prompt a visit by the UW Chancellor.

Next year the gardens will be turned over to the various ethnic groups involved in the Community Gardens to plant and maintain under the supervision of Winnebago Co. MGVs. The gardens themselves, the groups creating the gardens and the setting all create a living mosaic of beauty for the community.

#### **JIM KING**

A beautiful sugar maple tree was recently planted at Red Arrow Park in Oshkosh in memory of our past Master Gardener Jim King. I visited the site earlier this week and it is located on Westfield Street south of the baseball diamond. This is a very busy area with West High School and the new swimming pool only a block away. I chose Red Arrow Park due to Jim being in the US Army and it was near his home. The tree diameter is between 1 1/2 to 2 inches and is located on a berm close to the sidewalk with a metal ground marker reading Sugar Maple In Memory of Jim King 2006. This is the City of Oshkosh Memorial Tree Program sponsored by Oshkosh Southwest Rotary. The City Of Oshkosh Forestry Division will plant your tree in a City park or terrace. The actual planting site is to be approved by the City Forester and final plans are coordinated with you. Please stop for a visit  
Blessings and Love,

*Audrey*



## LETTER FROM Ruth DeBruin

In January of 2006, I along with 19 other gardeners, traveled to Costa Rica for a study program that was offered through the University of Missouri and the University of Wisconsin Master Gardener Program. Although I was slightly uncertain at first about traveling so far to expand my gardening knowledge, I am now convinced that this program is truly one of the best opportunities available for people who have a passion for the beauty that comes from our Earth! Because my memories and experiences from this trip could easily consume several pages, I have decided to bullet some of my favorite highlights from my trip below.

- Traveling to La Pez Waterfall Gardens and Butterfly Observatory. (This butterfly observatory is the largest in the world!)
- Visiting beautiful orchid and hummingbird gardens.
- Walking through paved serpentine trails at La Tirimbina Rainforest Reserve.
- Viewing rainforests from a sky tram (zip line tour) and walking on suspended bridges in Arenal.
- Relaxing in the natural hot waters of Ecotermas Volcanic Spring.
- Touring LaSelva Biological Station, where groups of students come from all over the world to study insects, foliage and conservation.
- Boarding a boat to Tortuguero, via de San Juan River, to visit the Tortuguero Village where at night you could hear the howling monkeys and during the day you could see colorful macaws among gorgeous vegetation.
- Eating a variety of ethnic foods, which mainly consist of fruits and vegetables.

In addition to the highlights above, I also found my trip to Costa Rica to be very educational. Not only did I learn about numerous types of vegetation and the process of harvesting specific types of foods, I also learned that the Costa Rican people are very environmentally friendly. They are a population which exudes gentleness, courtesy, hospitality, and takes great pride in domestic enterprise. I can honestly say that I have never met such giving and simple people!

When looking back, I am grateful for the group that I traveled with. It was exhilarating to be traveling with so many other people that truly find joy in creating beautiful landscapes. Furthermore, this trip would not have been such a success if it were not for the educational leadership of Mary K.

Kroening, Dr. Susan Mahr, and our tour guide, Rafael Robles Gonzalez. I would like to personally thank YOU for your time and energy and for making this a safe and unforgettable trip!

*Ruth De Bruin*

### “What Am I?”

*By Bruce Abraham*



I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Cupressaceae**; Genus **Thuja L.** My habitat ranges from a variety of forests (beech, boreal, northern upland and lowland, southern lowland) to cliffs, sand dunes, and shrub carr. I can grow upwards of 65' tall, but typically in the 40' – 50' range – I am pyramidal in shape. My leaves are flat, scale-like, 1/16" – 1/8" long. My fruit is a small 1/2" cone that is positioned upright on the branches. My wood, leaves, and sap are quite fragrant. My wood is very resistant to decay so is used in applications where contact with soil and water occur such as fence posts. My foliage is so rich in vitamin C that Native Americans and early European settlers used it to treat scurvy – thus the name Arborvitae, “Tree of Life”. What Am I?



# How Plants React to Drought Stress

By Lawanda Jungwirth

What happens when plants don't get enough water? If we didn't know before, the summers of 2005 and 2006 were showcases of the effects of drought on plants.

The most common and easiest to note effect of lack of water on plants is wilting, leaves turning brown and falling off, followed by plant death. But every plant doesn't react the same way.

Some plants grow just fine, but are stunted. For example, this year my zinnias, marigolds, cosmos, nasturtiums and cleome, all annual flowers, were several inches to a foot shorter than usual.

In the vegetable garden, the beans curled instead of growing straight, the basil was bushier but shorter with much smaller leaves, the cucumbers were bitter, the giant kohlrabi was small, and the tomato plants grew very tall but had little production and small leaves.

A plant under drought stress is in a weakened state and its defenses are low. Insects and diseases take advantage of the situation and further stress the plant.

Some perennial plants respond to drought by trying to save themselves by overproducing seeds or fruit. I had huge crops of apples and pears this year. The evergreen trees produced an overabundance of pine cones and the oaks down the road had phenomenal amounts of acorns. The maples produced enough "helicopters" to clog the gutters several times over.

In the farm fields, the corn and soybeans turned brown much earlier than they should have. In the forest, fall color appeared on trees up to a month earlier than in past years.

The most conspicuous effect of drought in my yard was on the mature trees. I noticed that the south side of my house was not as shaded by the linden that usually cools the sunroom on the hottest days. The maple tree in the back yard did not shade the deck as it had in past years and when I looked straight up through the branches I could see a lot more sky than I should have. On closer inspection, it seemed that there were just as many leaves as in past years, but that they were all much smaller.

Further research told me that trees like spruce, hemlock, beech, some ashes, maples and pines are described as having predetermined growth. Their buds expand the year after they are produced. Therefore, if there was drought when the buds were forming, it will show up in stunted growth of new leaves the following year. Other

species, such as birch, poplar, elm, apple, silver maple and some ashes, leaf out sparsely and show drought effects during the same season when it occurs. Others, including juniper, produce several flushes of growth each year and can stop or start growing as the weather permits, so they may look normal.

## Answer to What Am I?

I am an erect perennial tree- **Thuja occidentalis L.**; common name: Northern White Cedar, Eastern Arbovitae

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

## NEWS FLASH!

Gro-Plant Oshkosh is now Stuart's Landscaping and Garden Center. I just happened to stop in to check out some Canadian Hemlocks last week at Gro-Plant and the transferring of ownership was taking place...signs going down and new signs going up! The upside is Stuart's is the top of the line plant nursery in all respect....but we are also losing a nursery that had moderate prices!

Blessings and Love,

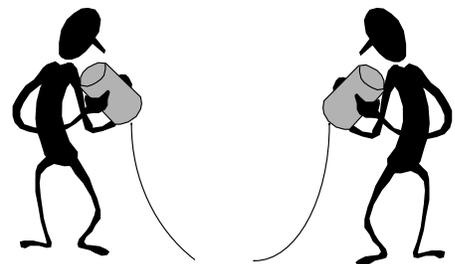
Audrey

## CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Brown Bag, November 10, 2006, at 12:00 noon

Topic: **Volunteer Organizations for Management of Invasive Species**

Contact the UWEX Office if you plan to attend.



# NOVEMBER TASKS

## Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

Week 1:

- Prepare soil in new perennial beds now for spring planting.

Week 3:

- After the ground freezes, mulch azaleas and rhododendrons with chopped oak leaves or pine needles. Perennial beds should also be mulched with coarse material such as marsh hay.
- Don't smother self-sowing annual beds with heavy mulch.
- Reduce watering and feeding of houseplants.
- Clean window boxes and outdoor planters; fill with seasonal greens and berries.

## Vegetables and Herbs

- Mulch carrots, parsnips, and leeks with a foot of straw or marsh hay for winter digging. Mark rows with stakes
- Mulch asparagus bed with chopped leaves or straw to protect crowns from frost.
- Drain gas from tiller
- Harvest the last of the hardy vegetables such as Chinese cabbage, Brussels sprouts, and kale. These will continue to produce until a hard frost below 25 F.
- Check stored vegetables for spoilage.

## Lawns, Trees and Shrubs

- All trees and shrubs should be watered deeply before the ground freezes, especially evergreens.
- Cut back fall-blooming hydrangeas, leaving one or two pairs of buds on each flower stem.
- Wrap woody plants and young trees to prevent rodent or sunscald damage.
- Take cuttings for new plant propagation from holly, yew, arborvitae, and junipers after several hard frosts.
- For last lawn mowing, set blade ½ inch lower than usual. Drain gas from mower.
- Prop up heavy branches of large evergreens

Week 1:

- Test soil if you haven't done so recently.

## Fruits and Berries

- Cut to the ground any summer-bearing raspberry or black berry canes. Prune grapevines that have fruited this year.
- Prune grapevines
- Mulch strawberries and bramble fruits after the ground has frozen, but before the temperature drops below 15 F.
- Prune black, yellow, and purple raspberries by shortening all lateral branches to 15 inches.
- Wrap the trunks of young fruit trees to protect them from animal damage and sun scald.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## ☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

## ☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Rob Robinson.

## ☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

The Vegetable Garden contact Susan Steinhilber 235-1031 or email [steinsb@northnet.net](mailto:steinsb@northnet.net)

## ☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS

Discuss the 2007 Plan – Linda Tobey

## ☞ RESOURCE PERSON AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

## ☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Tobey.

## ☞ HELP WITH BASIC TRAINING

Jason will be needing monitors for a Basic Gardening Course.

## ☞ TRIP COORDINATOR

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

## ☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ELIMINATION

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

## ☞ TURFGRASS RESEARCH PLOTS

Contact Jason Kruse

## NOVEMBER 2006

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 FULL MOON ☉	6	7 BOARD MTG 6:00 COUGHLIN	8	9	10 12:00 NOON – BROWN BAG	11
12	13	14 MG BUSINESS MTG – 6:00	15	16	17	18
19	20 NW MOON ●	21	23	24 THANKSGIVING DAY	25	26
28	29	30				

## **STUFFED CABBAGE ROLLS WITH WILD RICE**

1 cup wild rice  
5 cups water  
2 Tbsp extra-virgin olive oil  
1/2 cup finely diced onion  
1/2 cup grated carrots  
1/2 cup currants or raisins

1/2 cup finely chopped mushrooms  
1/3 cup pine nuts  
1 Tbsp finely chopped fresh rosemary  
2 tsp fresh lemon juice  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste  
8 large outer leaves of cabbage  
3-4 cups prepared chunky pasta sauce

Rinse and drain rice. In small saucepan, bring 4 cups water to boil. Add rice. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 1 hour. If any water remains, drain rice. Meanwhile, in pan over medium heat, sauté oil and onion for 5 minutes. Add carrots, currants, mushrooms, pine nuts and rosemary and sauté 6-9 minutes more, until vegetables are tender. Place cooked rice and vegetables in large mixing bowl. Season with lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste. (Filling can be refrigerated up to 2 days.) In large pan, steam cabbage leaves in remaining water 3-4 minutes or until leaves are tender but still bright green. Drain and blot dry on paper towels. Cut away and discard any tough inner stems or leaves. Place 2/3 cups stuffing in center of cabbage leaf. Fold sides in toward center, and roll to form neat packages. Repeat with remaining cabbage leaves. In large baking dish, pour 2 cups tomato sauce. Place cabbage rolls on top in single layer. Spoon another 1-2 cups of sauce over rolls and cover with foil, shiny side down. (These can be refrigerated for up to 6 hours.) When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake 20-30 minutes, until piping hot.

Makes 8 rolls. Per roll: 210 calories, 7 g total fat (1 g saturated fat), 35 g carbohydrates, 7 g protein, 4 g dietary fiber, 567 mg sodium