

# 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 2007

### COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Historian	
John Procknow	429-4797
Membership	
Chris Bellin	233-4968
Newsletter	
Linda Baeten	232-1224
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Judy Harms	688-5523
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Time Keeper	
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570

### OFFICERS

President	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Vice President	
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Secretary	
Linda Werner	725-8168
Treasurer	
Marge Bolding	233-8668

### SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Community Gardens	
Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Janet Priebe	233-1898
Paine Gardens	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Bob Potter	233-3349
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

### BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Tobey	734-2264
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Linda Werner	725-8168
Marge Bolding	233-8668
Chris Bellin	233-4968
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Marline Miller	231-4339
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Dorothy Gayhart-kunz	233-8468
Bob Potter	233-3349

**Business Meeting  
November 13 2007  
6:15 PM**

**All members welcome to attend  
ELECTION OF 2008 OFFICERS!**

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

Fall in upon us and we are all busy getting our gardens ready for a long winter's nap. We can now look forward to sitting in front of the fire on cold winter nights looking at seed catalogs and dreaming of the garden we will create in the spring. Aren't those wonderful dreams? Those gardens are filled with all of the hoped for beauty without the sore backs and stiff knees that make it happen. Did you ever notice that those dream gardens don't have weeds either? I guess that's why they're dreams and not reality. Dream on, my friends, that's part of the fun.

This month is our election. It will be November 13<sup>th</sup> at our regular Membership meeting. Please come to this meeting. It is one of our most important events every year. It is the time for you to use your voice to select your leadership.

This year my husband and I took our granddaughters (13 and 14) on a trip to Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, North and South Dakota. Two of our most important visits were to the Teton and Yellow Stone National Parks. Having never been there, I think my mouth and eyes were as wide open as my Granddaughters'. I must say, I have never seen anything like it and am sure I never will again. The geysers and bubbling pools were amazing. The majesty of the Teton Range was awesome. I have never had an experience before going out to dinner, as we did in Gardiner Montana. We were walking next door from our hotel to have dinner. We walked around the corner of the driveway to see a large male elk, a doe and a fawn grazing on the front lawn of the restaurant. They were wild elk and must have been drawn to the freshly watered lawn for their very own salad bar. I definitely knew we weren't in Menasha any more. It was a wonderful sight.

I guess the reason I brought this up was not only to tell you to visit our national parks because they hold the past, present and future for you to experience in the most possible natural setting, but also to share experiences like that with your loved ones. This was one of, if not the best, vacation we have ever been on because we shared it with our Granddaughters; I think they liked it too. They took over 2000 pictures between them. Those are the pictures they kept and doesn't count the 50 or so they deleted each night.

I have shared a lot of things with the girls. They have not only joined us on many vacations, but they have joined me in many Master Gardener projects. They loved going to Park View with me. They helped plant and talked to many of the residents at the vegetable gardens. They also came several times to arrange flowers. They, especially the younger one, liked being fawned over by the elderly ladies while helping them create flower arrangements. Becky, really liked coming to meetings with me. Her favorite meeting was when Ellie Frieland showed us how to arrange flowers. Think about sharing some of your Master Gardener experiences with the young ones in your family. They just might like it and you may have found a thread that binds. We all know what magic a garden can create, it just might create magic for you like it did with me and Leanne and Becky.

Well, it is a cold rainy day and I just got a new garden magazine in the mail. I think I'll start a fire in the fireplace and dream awhile.

See you in the garden  
Linda



1. **BOARD MEETING** - Our next Board meeting is November 6. All members are invited to attend. I suggest those of you who have your names in nomination for an office attend this meeting. Being there and learning the ropes, so to speak, will help you make a comfortable transition.
2. **MEMBERS BUSINESS MEETING** – Our next Business meeting will be on November 13 @ 6:15 PM in the Coughlin Center. Doors will be open about 5:30.
3. **INFORMATION CHANGES** – If anyone has a change in address, email address or phone number we request that you notify Chris Bellin, our membership chairperson, right away. His email address is [cbellin@new.rr.com](mailto:cbellin@new.rr.com). Don't be surprised if you don't get emails and or mailed items if you do not let us know of your informational changes.
4. **VOLUNTEER HOURS** - Your hours are in for 2007. Now is the time for you to begin your 2008 hours. You will need 24 hours of approved volunteer hours. 5 of the hours are to be in Community Education. You can do this by working at the Farmers Market, Working our booths at the Fair or at the Home & Garden Show. In fact, you can get these hours by doing anything in which you are instructing and not learning yourself.
5. **COOK BOOKS** – Don't forget to give our Master Gardener cook books for gifts. It is a perfect Bridal Shower gift accompanied by a gift certificate to their favorite food or kitchen store. They are perfect gifts for birthdays and Christmas stocking stuffers too. Help the group by giving our books.
6. **GOLDEN TROWEL TIME** – Well once again we are looking forward to awards. Now that hours are in and our Holiday & Awards Dinner Party is just around the corner, it is time for us to start getting in our nominations for the Golden Trowel Award. Remember, any nominee has to have been a member for at least 5 years. They also must be an example of what you consider an exemplary Master Gardener. Please contact Stan Meyer, Marlene Miller, Audrey Ruedinger or myself with your nominations.
7. **SUNSHINE COMMITTEE** - Please remember to contact the Sunshine Committee with important news about one of our members so they can represent our good wishes by sending a message, a card or a gift to the member. The information need not always be grim. Yes we want to be there for our members when any of us is faced with illness or the loss of a loved one, but we want to be there to celebrate the good times too. It feels so very good to remember a birth, a special anniversary, a marriage and all the happy things that come our way. Please contact Judy Harms or Liz Ginke with your information.
8. **COMMUNITY GARDEN PRODUCE CONTEST** – Those of you that were involved in the Community Garden produce contest at the Sherman Road Garden, please submit your total poundage of produce that was given to area pantries to Linda Tobey before the November Members Business meeting on November 13. The results will be announced and awards given at that meeting. Please have the names of all of the members who worked the plot with you and where you donated your produce when you give Linda your information.
9. **BOARD SEATS OPEN** – We have two open or that will be open this January. The Board has asked Roy Anne as head of the Education Committee to please accept the vacant seat left by Lynne Goudreau. Roy Anne has accepted and will fill that seat until such time as she hands over the position of Education Committee Chair to someone else. That person will then take the Education Chair seat on the Board.

The next seat open is that of Chris Bellin. This seat will be voted on at our January which will be conducted by our new President. This will be the new President's first official act. Please let any member of the Board know of your interest to be a member.

**10. ELECTIONS** - The election of our new officers will be at our November meeting. The nominations are all in. For President: Kathy Daniels and Mary Wiedenmeier will serve as co-presidents. The office of Treasurer has two members in nomination: Barb Kuhn a member of 2 years, and Alice Graf who is in her first year. Watch the newsletter for more information about the nominees. Good Luck to All.

**11. NEW MG HANDBOOK** – For many years now the State Committee has been working to put together a new updated Master Gardener Handbook. This new book is now available. Please contact Linda Tobey or Bob Kosanke to be put on the list to purchase the new book. The price of the book is at cost which is \$25.00. For what is in the book it is a very good price and worth it to every Master Gardener. This book will give you updated information on many things. Even the way the old book tells us to plant a tree has been found to be incorrect in the last few years. The updated information alone makes it worth the price.

**12. MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** – The form for renewing your membership will run in both the November and December newsletters. Please take the time now to fill out this form and send it in. We have very limited time after January 1 to get the renewals into the state. Help us to do our jobs well and send in your renewal and your check to Chris Bellin by December 31, 2007. We would like the membership booklets to be out in the mail by the end of January this year. *(Be sure to scroll to the bottom of the Newsletter for the renewal form.)*

Those who attended our last meeting **October 9, 2007**

Linda Tobey	Roy Anne Moulton	Marlene Miller
Linda Loker	Ken Hawk	Bob Potter
Barbara Kuhn	Audrey Ruedinger	Sandy Giessen
Bob Kosanke	Arlene Kosanke	Kathy Daniels
Jerry Robak	Stanley Meyer	Janet Priebe
Judy Harms	Linda Werner	Mary Wiedenmeier
Cindy Meszouds	Joni Pagel	Marty Sacksteder
Sue Bohn	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz	

To all of the members who attended our last meeting, thank you! You are what makes the difference in our association. The more members we have in attendance the more ideas we have to utilize in making this organization even better. Please attend our next meeting and add your voice and your vote.

## MEETING MINUTES

Master Gardener Board Meeting

October 2, 2007

Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Daniels, Linda Tobey, Sue Bohn, Marge Bolding, Bob Potter, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Audrey Ruedinger, Stanley Meyer, Ken Hawk, Linda Werner, Mary Wiedenmeier, Marlene Miller, Alice Graf

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Tobey.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Meeting Night:** Changing the board and business meetings to Wednesday nights in 2008 was discussed. Several members indicated they have prior commitments on Wednesdays. The meetings will continue to be on Tuesdays in 2008.

**Letter to Individuals Interested in MG Classes:** A letter was composed to people who have previously expressed interest in MG Classes, as WCMGA will not be offering basic training this year. The letter invited them to become uncertified members until classes are available again. This status will allow them to participate in all MG activities except project leadership. A membership form will be included with the letter. Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz volunteered to write and send the letters.

**Classes:** The Education Committee has met, but has not finalized seminar plans. At least 10 hours of continuing education seminars will be offered. Topics will be on aspects of "environmental stewardship."

**Treasurer's Report:** Marge Bolding reported that the balance at the end of September was \$5,308, with an additional \$5,000 placed in a 7-month CD at a rate of 5.25%.

**Board Make-Up:** There will be two board seats up for election in January. Chris Bellin will be going off the board and one seat has been vacant since the previous vice-president left the organization. Marlene Miller and Stan Meyer will be going off the board, but their seats will be filled by immediate past officers Linda Tobey and Marge Bolding.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Christmas Party:** Linda Tobey will ask Julie Grundy for a list of secretaries in the UW-Extension office who work closely with WCMGA and invite them and Chris Kniep to the party. The cost will be \$15 per person. WCMGA will pick-up any additional costs. Kathy Daniels will send out the invitations. Replacements will be needed for Kathy and Mary Wiedenmeier on the events committee when they become co-presidents in November.

**Awards:** Linda Tobey will place the order for service awards. Marlene Miller will package them. Stan Meyer, Audrey Ruedinger and Marlene Miller are soliciting nominations for the Golden Trowel Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Linda Werner, Secretary

## Master Gardener Business Meeting

October 9, 2007  
Coughlin Center, 6:15 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marge Bolding was not present, but the treasurer's report was handed out. It showed a September 30, 2007 balance of \$5,308. A \$5,000, 7-month CD has been purchased at a rate of 5.25%.

**Secretary's Report:** There were no changes to the secretary's report as published in the October newsletter. Marlene Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2007 business meeting. Arlene Kosanke second the motion. APPROVED

## Old Business

**Conference Report:** Bob Kosanke reported that were 10 WCMGA members at the state MG conference held in Eau Claire the first weekend in October. The speakers were excellent. Bob noted:

- The 2008 conference will be combined with the Midwest Regional conference in Milwaukee, July 16-19.
- The 2009 conference site will be at the Ho-Chunk Casino in Baraboo, October 6-7.

- The 2010 conference site will be the UW-Sheboygan campus, July 23-24.
- The 2011 conference will be in Madison as it will be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Master Gardeners in Wisconsin.
- The state office wants to go to an electronic newsletter. Anyone who wants to receive the newsletter electronically should contact Susan Mahr. She will send out a sample to be sure the individual can open it.
- State board elections are coming up for an at-large position. The position involves two face-to-face meetings each year and 10 conference calls. Anyone interested should send a resume to Susan Mahr to get on the ballot.
- Annual accomplishment reports are due November 1.
- The final date for submitting dues has been moved back to January 15 from January 1. (Forms for paying dues will be in the next two WCMGA newsletters. Dues must be paid by December 31, 2007.)
- A revised training book is available for \$25. This replaces any gray binders that were issued in 2002 or earlier. (WCMGA will do a group order. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November business meeting. 2008 garden journals can also still be ordered.)

**Conference Book Sales Report:** Judy Harms reported that 20 cookbooks were sold at the conference. One was stolen.

**Waldusky Project:** Only three people have signed up for this project so far and no lead. This project is far bigger than three people can handle. Anyone interested should see Linda Tobey or Sue Bohn.

**Community Gardens:** No report on production has been received so far. Linda Tobey will request a tally on the amount of all the produce raised. Kathy Daniels said her group had about 60 lb. of summer squash and 10-20 lb. of beets. WCMGA had four plots but not all of them were planted.

**Continuing Education Hours:** Ongoing members are reminded that they need to complete 10 hours of continuing education every year.

## **New Business**

**Classes:** Roy Anne Moulton reported that the Education Committee met and decided on the theme: Environmental Stewardship—how gardeners fit in the bigger environmental picture. The group brainstormed speakers and committed to making initial contacts prior to the next meeting on October 15. The format will mostly be Saturday morning classes with two speakers each time. The kick-off will be in January with either a seminar or a trip planned each month through May. Anyone with ideas for speakers or topics can contact Roy Anne or any member of the committee. Anita Carpenter and Terry Adler were two speakers suggested by members at the meeting. All seminars will be publicized in the local newspaper and in the WCMGA newsletter.

Note: All individuals who expressed interest in basic training classes will be receiving a letter, inviting them to join WCMGA as non-certified members and attend continuing ed sessions until regular classes are again offered.

**Board Elections:** Two WCMGA seats will be open in January. Linda Tobey offered one of the vacant seats to Roy Anne Moulton as chairman of the Education Committee. Roy Anne accepted. Stan Meyer indicated that he would like to apply for the other vacant position. An election will be held in January for that seat.

**January Board Meeting:** The January board meeting was moved to the third Tuesday in January, as the first Tuesday is New Years Day.

**Officer Elections:** Kathy Daniels and Mary Wiedenmeier have been nominated as co-presidents. Barbara Kuhn and Alice Graf have indicated their interest in the treasurer position. Each treasurer candidate was asked to say a little about themselves to the group.

Barb:

- Has been a MG for one year
- Designed and installed the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Oshkosh and does tours there.
- Works at US Bank with commercial loans.
- Has a 2-year degree in accounting, a BA in business administration and a MA in adult education.
- Is a foster parent.

Alice:

- Has been a MG for one year.
- Has worked for the Oshkosh School District for 21 years, 20 years in accounting.
- Currently works as the administrative assistant to the principal at Oshkosh West High School.
- Has been a gardener for 25 years.

**Golden Trowel Award:** A list of all previous Golden Trowel Award winners will be put in the newsletter. The award was started in 2002 to recognize long-term commitment to the program. The criteria include being a MG for five years and having done exemplary work for the group and the community. The award lets people know that their work is appreciated.

Linda Tobey extended a thank you to Linda Loker for meeting refreshments.

Linda Loker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Stan Meyer seconded the motion. APPROVED.

Submitted by,  
Linda Werner, Secretary.



## REPORTS

### OSHKOSH SATURDAY FARMER'S MARKET

City Hall Parking Lot

June through the middle of Oct.

7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

We had another great year, thanks to all the Master Gardener's who participated by manning the booth at the Farmer's Market. We: set up, answered questions, passed out handouts, provided resources, discussed how to become a MG and were available to the public. We enjoyed the many fellow MGs who stopped by to share with us.

A BIG THANK YOU to" Sandra Ansfield, Kay Bartell, Pat Behm, Dorothy Bonnin, Viona Ginnow, Sandra Gollhofer, Alice Graf, Hen Hawk, Andie Kruger, Betty Kuen, Linda Loker, Cindy Meszaros, Shelly Michalsk, Anne Murphy, Linda Van Ness, Christine Weston. (Some came back several times)  
WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

We also turned in over \$800.00 in worm castings and cookbook sales.

It was hot and sunny, rainy, cold and just nice Wisconsin weather. We met new members, renewed friendships with old members, chatted, researched answers and generally had a good time. Lee's egg-rolls and spring-rolls and fried rice are great. Lots of craft items and of course wonderful fresh produce were available to all.

Everyone asks Janet and I if we are glad the season has ended. We always say how much we enjoy the market and the people we meet there and the friendship of our fellow MGs and that we will miss it. Janet says she especially likes to 'people watch' and so do I. But we're both off to hear Melinda Meyer's talk next Saturday morning and we look forward to the market next year. Don't forget to SIGN UP! Remember, your hours count as education hours.

*In love and gratitude,  
Janet Priebe and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz  
Co-chairs for the Farmer's Market*

### **WHERE ARE THEY?**

These items are available for MG use:

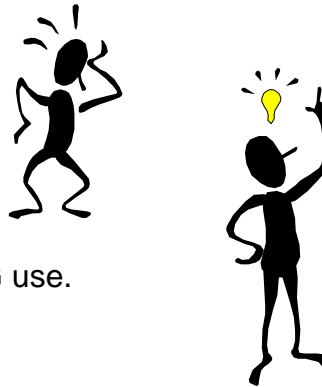
- Four 2x6 white tables
- Large plastic MG banner (can be tied to tables)
- Four plastic Pamphlet holders with various pamphlets
- Wire racks to hold various handouts on clipboards.

All items are stored at:

Dorothy Gayhart Kunz' house and are available for MG use.

You need to contact Dorothy if you need any item.

(We use these items at the Farmer's Market.)



### **MG DISPLAY IN MENASHA LIBRARY**

As part of the Education Outreach we have a MG display in one of the cases at the library each summer for a month.

This summer, in June, I made up many examples of projects that could be done with children to encourage an interest in gardening. The library had a theme of 'The Environment and Children' so it worked in nicely with their theme. Projects were: making a nesting bag for birds, a pine cone/peanut butter and bird seed feeder, watching roots grow through a see through planter, making a scarecrow for the garden, theme gardening, planting sunflowers, etc. I had about fifteen suggestions for parents to do with children in the garden.

If we have anyone else interested in taking over this project, let me know. It's fun and they are very appreciative. Just pick a theme and go with it. It does take a few hours which count on your MG timesheet. I usually can choose one of the summer months for the display.

Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz 233-8468 [dorothy.kunz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dorothy.kunz@sbcglobal.net)

### **PARK VIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Linda Tobey*

The Park View Committee met on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Park View is very much interested in keeping the Master Gardeners involved when the new facility opens. In early Spring, we will be given a tour of the new facility and grounds. They plan to keep the existing gardens going as well as developing new gardens for each "cottage" (wing) of the new building. This is exciting news for those who have been involved in the Park View projects. Watch for more to come.



# MEET OUR NEW CANDIDATES

By Linda Baeten

## Mary Weidemeier: Co-Presidential Candidate

Mary is a native of Oshkosh and learned about gardening from her mother. A few years ago she heard Rosemary Eiden speak about the Master Gardener program, but due to family obligations, she didn't pursue it. But when the time was right, she signed up for training and became certified. She has been with us for 3 years. When I asked her about what kind of garden she has, she said her garden was a work in progress; an eclectic, cottage garden. She likes the old fashioned perennials like her mother and grandmother had. She is also interested in Wisconsin natives and grows a "Salsa Garden" with a few vegetables and herbs. Mary works full time as a Financial Planner. We are happy she has stepped up to run for co-president in cooperation with Kathy Daniels.

## Kathy Daniels: Co-Presidential Candidate

Kathy is also a native of Oshkosh and is a member of the Kiwanis Club where she has been a secretary for the past seven years. Like Mary, she heard about the Master Gardener program from a presentation by Rosemary Eiden. She joined the program to learn more about plants and her surroundings. She has been a Certified Master Gardener for 3 years. Kathy said her yard is mostly woods, and her gardens are experimental. She also helps her mother with a vegetable garden. Kathy works part-time as a Financial Planner and has service club experience. Again, we are happy to have her step up.

## Barbara Kuhn, Treasurer Candidate

Has been a MG for one year

Designed and installed the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Oshkosh and does tours there.

Works at US Bank with commercial loans.

Has a 2-year degree in accounting, a BA in business administration and a MA in adult education.

Is a foster parent.

## Alice Graf, Treasurer Candidate:

Has been a MG for one year.

Has worked for the Oshkosh School District for 21 years, 20 years in accounting.

Currently works as the administrative assistant to the principal at Oshkosh West High School.

Has been a gardener for 25 years.

## What Am I?

By Bruce Abraham



I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Caprifoliaceae** (honeysuckle family); Genus **Viburnum**. My habitats are range from boreal and southern upland forests to sedge meadow and shrub carr. I prefer moist, rich soil and can tolerate both sun and shade. I grow to 10' – 12' tall with a spread of 6' – 10'. My opposite, dark green (sometimes tinged with red) leaves resemble little maple tree leaves; about 2" – 5" long. My fall foliage is red to purple. I bloom from May to June with a flat-topped cluster of creamy white flowers about 4" in diameter. This is followed by cluster of brilliant red fruit, maturing in September, remaining on the plant well into winter until eaten by birds. My berries have also been used for jams. Although my common names make reference to "cranberry", I am not a cranberry; however, I have a resemblance to cranberries in color, size, and flavor. What Am I?

## Jeannette's First Tomato: A True Story

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Jeannette is a 70-something lady for whom I garden. She grew up in Louisiana, the daughter of an agricultural extension agent, and she often jokes about how you'd think she would have learned at least *something* about gardening from her dad. Jeannette has a newly installed very formal landscape in an old Appleton neighborhood. I've been taking care of her gardens for two years now and in that time have come to realize that she really *didn't* learn anything from her dad. But her questions keep me grounded, reminding me that there was a time that I didn't know many things about gardening that are now second nature to me.

This past spring, Jeannette asked if I knew anything about growing vegetables and wondered if she could grow a tomato in a large container. I have been vegetable gardening for many years and have never tried a container tomato, but certainly was willing to try.

I planted an Amish heirloom tomato seedling in her large pot and placed it on her patio where it would get plenty of sun. She was so excited the day I planted it and had many questions about watering and caring for it. It was hard to tell her just how much to water because you just have to get a feel for it and her lack of experience provided no basis for that. The amount to water had to be adjusted for temperature, rainfall and cloudy days. I knew from how often she watered the rest of her landscape that Jeannette would have a heavy hand with the watering can. I taught her about chlorine in city water and told her to run the water into the can a day ahead and let it sit so the chlorine would evaporate. The other advantage in that was that the water would warm up to air temperature and would shock the plant less.

I stirred a scoop of organic fertilizer into the potting mix. The plant grew. And grew. And grew. It was three or four times as big as the same tomato plants that were growing in my own garden! I soon realized that I should have bought a tomato cultivar bred specifically for containers with a smaller growth habit.

Remember the rain we got in early June? Even though the container had drainage holes, it was soon like a water garden. Jeannette scooped the water out as best she could and one day we rigged a plastic covering for the plant so no more rain would get in the container. I cautioned her to remove the plastic as soon as the sun came out so the plant wouldn't cook inside it.

Soon the plant was covered with many small green tomatoes. Then I got a panicky e-mail from Jeannette asking why the bottoms of all the tomatoes were turning black. Blossom end rot! I felt so bad for her; she had been so excited when the little tomatoes had appeared.

I had been taught that there was nothing to be done about blossom end rot. Eat the good parts of the tomatoes and yank the plant out. I knew blossom end rot is caused by lack of calcium in the soil, or else calcium in the soil not being available to the plant. Probably the plant had been so over-watered that the small feeder roots had been damaged and couldn't take up calcium. I scoured the internet for information and found that some people have had success by spraying the leaves of the tomatoes with a solution of ice melting salt *if* it is calcium chloride. A phone call to the hardware store told me that ice melting salt these days is potassium chloride and that the only way to get calcium chloride is if someone has some old bags of it left in their garage. I checked Jeannette's garage and found, of course, potassium chloride.

So, if the plant can get calcium by foliar feeding, what else could I spray on the leaves to get calcium into the plant. Milk! And why not stick some of my calcium supplement pills into the soil for good measure? I bought Jeannette a spray bottle and told her to spray her tomato twice a week with milk. I knew that milk would not hurt the plant, since milk is used on many plants to prevent mildew. I poked a handful of calcium citrate tablets around the perimeter of the pot about an inch deep. I didn't know if they would help, but I was sure they wouldn't hurt. I picked the tomatoes off that had the rot and hoped for the best.

We waited and waited, but it seemed that no new tomatoes were forming. I told Jeannette to go out and gently shake the plant at midday to stimulate pollen movement among the flowers. By this time, she was wondering how *anybody* ever gets any tomatoes and was very discouraged.

After a few weeks, Jeannette stopped watering the tomato, stopped spraying it with milk, and stopped shaking it. She didn't even want to look at it anymore, and in fact it had gotten so tall that it had slumped over on itself. She asked me to get rid of it. I felt terrible. She had been so excited and worked so hard, for nothing!

The August day I went by to remove the tomato, Jeannette was packing for an extended trip to Louisiana. The plant looked pretty sad by then, more than half dead. I pulled up the tomato cage and extra stakes I had used to support it and clipped the plant off at its base. Then I saw them – beautiful green tomatoes without a hint of blossom end rot! Oh no! What had I done? I showed them to Jeannette and told her she could try

wrapping them individually in newspaper and putting them in her basement while she was away to see if they would ripen. This is often done at the end of a season when frost is forecast while there are still green tomatoes on plants. She was doubtful that it would work but tried it anyway.

When she returned from vacation she sent me an e-mail that the tomatoes had ripened perfectly while she was gone and that they were delicious! At last, there was some reward from her first attempt at growing tomatoes. She was so thrilled that she had grown her own food. I don't think anyone could have been happier than I was to see her pleasure after a traumatic (for her) growing season. Next year has to be easier, right?

### **Answer to What Am I?**

I am an perennial shrub - **Viburnum opulus L.**; common name:  
Cranberry viburnum, European cranberry bush, highbush cranberry,  
American cranberry viburnum



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

## **GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD NOMINATIONS**

If you have noticed a member who has been a Master Gardener for at least 5 years, and has shown outstanding service, please give their name to the Nominating Committee of the Golden Trowel Award (Stan Meyer, Linda Tobey, Marlene Miller or Audrey Ruedinger)

Past honorees include: Burt Carpenter, Don Reinhart, Audrey Ruedinger, John Procknow, Al and Judy Harms, Marlene Miller, Stan Meyer, Mary Ginke, Dorothy Gayhart-kunz, Lawanda Youngwirth.

### ***JUST A WORD***

*Linda Baeten*

*The following is a copy of a letter to Audrey Ruedinger from Rob Way of the Winnebago County Parks and Recreation Department that will make us proud:*

Dear Audrey:

On behalf of both the Winnebago county Parks committee and the Parks staff, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Master Gardeners for the tree donation recently made towards the Sesquicentennial Memorial Tree Grove situated in the Coughlin Natural area. We are indebted to the organization for its considerable generosity.

Located as they are, the trees are going to be of particular value to succeeding generations in particular. Those who follow us will have the benefit of being able to enjoy and appreciate the full extent of our efforts at trying to restore a small semblance of Wisconsin's outdoor heritage.

Know that we recently purchased the two Northern Red Oak trees I spoke to you about earlier this month. At present, we are waiting for one or two good frosts to take place before we plant them just beyond the rock marker near the NE end of the Coughlin Building staff parking lot. Please stop by the Parks Office sometime towards the middle of November and I will be more than happy to take you out here and show you precisely where they are positioned.

Once again, I wish to thank the Master Gardeners organization for the thoughtfulness and consideration that has been extended the Parks Department. These trees will indeed be of immeasurable benefit to the community for some time to come.

Yours truly,

Robert Way  
Parks Director/Expo Manager

## **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 chipped 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.
- Harvest vegetables to be stored indoors before the ground freezes.
- 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 blackberry canes that have fruited this year.
- Prune grapevines.
- Mulch strawberries and bramble fruits after the ground has frozen, but before the temperature dips below 15 F. Apply 2 to 4 inches of marsh hay or straw mulch.
- 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.

## ☞ PAINE GARDENS

Contact Pat Behm or Bob Potter

## ☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Rob Robinson.

## ☞ PARK VIEW-MG LIASON

VACANT! SEE Linda Tobey

## ☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

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

## ☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS - Menasha

Contact Ruth Freye

## ☞ COMMUNITY GARDEN Seed Trials

Contact Julie 420-5802 or Ellen 303-9578

## ☞ PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

## ☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Toby.

## ☞ TRIPS

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

## ☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

## ☞ MENASHA NATURE'S WAY PROJECT

Contact Gale Davey

## ☞ LOOK FOR MORE PROJECTS TO COME!



LOOK FOR VENUS AND THE CRESCENT MOON 1 HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE IN THE EAST IN EARLY NOVEMBER

## NOVEMBER 2007

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS AT MIDNIGHT
4  DID YOU TURN BACK THE CLOCK?	5	6 6:00 BOARD MTG @ Coughlin Center	7	8	9  NEW MOON ●	10
11	12	13 6:15 MG BUSINESS MTG	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22  THANKSGIVING DAY	23	24  FULL MOON ○
25	26	27	28	29	30  UWEX Brown Bag 11:30 Topic?	

CHRISTMAS PARTY COMING DECEMBER 3

**2008 Winnebago County  
Master Gardener Renewal Form**

**NAME(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

\$30.00 single membership

\$55.00 couple membership

**Amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: WCMG**

**Renewal Form and Payment due by December 31, 2007**

If the State Office is approached by an outside entity asking for member's information it will be released unless you check the NO box below. Check appropriate blank, sign and return this slip when renewing your membership.

**Do you want your personal information released?    YES\_\_\_    NO \_\_\_**

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO: Chris Bellin  
2415 Hamilton St.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901**