



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

1-920-232-1986

AUGUST 2007

COMMITTEES

Education		
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		
Time Keeper		
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570	
Trip Coordination by Education Committee & Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283	

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 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	

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		
Ken Hawk	426-1691	
Refreshments		
Linda Loker	426-1435	

**No Business Meeting
in August**

**All members welcome to come to our
Summer Garden Walks and
Board Meetings**

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

There are many very important issues facing us right now. I know you are all wondering about them and some of you are getting a little upset. Please, don't worry; we will get through it all. We are a strong intelligent group and have faced tough times before and have gotten through with flying colors. We will prevail again if we work together and are not afraid to step up.

We have again lost our Advisor, but we have faced that problem in the past. This means that we have to take on a little extra work and use our own devices to get through. I am waiting to hear from Dr. Mahr on what she wants us to do with many things.

Right now things are looking a little bleak in the Presidency department, however. We have not had anyone come forward. For those of us that thought Susan Bohn was going to take it; she is not. Due to some important happy changes in her personal life Susan can not take on the Presidency right now. She will remain as Vice President though. So this news was one of those good news bad news things with her good news far out weighing the bad.

I have heard from some of you that they have a hard time taking on the Presidency from me. There is no reason to hesitate. Sure I did a lot as President, but remember I have been President for 5 years. In that amount of time I should have done a few things. I took on the second year in the term of our last President, and served two terms of my own. I was there during a hard time. We lost our past Advisor after about 10 years. She was, infact, the original Advisor who started our chapter of Master Gardeners. It took some time to sort everything out and know how to manage things after she left. We had over a year without any advisor until Jason came onboard. If everyone who was with us at the time remembers we had a long period of Jason figuring out what to do and where he fit with our program. In the end he fit perfectly which leaves a great void for us now. Don't worry though it will all work out.

For those thinking about maybe taking on the office of the President; I can tell you for sure you will not be alone. I will be there if needed and I will be a member of the board. The Board is never more than a phone call or an email away. Don't come on thinking you have to be like me and do things the way I did them. This will be your term and you must do it your way. It is time for a change in our group so this is a perfect time for you to take the lead. Think about it for time is running out.

I'll see you in the Garden
Linda

1. BOARD MEETING: August 7, 2007 @ Coughlin Center

We will be having many important issues coming before the Board at our next meeting. We will be talking about how to proceed with classes as we again are without an Advisor. We will be talking about where to have the Holiday Awards Dinner seeing that Garden View is not an option any longer, the County Fair, how to proceed if we do not have a President and/or Treasurer, as we have had only one response for the Treasurer position, and much more. If you want to add your opinion to the conversation or just want to keep up on what is happening please join us at the next Board Meeting.

2. **MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING:** We will have our next Members business meeting Sept.11th at the Coughlin Center. In honor of being back to our meetings, the end of summer and beginning of the Fall Season we will have a special door prize. In order to be eligible to win you must be in attendance at the meeting. When & Where: Sept. 11 - 6:15 PM at the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh.
3. **WE NEED YOU** – Yes we do need you to come forward to be nominated for the role of President. Please call any board member to talk about taking the lead. We need your abilities, so please step up

MEETING MINUTES

There was no Board Meeting or Business Meeting in July. No minutes to report

GARDEN WALK

Suzette Lizotte former MG'er has offered to share her Perma-culture garden for a Garden Walk on Tuesday Aug 14th. Address is: 2339 Hickory Lane, Oshkosh. Suzette introduced Permaculture gardening to a large interested audience at a Master Gardener meeting last year. This especially will be of interest to all of us as we continue to experience serious drought conditions and the desire to not use chemicals in our gardens, The time is 6-7:30 PM. Blessings and Love, Audrey

REPORTS

Plant Health Advisors (PHA) @ UWEX August, 2007

We are now into the busiest season for inquiries at the office. Many samples have come in as well as calls over the last month with the two totaling 50. Trees are the item of major concern followed by insects or disease or a combination of them. This is true throughout the state due to the drought of the last few years. The drought has left the trees in a weakened state which renders them more susceptible to disease and permanent damage by insects.

We are also seeing quite a bit of chlorosis in oak, birch and maple. This is a lack of nutrients

usually caused by our alkaline soils. Leaves on all or part of a tree will turn yellow while the veins of the leaves stay green. It is best not to plant the species of these trees that are most susceptible around here.

One person brought in a sample of white oak leaves that were almost completely brown on top. They had a gall on them and when torn easily split into top half and lower half. The miner left a black waxy substance on the bottom half of the leaf which was still greenish. Phil Pellitteri reports that this is often seen in Wisconsin and is caused by a moth (whose name I have forgotten) and that normally it is not fatal to the tree. The gentleman was relieved as he has quite a large stand of these oaks that are under attack.

We have an inquiry with which we need help. A person reports that she has gardened for years and has always had nice tomatoes and peppers. She is getting few blossoms on either this year and has watered and fertilized as normal. They are in the same garden but in a different spot from the last few years. The plants look "beautiful". Please send me (Curt) an email if you have any ideas.

We continue to ask any other MG members to volunteer for PHA. If you can't make it to the office on Tuesdays, another weekday between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 pm would be ok or calls can be taken at home. New PHA's will get help to start out. If you are interested contact Curt Reese @ cbreese@new.rr.com or 426-4992.

Marge Menacher's Garden Walk

Article by Linda Baeten

Marge Menacher's garden was delightful. So many different plants! Unique sculptures and garden art were scattered throughout her gardens. If you walked around the front, back and sides of her property there was a delight to behold around every corner. Thank you Marge for sharing your labor of love!

FYI

Picture below is a vervain plant growing natively at Prairiemeadow in Waukau, quite lovely. It has a beautiful purple color, and the shape reminds me of Liberace's candelabra on his grand piano! Blessings and Love,
Audrey



YOU'RE GOOD AND IT'S TIME THE WORLD KNEW IT!

Please refer to the Web Site shown below for all questions.

Contests. Contests. They're everywhere. Athletes have the Olympics. Singers have American Idol. Survivors have, well, Survivor. Heck, even bakers have the Pillsbury Bake-Off. But what about us kitchen gardeners? We have talents too (aside from compost pile turning and pesto-making, that is) and it's time we celebrated them.

The Grow-Off Show-Off is a light-hearted, no-holds-barred talent contest for gardeners who cook, cooks who garden, and other garden-variety foodies. We're looking for fresh, creative entries that communicate the multiple benefits – health,

environmental, culinary, and community - of home-grown, home-made foods.

We're looking for high-impact, engaging entries that are capable of reaching a large audience, either through the power of the Internet or through direct person-to-person contact. While we like being entertained, we're also open to more serious, food-for-thought entries about the food we eat and the many reasons for shortening the distance between field and fork, plot and plate.

This contest is not only open to pictures of your garden and how it impacts your community, but it is also open to poems, music, artwork, animation, and more. This is not your ordinary gardening contest. For more information on what you can enter and ideas, go to

<http://www.kitchengardeners.org/growoffshowoff/>.

The deadline for entering is November 1.

Article Courtesy of Bob Kosanke, State Rep

Planting Doesn't Have to End in Spring *Article by Annette Murphy*

If spring has a tendency of becoming super busy with all the things that you'd like to get planted, the oodles of seed catalogs to go through, the many plant sales to attend and then the actual garden preparation and planting, not to mention deciding the perfect time to get the seeds into the ground with our ever-changing springs of Wisconsin, you may find the cool-weather crops a refreshing means to extend your green thumb experiences. I was happily surprised to read about some cool-weather crops that I can plant now (through mid-August), still enjoy other summer bounty (and weeding of course) and then harvest in late September or early October. One plant that



intrigued me was the Chioggia Beet or Bull's Eye Beet. This particular beet has a very distinct coloring with a bull's eye appearance of red and white concentric rings if sliced across its latitude. It's an Italian heirloom and has a sweet,

mild flavor. Beets (*Beta vulgaris*) in general, are a very versatile plant that can be enjoyed by eating

the young leaves for salad greens and then digging the roots at a later time for a hearty meal. They were used medicinally in the early times and weren't an eating food until the 1800s when the French chefs took them under their wings and started creating cuisines with them. Reading some of the recipes made me think that I could actually learn to like beets and would love to try this cool-weather crop and prolong my love of vegetable gardening for another month or two.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

2007 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days

(formerly called Farm Progress Days) is scheduled in Green County for September 18, 19, and 20. Farm Technology Days are being hosted at the Plain View Family Farm, located east of Albany, along Highway 59, in southern Wisconsin. The host farm is about 30 miles south of Madison. Because of past interest and success of having Master Gardeners provide demonstrations and respond to questions at the Master Gardener Booth in the Progress Pavilion, volunteer participation again has been requested. Master Gardener groups will be scheduled to cover a four-hour block of time with about four persons in a group. Be prepared to answer a wide range of questions while tending the booth. Free passes will be provided.

If you have questions, call 608-265-4536 or email Robert Tomesh

Reply by August 15 either e-mail <mailto:rjtomesh@wisc.edu> or written response to:

Robert Tomesh
471 Horticulture Bldg.
1575 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Reminder

Our regular Master Gardener Business meetings resume in September. We meet the second Tuesday of the Month. Board meetings are on First Tuesdays. Come and have a say. Hours spent at these meetings count toward your Volunteer Hours.

Reminder again

TURN YOUR HOURS INTO SHELLEY AAHOLM. THEY ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1 !!!

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Brown Bag Program @ UWEX

August 24, 2007 (12:00 noon)

Subject: Environmentally Friendly Lawn Management

Lawn quality and environmental impact varies with the different ways turfgrass can be managed. Join John Stier in a review of how to maintain a beautiful lawn in an environmentally sound way.

(Contact your local UW County Extension Office for access.) 920-236-1970

Wisconsin Gardener TV Programs

Check your local listings for the "Wisconsin Gardener" This month's program:

"From Distant Shores", Featuring Native American crops, creating a hardy tropical garden, growing Hmong vegetables, and a simple water feature.

What Am I?



I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Asteraceae** (aster family); Genus **Silphium**. My habitat is prairie and savanna. I prefer loamy clay to loam soils, tolerating some gravel mix in soil. As a true prairie plant I grow 2' – 6' tall with a single, erect, stiff stem covered with stiff short hairs with evenly distributed, typically opposite leaves. My course green, ovate, finely toothed leaves are 2-1/2" – 6" long by 1" – 2-1/2" wide. My yellow flowers measure 2" – 3" across and appear on separate branches on top of the plant. I flower from July through September. Bees frequent my flowers as well as an occasional butterfly. I produce a sticky resin that has been used as a type of chewing gum by some cultures in the past. What Am I?

Refresh Your August Garden

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Many gardens start to look rather tired in August. Some perennials are over-grown or even out of control, mulch has faded or disappeared altogether, annuals have gone to seed or outgrown

their pots. Weeds have crept in. Why not take a few hours to freshen things up?

Roses can be deadheaded one last time early in the month. Cut below spent blooms just above a stem with five leaves. Other perennials can be deadheaded or even cut back hard and given a thorough soaking with water. You may get some re-bloom. Cut back leggy annuals growing in the ground or in containers to just above an area of strong, healthy growth and give them a dose of organic fertilizer or compost tea. There's plenty of time before frost for a new flush of blooms. Stake or tie up any plant that is flopping over that you don't want to cut back.

Pull those weeds – even that one you weren't sure was a weed or not that you've been waiting to see what it turns out to be – time to let it go! Pull weeds creeping into pathways or sidewalk cracks, make a clean edge where there should be one, replenish spent mulch, cut dead branches from trees and shrubs. While you're at it, cut that funny looking branch that sticks out at an odd angle – it's time to get rid of it! The only exception to the clean-up pruning is evergreens – they should not be pruned between July 15 and October 15. Pruning stimulates growth and the new shoots will not be hardy before cold weather sets in.

You know that trashy, weedy corner of your yard that you've been ignoring so long that you don't see it anymore? Well, your neighbor still sees it, everyday. Time to clean that up too! Haul out the junk, cut the grass and stick a birdbath there.

Get rid of any plant that you were unhappy with this year. We've all fallen into the trap of "I'll give it one more year to see if I like it better." You won't, and you'll lose the chance to replace it with something you do like. It's a lot easier to pull it up now than it will be next spring when it's starting to grow again, all full of hope. For now, put some nice looking mulch over the empty spot and do some research on something new to plant there next year. Or look around your yard or your friend's yard for something to divide or transplant into the spot later in August or next spring. If removing the plant leaves a big hole in your landscape, temporarily move an existing container plant into the spot or fill a container with a new plant from the garden center or even the old plant you just dug up.

Take a trip to the end-of-season sales at the garden centers. Usually the plants are pretty sad looking but some diligent shopping can yield some nice plants to perk up your landscape for a month or two before the first frost. And there are always the fall mums!

Answer: I am an erect perennial forb/herb - **Silphium integrifolium Michx.**; common name: Prairie rosinweed, whole-leaf rosinweed

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



UPCOMING EVENTS DON'T MISS THEM!

AUGUST 14, 6-7:30 pm Garden Walk

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AUGUST 18, 10:00 to 3:00

HORTICULTURE FIELD DAY @ the West Madison Research Station. Tour flower gardens, taste-test the veggies. Call (608) 262-2257.

LAWNS

Are you proud of your lawn? The Scotts Company is featuring a weekly contest for the best looking lawns. There will be 15 winners (one each week) who will receive a \$30 certificate for Scotts products. The grand prize winner will win a \$1,000 Smith & Hawkin Gift Card.

For more information or to enter, go to:
<http://www.myscottslawn.com/>

Laura Franta
WIMGA Secretary



AUGUST TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- Water plants if less than 1 inch of rain per week.
- **Week 1.** Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- Keep phlox plants deadheaded. Never let phlox go to seed if you want to keep colors true.
- Start seeds of daisy, coreopsis, Sweet William, and pansy in pots. Transfer to permanent beds in late September.
- **Week 2.** Cut gladioli blooms leaving a maximum amount of foliage on plants.
- Transplant and divide iris and daylily.
- **Week 3.** Take cuttings of coleus, geraniums, and other plants for winter houseplants.
- **Plant chrysanthemums for fall color.** Side-dress with fertilizer for larger blooms. Fall-planted chrysanthemums need extra winter protection.
- Plant Madonna lily and Japanese and Siberian iris.
- Divide spring-flowering perennials.
- **Week 4.** Plant or transplant Oriental poppies. Do not mulch because they prefer hot, sun-baked ground.
- Bring poinsettias indoors.
- Withhold water from amaryllis for eight weeks to stimulate bloom.
- Plant fall-blooming crocus and colchicums.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Sow cover crops in garden areas not in use.
- Pick herbs just before blossoms open for best flavor.
- Inspect corn regularly. Corn pests become abundant in mid-August.
- **Week 1.** Keep eggplant and peppers picked so younger fruit develops.
- Plant late crops of radishes, lettuce, spinach, and beets.

Lawns, Trees and Shrubs.

- **Week 2.** Mid-August to mid-September is the best time of year to establish grass seed. Keep soil moist at all times or seed will dry and die.
- Plant evergreens now through September.
- **Week 4.** Remove thatch from lawn if more than ½ inch thick..

Fruits and Berries

- **Week 1.** Propagate black and purple raspberries by tip layering.
- Fertilize strawberries with 10-10-10 fertilizer applied 2 to 3 pounds per 100 square feet. Thin plants if needed.
- Maintain lime-sulfur spray program on tree fruit to control apple and pear scab and certain other diseases.
- **Week 4.** Collect and bury diseased, mummified plums for future brown-rot control..

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

☞ 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!



AUGUSTY 2007

(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	6	7 6:00 BOARD MTG @ Coughlin Center COUNTY FAIR BEGINS	8	9	10	11
12 COUNTY FAIR ENDS NEW MOON ●	13	14 6:00 GARDEN WALK @ Suzette Lizotte's	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 BROWN BAG 12:00 NOON @ COUGHLIN CTR	25
26	27	28 FULL MOON ○	29	30	31	