

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

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

1-920-232-1986

DECEMBER 2005

OPEN SANCTIONED PROJECTS

Community Gardens	
Open	
Farmers Market	
Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
Paine Gardens	
Audrey Reudinger	231-5745
John Procknow	429-4797
Park View Cutting Garden	
Rob Robinson	231-1162
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Rick Hansen	233-3922
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Marlene Miller	231-4339
Plant Sale	
Vickie Ludeke	582-4348
Mary Fischer	685-6022

CLOSED SANCTIONED PROJECTS

Tri-County Representative	
Patricia Behm	410-3290
Community Education	
Dorothy Kunz	233-8468
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Compost	
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Expo Rain Garden	
Meg Hunsader	757-1410
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

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
Sunshine	
Judy Harms	688-5523
Marlene Konsek	725-8856
Time Keeper	
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570
Trip Coordinator	
Meg Hunsader	757-1410

OFFICERS

President	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Vice President	
Lynne Goudreau	722-8233
Secretary	
Dorothy Gayhard-Kunz	233-8468
Treasurer	
Marge Bolding	233-8668

MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, DECEMBER 13, 2005
Socialize at 6:00
Guest Speaker begins at 6:30
General Membership meeting to follow
HAVE FUN, BE ACTIVE!

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I hope you took my advice from the last letter and have all of your gardening catalogs and magazines piled beside your favorite chair in front of the fire place. This has all of the earmarks of a long cold winter. Let's curl up and stay warm and cozy with a nice fire and good reading.

I hope all of you got your gardens to bed before our snows hit and the cold descended, although if you are rose gardeners like me you will be breathing a sigh of relief now. We can finally get out there and cover our treasures until Spring visits us again. My roses had a slow start this year but ended the season in glory. They deserve a nice nap.

Now is a great time for MG's to get hours in believe it or not. Now is the time to become active in the organization itself. We still need members to sign up to help at the Conference in March. All of the meetings connected with the Tri County are able to be taken as hours for your 24 as well as the time you work on your committees. If you work at the Conference you will also be able to take the time you worked that day toward your volunteer hours. The time spent listening to our great speakers will be more than enjoyment it will count toward continuing education hours.

By the way, all of you who have certified will now need 10 continuing education hours. You are now full fledged members. You are no longer the MG's in training. Those that didn't quite make certification will turn that around this year and join the rest of us as certified Master Gardeners. All of us have had times when, although the brain was on target, our lives decided to take a different turn. Please never hesitate when that happens to call me, another one of the officers or any board member. Let us know you have a problem, and may not certify in any given year. We will make every effort to assist in making that happen for you, and if it doesn't happen we will be there to help you certify the following year. We are all members of a very special group of gardeners and are there for each other in and out of the garden.

I can really say that I feel much more like a true Master Gardener after signing my Volunteer Agreement with the state. I have signed an instrument that lets everyone know that I am a member of an elite gardening group. We aren't your run of the mill gardening club. We are gardeners with a mission. Our Mission statement on the front of our monthly newsletter means more now than ever; we have individually and as a group agreed formally that "Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program." Yup, we are really special gardeners.

Well I am at this time ready to take my own advice. I am going to curl up in front of this warm fire, sip my hot chocolate, read my latest Horticulture magazine, and even day dream a little about that wonderful weed free, insect free wonder of vegetation that will be my inspirational garden next year. Enough laughing, I did say day dream. We are all entitled to that now and again. Isn't this the season for dreams, joy and wonder? Yes, it is; and my wish to all of you is pure joy, fulfilled dreams and a wonderful Holiday. Have a Peace filled New Year.

See You in the Garden.
Linda

1. **MAKERS & SHAKERS:**

These are the members that were in attendance for our November meeting. We thank all of you for being a vital part of our organization.

Lynne Goudreau	Ruth Freye	Dorothy Kuntz	Janet Priebe
Ralph Giessen	Marge Menacher	Vicki Schultz	Marge Bolding
Sandy Giessen	Linda Tobey	Linda Baeten	Jean Reed
Pat Behm	Chris Bellin	Curt Reese	Dian Iott
Bill Polley	Audrey Ruedinger	Ken Hawk	Ben DeDecker
Marty Sacksteder	Barbara Elmer	Roy Anne Moulton	Amy Asenbrener
	Marlene Miller	Tom Fojtik	

Our next meeting will be the 2nd Tuesday in December, the 13th. Don't forget, meetings count for hours worked. Our educational speakers count toward your Continuing education hours.

2. **DECEMBER MEETING:** Our December meeting will be for an evening of great entertainment. Our meeting will be very short in and of itself. This will be an excellent meeting in keeping with the Holidays. Please come and have a nice evening with us all. It will prove to be the best and easiest hours any of you earn this year.
3. **COMMUNITY GARDEN CHAIR:**
The Community Garden Chair heads the projects at the Community Gardens. It will include having a group design the 5 perennial garden beds for the Community Garden area. This will be one of the most rewarding positions in the group. This does not mean you will be working with the ARC. This committee will deal with the MG gardens in the Community Garden project. Call Linda Tobey 734-2264 if you are interested.
4. **BOARD MEETING DEC. 6:**
There will be a meeting of the Board Tuesday, Dec. 6. This meeting will be held at the Coughlin building. The main purpose of this meeting is to work with Jason setting up criteria for working in the office and our involvement with more community education. We will also begin work on the letter to the State Board voted on at the last membership meeting. Anyone interested in attending this meeting to be involved in these matters feel free to attend. 6:00 Tuesday Dec. 6 @ the Coughlin building.

MINUTES

Master Gardener Meeting, 11/08/05, 6:30 PM, Coughlin Center

The meeting was called order by president, Linda Tobey. Marge Bolding, treasurer, handed out a balance sheet and reported a balance of \$1,701.15.

A MOTION was made and passed to accept the treasurer's report. A MOTION was made and passed to accept the secretary's report as published.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Results Discussed

The results of the board's meeting with Jason Kruse, our advisor, were discussed. Jason has asked for help in the Extension office and there was discussion on how to assist there. We could compile a list of MGs who are proficient in different areas of horticulture and use them as a bank of information to access when needed as questions are asked via telephone calls. Jason could give a class in what is expected in the office which he has offered to do. As Master Gardeners we are expected to use resources to find out information. We are resource persons and it gives members a refresher course when we look up answers to questions. This way we learn as well as teach. Some calls have been easy to answer and some aren't on our hotline number.

There was discussion on the form. MGs have been asked to sign, statewide, which affirms qualities of being a Master Gardener. The wording has been strong and some members object to signing it without changes made to the form. We hear there may be changes made as other groups have questioned the wording of the form. A MOTION was made and passed that states, "I make a

motion that although we agree with the main objectives of the Master Gardeners as outlined, that the Winnebago County Master Gardner board send a letter to the Extension and State Office which strongly recommends to both organizations that we, as a organization of regional volunteers, wish to be asked instead of being "strongly recommended" or "demanded" both to sign the MG agreement and to have a Basic Training Course required in our training schedule." There was discussion on this motion before voting on it. The board will come up with a letter to send to the local and state that deals with this issue. The pros and cons of the issue were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

How to Address "No Call No Show" On Projects.

How do we get our volunteers to meet their commitments as voluntary MGs? It was brought up that we need to treat our volunteers as the important members of our organization that they are. The committee lead could make calls, do reminders, send notes to those on the committee to remind them of their commitments. We need to nurture our volunteers and make them feel welcome to our group. Their work needs to be appreciated. Some volunteers are task orientated and some come for the socialization. We need to meet their needs. We could set up a buddy system where two or more work together. Possibly the leads of each group could work at setting up guidelines for this matter.

A Group is Needed for Work on the Community Gardens

Five gardens will need several groups of MGs to design and plant perennials by the end of next summer. It is hoped that some of the plants will be donated by those

having an over abundance plants in their gardens next year. Piles of mulch are still available from this year. Pumpkin patches will also be planted next year. A grant is being written and may supply funds for this project.

Year End MG State Report

The year end state report was handed out and will be included in our newsletter. Volunteer hours were listed along with major accomplishments or projects and the highlighted project was the Oshkosh Saturday Farmer's Market.

MG Training

Roy Anne Moulton reported that all speakers except one were signed up. A brochure is going out pretty soon. The charge of \$80 for returning MGs and \$135 for new members would be charged. \$10 would be charged for individual classes. Twenty have signed up so far. The class is limited to sixty.

Order Sheet for Shirts

Marty Sacksteder requested anyone interested in ordering denim shirts and sweatshirts have their orders in by November 10th. Order sheets were available.

Reminders:

Christmas Party is December 5 at a cost of \$15 per person. Reservation slip due to Lynn Goudreau by November 25.

A MOTION was made and passed to adjourn the meeting.

Program

Our new program chairman, Audrey Ruedinger, introduced Mile Meeker who Presented slides on 'Overcoming Purple Loosestrife'.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, MG secretary

MG Board and Education Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 1, 2005 - Coughlin Center - 6:00 PM

President Linda Tobey, called the meeting to order. Old Business was tabled for this meeting.

New Business

1. Opening Statement by Linda Tobey, president. Linda introduced Jason Kruse, our advisor, and reminded us that Jason is 'on our side' and comes to us from time to time with information and asks for our help with certain problems.

2. Address by Jason Kruse/ Questions and Answers
Jason passed out the ' University of Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement', which MG's will be asked to sign when membership fees are sent in. This form has come from the State Extension office. There was discussion about the form. Jason offered to discuss the form with any individuals that request to do so. Linda mentioned that we are able to edit any wording in the form to suit our needs. The form defines the goals for the Master Gardener program. The form asks MGs to take on responsibility for their actions. Jason read the form to the group. The goal of the MG organization was meant to serve the Extension and to help educate the public. Jason told us he was hired to work with 'Commercial Horticulture' and to serve the 'Green' industry. He explained that the 'Green' industry includes urban areas, lawn care, garden centers, landscape centers, flower growers, nursery and tree farms, etc.

3. Copy Costs

Jason told us that the Extension is funded by the County. Agents are subsidized by the State and County funds. The UW Extension is county based. The County is faced with budget cuts and organizations have been making donations to offset the expenses of making print offs. Copies made for the MG organization include: newsletters, membership book, Farmer's Market, Home and Garden Show, Training Classes.

To help defray these costs a MOTION was made and passed to increase our membership fees to \$30. (Our current fee is \$20.) This raise in fees will take effect for the new year. A MOTION was made and passed to donate \$600 to help defray the printing costs. This amount will be paid towards the first of the year. Our newsletter will be put on the web site so that fewer extra copies need to be made.

4. Basic Course

The state would like to have the Basic Course offered for beginners. Jason offered to set up and organize a basic Fiberoptics course which is offered by the state and would need at least ten people to enroll in it. This program has a live speaker (from Madison) and offers a question and answer set up at the end of the class. This class could be offered every spring, although for this year only, it will be offered in the fall and again in the spring. There was discussion on different types of basic course presentations that could be set up. Linda suggested we wait to set it up in 2007. A basic course offers beginners information on; annuals, perennials, lawn care, fruit, vegetables, wild life, plant pathology etc. A basic course is offered by the Outagamie MG group now but they only have room for thirty people and they have a long waiting list. There was a lot of discussion on the need for this type of program and MG members would probably be asked to monitor the sessions. This type of set up is offered at a few places in the community and is offered in some high schools. More discussion will take place on this subject.

5. Cost for 2006 Classes

Roy Anne Moulton brought up some of the costs that have come up for the training sessions. A MOTION was made and passed to pay the Federal rate of \$.48 and 1/2 cents a mile which some of the speakers have asked for. One speaker would like a donation for his speaker fee to go to the Oshkosh Blooms Club to buy plants with. A MOTION was made and passed to give \$100 to the Oshkosh Blooms Club. An amendment to the motion would give \$200 instead of the \$100 to the Oshkosh Blooms Club. This was voted on and passed. MG membership fees are included in the training course fee. Expenses will be totaled up and a fee suggested and voted on at our next MG meeting. We will also vote on the membership fee change. In case of nasty weather we have been asked to provide a room for the speaker. Right now, the speaker fees are \$900.

Since the hour was late any more business was tabled and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, MG secretary

Program Announcements

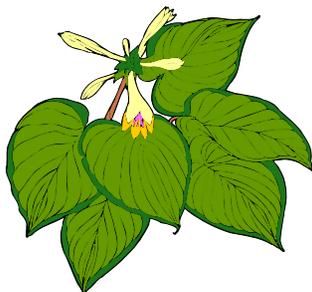
Audrey Reudinger

Please plan on attending our MG business meetings. We will be having a fun and exciting guest Dec 13th, known as "The Hat Lady", Irene Synder. She will be on the docket before the meeting gets underway. January's guest is still in the planning stage, but at our February meeting, Keith Marquardt, from the Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Department will be speaking on the subject of Shoreline Restoration. Water quality is a major concern for all of us.

I would like to thank Mike Meeker for the educational presentation given Nov 8th on the Invasive Purple Loosestrife that is invading our wetlands. It will be both exciting and interesting to follow the progress of Mike and Eileen's beetles in their effort to control one of Wisconsin top invasive plants.

New Volunteer Opportunity

The Director of the Berlin Public Library would like a member to come on a Saturday in April or May to do a talk on shade gardening. She is calling it "Shade Gardening Beyond Hostas". If anyone is interested in giving this presentation, please contact Linda Tobey. There is plenty of time to put it together. The Library Director said they just finished a class on flowers.



What Am I?

I am a native Wisconsin plant, an annual forb, of the Family **Amaranthaceae**; Genus **Amaranthus**. My habitat range is fallow fields, along streams, roadsides, and disturbed soil. My shape is round, mound-form as I grow from ½ - 2' in height. My green leaves are alternate, oblong, smooth, tapering to the base and about 3" long. I am monoecious and my male and female flowers are green and grow in clusters within leaf axils with sharp bracts. The male and female grow separate from one another and flower from July through October. My seeds are eaten by songbirds. In the fall my stem breaks in the wind and I am blown across the landscape. I am considered a nuisance, invasive plant (re: weed).
What Am I?

Parkview Prairie

The Parkview prairie was started in 1984 and was to be and still is a prairie plant identification area. The prairie located just north of the vegetable gardens between the concrete drives is well visited by the residents.

Spring through fall, Ken Hawk, Marge Bolding, and myself would meet at the prairie on Wednesday afternoons to plant, water, and weed. We would also try to keep plant markers with plant types. There is a plant list that goes with the plant markers at the prairie. Both botanical and common names are on the list (Plant list attached). Thank you Ken and Marge for all your help again this year.

Although the area is small there is a good variety of prairie plants and grasses. We encourage the planting of prairie plants and invite everyone to view and identify plants at the Parkview prairie. Spring starts with the Pasque flower from then on until fall with the asters something is always in bloom.

In 2005 we dug a path through the middle of the prairie garden and filled it in with wood chips supplied by Parkview.

The plan for the prairie is to increase prairie plants and their identification markers and decrease unwanted grasses and weeds that compete for space.

The Parkview prairie has a peaceful surrounding. Working in the prairie with fellow volunteers and visiting with residents is a gratifying experience.

Joel Eisch

These are the plants you can find at the Parkview Prairie Garden:

1. Missouri Primrose
Denothera
2. Blue-eyed Grass
Sisyrinchium Campeste
3. Prairie Smoke
Geum Triflorum
4. Bellflower
Uvularia Grandiflora
5. Pussytoes
Antennaria Neglecta
6. Ohio Spiderwort
Tradescantia Ohiensis
7. Shooting Star
Dodecatheon Meadia
8. Larkspur
Delphinium
9. Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia Hirta
10. Purple Coneflower
Echinacea Purpurea
11. Rough Blazing Star
Liatris Aspero
12. Wild Putunia
Ruellia Humillis
13. Purple Prairie Clover
Dalea Pupurea
14. Bergamot (Bee Balm)
Monarda Fistulosa
15. Lead Plant
Amorpha Canescens
16. Culver's Root
Veronicastrum Virginicum
17. Pink Turtle Head
Chelone Glabra
18. Swamp Milk Weed
Asclepias Incarnata
19. Pink Penstemon
Penstemon
20. Blue Grama Grass
Bouteloua Gracilis
21. Windflower
Anemone
22. Golden Alexander
Zizia Aurea
23. Pasqueflower
Anemone Patens
24. Wild Quinine
Parthenium Integrifolium
25. Queen of the Prairie
Filipendula Rubra
26. Phlox
Phlox Pilosa
27. Nodding Onion
Allium cernuum
28. Russian Sage
Perovskia
29. Prairie Dock
Silphium Terebinthinaceum
30. Compass Plant
Silphium Laciniatum
31. Thoroughwort (White Snakeroot)
Eupatorium
32. Green-headed Coneflower
Rudbeckea Laciniata
33. Tall Coreopsis
Coreopsis Tripteris
34. Butterfly Weed
Asclepias Tuberosa
35. Flowering Spurge
Euphorbia Corollata
36. Sneezweed
Helenium Autumnale
37. Anise Hyssop
Agastache
38. Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias Incarnata
39. Phlox
40. Alumroot
Heuchera Americana
41. Thimbleweed
Anemone Virginiana
42. Dragonhead (Obedient Plant)
Physostegia Virginiana
43. Prairie Dropseed
Sporobolus Heterolepis
44. Prairie Blazing Star
Liatris Pycnostachya
45. Foxglove Penstemon
Penstemon
46. Smooth Aster
Aster Laevis
47. Stiff Goldenrod
Solidago Rigida
48. Hoary Vervain
Verbena Stricta
49. Downy Sunflower
Helianthus Mollis
50. Blue Dogbane
Apocynum
51.
Vernonia Fasciculata
52. Bush Clover
Lespedeza Capitata
53. Stiff Coreopsis
Coreopsis Palmata
54. Rattlesnake Master
Eryngium Yuccifolium
55. Yellow Flax
Linum Sulcatum
56. Blue Flax
Linum Perenne
57. Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum Virginianum
58. Royal Catchfly
Silene Regia
59. Salvia
Salvia Pitcheri
60. Gentian
Gentiana Flavida
61. Narrow-Leaf Purple Coneflower
Echinacea Augustifolia
62. Sundrops
Oenothera
63. White Coneflower
Echinacea purpurea alba
64. Beardtongue
Penstemon grandiflorus
65. Rose Campion
Lychnis Coronaria
66. Columbine
Aquilegia Canadensis
67. Sideoats Grama
Bouteloua Curtipendula
68. Hairy Grama
Bouteloua Hirsuta
69. New Jersey Tea
Ceanothus Americanus
70. Tiger Lily (Turk's-Cap Lily)
Lilium Superbum
71. Wood Lily (Prairie Lily)
Lilium Philadelphicum
72. Blue False Indigo
Baptisia Australis
73. Ox-Eye Sunflower
Heliopsis Helianthoides
74. Wild Senna
Cassia Hebecarpa
75. New England Aster
Aster Novaeangliae
76. Bottlebrush Grass
Hystrix Patula
77. June Grass
Koeleria Macrantha
78. Pale Purple Coneflower
Echinacea Pallida
79. Yellow Coneflower
Ratibida Pinnata
80. Sky Blue Aster

Aster Azureus
81. Sweet Black-Eyed Susan
Rudbeckea Subtomentosa
82. Purple Meadow Rue
Thalictrum Dasycarpum
83. Big Bluestem
Andropogon Gerardi

84. Indian Grass
Sorghastrum Nutans
85. Canada Anemone
Anemone Canadensis
86. Joe Pye Weed
Eupatorium
87. Wild Geranium

Geranium Maculatum
88. Switch Grass
Panicum Virgatum
89. Brown Eyed Susan
Rudbeckia Triloba

A Gardener Grows With Time Too

By Lawanda Jungwirth

I've been gardening for a little over 20 years and have been a Master Gardener for 12 years. At first, I wanted to grow every single plant I saw in the catalogs, and I tried, many times without success. I didn't pay any attention to sunlight requirements, or plant height or soil preferences because I didn't know any better. I made a lot of mistakes, wasted some money and had a good time doing it.

Soon I became aware of the many sources of gardening information. I read everything I could find. I checked every gardening and landscaping book out of the library and when I found myself continually renewing a book over and over I decided it was time to buy it for myself. So I amassed a shelf full of books and hundreds of articles cut from magazines and newspapers. Some of the articles I read right away but most I cut out and filed for future use. In reality, I've referred to just a few of them over the years. Today it is easier to look something up on the internet than to search through files of paper information no matter how well organized they are.

When I first became a gardener I repeatedly said to people that I wished we had just one extra month at the beginning of the growing season and one extra month at the end. I also daydreamed about moving about 500 miles south. I could grow so many more plants!

About ten years ago, my husband's company was taken over by a Louisville, Kentucky-based company. No one knew what would happen. Would we have to move? Could we move if we wanted to? I looked at the map. Louisville is almost exactly 500 miles south, in USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6. Wow! Grow time!

Obviously we didn't move south and in the past ten years I have come to appreciate our Wisconsin climate. Maybe it's because I'm ten years older, but at the end of our growing season, I'm tired! I look forward to the winter months as a time of rest and an opportunity to focus on the areas of my life that aren't governed by the weather.

It's easy to appreciate the brilliant October colors but now I admire even the stark gray lines of the tree branches in the thin November light. By late October, I'm glad to pull up the frost-killed annuals and throw them on the compost heap. The exercise of raking an acre's worth of maple leaves is invigorating even though it results in a sore back for a day or two. And shoveling is enjoyable too, at least for the first few snows.

Over time, my gardening philosophy has changed in other ways as well. I've learned to appreciate the value

of native plants and at one point would not plant anything non-native. I've since backed off on that a bit but am very careful of the possibilities of an exotic plant becoming invasive. I've become an organic gardener, and will never back off on that. I have four rain barrels and have become very conscious of how I use water and feel guilty about how I sometimes waste it.

This year, the first hard frost at my house came the last weekend in October, a month later than usual. The growing season actually did last an extra month, just as I used to wish for. My peppers and tomatoes were still producing right up until the end. The leaves wouldn't fall off the trees. The annuals were still blooming happily. When would it end? Finally I bit the bullet and pulled up the vegetable plants but couldn't bring myself to uproot the annuals. I ended up pulling them up on a damp cloudy day with an uncomfortable wind chill. I really found out the meaning of "Be careful what you wish for."

Educational Opportunity

(Thanks to Kay Herried for bringing this to us)

Here is the information on a seminar coming up that I thought your members might enjoy. There is a limit of 50 people for the room so early registration will be key.

Topic: SAFE AND HEALTHY GARDENING

Date: Thursday, January 5, 2006

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Place: Theda Clark Medical Center –
Beltz Memorial Classroom, 130 2nd Street, Neenah

>

Gardening can enrich your life in many ways - yet also be hard work, especially as we grow older or experience muscle and joint problems. That doesn't mean that you have to stop gardening. It simply means you have to rethink how you garden. When done appropriately, gardening provides an adequate and challenging workout including stretching and promotion of joint health. Come learn how to make the most of your gardening experience through proper gardening movement and ergonomics, using adaptive gardening techniques as necessary.

Cost: \$10.00 each

Reservations and fee are due by December 30, 2005.

Make check out to:

Outagamie County Master Gardeners

Send to: Kay Herried

N3355 County Road W

New London, WI 54961

WCMGA ANNUAL STATE REPORT

The Winnebago Co. MG Association (WCMGA) has 110 members of which 34 are newly certified and 53 are recertified.

In 2005 we volunteered 29 hours in youth, 1710 hours in community education, hours in support services, and participated in 2174 hours of continuing education

WCMGA participated in many community activities. As an example, one member writes a weekly gardening column for the Oshkosh Northwestern, one member is head of a purple loostripe study, and one member was selected by the Paine Arboretum to feature their home on the Paine's Garden Tour. Members are involved in Home and Garden shows as well as demonstration gardens at Lincoln School, Emmeline Cook School, the Oshkosh Senior Center, Menasha Library and the demonstration rain garden at the Winnebago County Expo Center. Each year, along with the UW-Extension, WCMGA presents a 36 hour training program for current and new MGs.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. Participated as a part of Tri County MGs in providing information to the community by sponsoring a one day conference, *Garden Expectations*. Over 200 people attended.
2. WCMGA had a booth at the Paine Arboretum Spring Plant Sale. Information was passed out about the benefits of using worm castings, plants, and the MG Association. Worm castings were also sold.
3. This was the second year of WCMGA involvement with the Menasha Community Garden. WCMGA taught handicapped children the benefits of gardening with hands on experience.
4. WCMGA has a yearly commitment to the gardens at Park View Health Center where MGs plan, plant and maintain the gardens along with the patients. The cutting gardens are used to teach the patients flower arranging; there are raised beds so handicapped patients can plant and grow vegetables; and perennial gardens and the prairie garden demonstrate how plants grow in a natural environment.
5. This year WCMGA held a fall plant sale as part of a Farmers Market as a fund raiser, again passing out literature as well as selling plants.

Highlighted Project: Oshkosh Farmer's Market

Last year we were asked to provide information at the Oshkosh Farmers Market once. We decided there was a need for a greater MG presence at the 8-year old weekly market, so we established a permanent booth there this year. Every Saturday from May to the end of

October, MGs staffed the booth to pass out information to the public, such as Garden Fact Sheets, the mini info sheets prepared by the MG Program Office, and our Winnebago County 'hot line' phone number. Over 50 MGs participated, with 1-5 people working 5 1/2 hours each time, for a total of over 324 hours of service and a very positive response from the community. A veteran MG always worked along with many new MGs – it was a great learning experience and good PR.

In addition to providing information and handouts, we also sold worm castings and promoted their benefits. Our sign about the worm castings with a worm saying, "Isn't that worm poop?" got a lot of laughs. But people were interested in this natural fertilizer and we sold over \$400 worth of worm castings.

The most popular part of our booth was the children's area, advertised by a sign: Kid's Planting Table – Free." This gave kids the hands-on experience of planting a plant and taking it home to watch it grow. Certified MGs staffed the booth on a rotating basis. At a child sized table with four red chairs we provided soil, containers, spray bottles, digging and planting trowels (child sized), and bags to put the plants in with the child's name on the bag. The plants were easy annuals such as marigolds and wax begonias and we provided instructions on their care. We had 12-25 children planting each week from May through July. Parents and children were thrilled to plant a flower to take home. We are considering other similar activities for next year.

Answer to What Am I:

I am a forb/herb - **Amaranthus albus**;
common name: Prostrate Pigweed, Tumble
Pigweed, tumbleweed, tumbleweed amaranth,
white amaranth

Editor's corner

My thanks to all of you who help with this Newsletter. Your articles and information are what makes this Newsletter happen. I find it hard to believe a whole year has gone by. I'm looking forward to serving our community through the Winnebago County Master Gardeners again in 2006.

Linda Baeten, baeten@ntd.net

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding projects please contact Lynne Goudreau. Phone: 722-8233 or email: lynneg@core.com

☞ STATE MG CONVENTION 2006!

There is much to do in the coming months. March will be here before you know it!

Contact Linda Tobey or Roy Anne Moulton

☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Curt and Rob can use help in the cutting garden eventually putting the garden to bed for the winter. Contact Curt or Rob.

☞ HOME SHOW- TRI COUNTY ARENA

The Home Show will be held the same weekend of the State Convention, but if anyone is not planning to attend the convention, there will be an opportunity to man the booth at the Home Show. Contact Linda Tobey

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS

Help is needed for next year's community gardens project. Contact Linda Toby

☞ HELP AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Jason could use some help in the office.

☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Toby regarding Shade Garden topic for Berlin Library

☞ HELP WITH BASIC TRAINING

Jason will be needing monitors for a Basic Gardening Course.

DECEMBER 2005

(HOURS EARNED IN DECEMBER 2005 WILL GO TOWARDS YOUR 2006 TALLY)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
				1 NW MOON ●	2	3
4	5 6:00 PM MG CHRISTMAS PARTY @ GARDENVIEW	6 6:00 PM MG JOINT BOARD & EDUCATION COMMITTEE	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 6:00 PM MG GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	14	15 FULL MOON ○	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30	31 HAPPY NEW YEAR

PUMPKIN ROLL WITH CREAM CHEESE

(Thanks to Barbara Elmer)

¼ c powdered sugar (to sprinkle on towel)	¼ tsp salt
¾ c flour	3 eggs
½ tsp baking soda	1 c sugar
½ tsp cinnamon	2/3 c canned pumpkin
½ tsp ground cloves	1 – 8oz pkg cream cheese, softened
	1 c powdered sugar
	3 Tbl margarine, softened
	1 tsp vanilla

1. Preheat oven at 375
2. Grease 15x10 inch jelly roll pan, line with wax paper
3. Sprinkle towel with powdered sugar
4. Beat eggs and sugar until thick (5 min)
5. Add pumpkin
6. Stir in dry ingredients
7. Bake 13-15 min. Immediately loosen and turn cake onto prepared towel, carefully peel off paper. Roll up cake and towel together. Cool on wire rack.
8. Beat cream cheese, powdered sugar margarine, vanilla until smooth
9. Carefully unroll cake; remove towel
10. Spread cream cheese mixture over cake
11. Re-roll cake. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour.
12. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving – ENJOY!