

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

DECEMBER 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
December 11 2007
6:15 PM**

**All members welcome to attend
We have much to discuss!**

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,

Here we are in December already. We are not only seeing another year out soon we are seeing the changing of the guard, so to speak, of our own association. This is a very wonderful time for us. It is the dawn of a new era for Winnebago County Master Gardeners. I think we will see some very good things happen over the next few years. I can feel the beginning of greater involvement by our members. We have realized this is our Association and we must take it and make it what we want it to be.

I will not be gone; however, I will still be a member of the Board. I will also still be teamed with Shelley for hours and partnered with Dorothy as heads of Community Education.

I made what appeared to be an error in judgment at our last Board meeting by telling the two ladies running for Treasurer that both should take seats on the board. The new Treasurer will take on the Treasurer seat left by Marge Bolding and I thought the other very qualified person should take on Chris Bellin's seat seeing that he was elected by the membership. One of the Board members holding a seat as a past officer said he would run for Chris's open seat. I thought he was just trying to be nice to assure us we would have someone to take it on. Stan has done well in his time on the Board and was great help in forming our By-Laws. He has been a Board member since the Board was created from the old OAC. Although I am very grateful for all he has done in the past, my question here is when is it time for someone new and very involved to get an opportunity to serve? This election you will have the opportunity to decide.

I have one more official act to do as President, that being to hand out awards at our Holiday and Awards Dinner Party. I am looking forward again to handing out the awards to our newly certified members and to see the smiles on the faces of our members as they come up to receive their awards for hours earned this year. We do as usual have some impressive hours to acknowledge.

If you see a tear in my eye know that it is not one of sadness. It is a tear of joy. We have come far since the day I agreed to finish our last Presidents term. We have made it through some hard times victoriously. We know how to make it through without an Advisor and will again. We have carved our own niche in the Extension office. I was proud to lead you and will be just as proud to be part of the membership body while others take the helm. Thank You All for working with me to make Winnebago County Master Gardeners what it is and please lets all work hard to help Kathy and Mary as they steer our future course.

See you in the garden
Linda



DECEMBER ITEMS

CONGRATULATIONS to our Presidents Elect – Kathy Daniels and Mary Wiedenmeier. **CONGRATULATIONS** also to our Treasure Elect – Alice Graf.

- 1. HOURS** – It looks like some of you forgot that you **MUST** put in a minimum of 10 hours of continuing education to be recertified every year. If you do not put in the 10 hours you will not be able to be certified next year unless you are a first year Mg and have never been certified before. Our Seminars do count.
- 2. MEMBERS BUSINESS MEETING** – There will be no business meeting in December we will be having our Party and Awards dinner on Dec. 3 instead.
- 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. 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. SEMINAR AND DISC HOURS** - **We** are not having our Basic classes this year, but we are having Advanced Training Seminars. In order to earn your training disc this year you must register for the Advanced Studies Seminars in advance. You must attend 15 hours of the training. You may not part way through decide to take the entire training to earn a disc. You must sign up in advance of the seminars. A listing of them should be in this newsletter. This year we will have the theme of Stewardship and a disc awarded for the same.
- 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. 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 time 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.
- 7. BOARD SEAT OPEN** – The seat open is that of Chris Bellin. This seat will be voted on at our January meeting which will be the first conducted by our new Presidents. So far we have running for the seat Barbara Kuhn and Stan Meyer. If you would like to put your name into nomination contact any Board Member.
- 8. 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. In fact, 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. Books will be ordered the end of December. Order now.

Those who attended our last meeting **NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Linda Tobey | Roy Anne Moulton | Marlene Miller |
| Marge Bolding | Ken Hawk | Bob Potter |
| Barbara Kuhn | Audrey Ruedinger | Sandy Giessen |
| Steve Schueler | Ralph Giessen | Kathy Daniels |
| Jerry Robak | Stanley Meyer | Janet Priebe |
| Judy Harms | Linda Baeten | Mary Wiedermeier |
| Cindy Meszouds | Joni Pagel | Marty Sacksteder |
| Sue Bohn | Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz | Kathy Daniels |
| Sandy Ansfield | Al Harms | Curt Reese |
| Alice Graf | Gail Roush | Andi Krueger |

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.

Master Gardener Board Meeting

November 6, 2007

Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Daniels, Linda Tobey, Marge Bolding, Bob Potter, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Audrey Ruedinger, Stanley Meyer, Ken Hawk, Linda Werner, Mary Wiedenmeier, Roy Anne Moulton, Barbara Kuhn, Linda Loker, Alice Graf

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Tobey.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report: Marge Bolding passed out a financial report that showed a balance of \$5,464 at the end of November. An additional \$5,000 is in a 7-month CD at 5.25%.

Letters: Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz reported that letters had been sent to all who had expressed interest in MG training at the farmer's market or other events. 52 letters went out. No replies had been received to date.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Meeting Date: Usually, there is no board meeting in December. Members agreed to schedule a meeting on December 18 at 6 p.m. to give the new officers an opportunity to prepare for their first business meeting in January.

Speakers at Meetings: Education Committee members raised a question about the need for speakers at business meetings in addition to the numerous continuing education opportunities that are planned for the first half of 2008. Issues included:

- Speakers sometimes have to wait a long time for the business meeting to conclude before giving their presentation.
- Meetings sometimes get long, and people leave before the speaker is finished. If the speaker is first, members do not always stay for the business meetings
- Speakers can be a draw for the meetings.

- Audrey Ruedinger is very involved with the Education Committee programs and cannot continue to arrange speakers for meetings as well.
- In the past, the business meetings were separate from member meetings where a speaker was scheduled.

The board decided to only occasionally have a speaker at meetings and to put the speaker first on the agenda at those times. Two organic food growers will talk about the organic movement at the February 12, 2008 meeting.

Education Committee Report: The committee is in the process of finalizing plans for spring continuing education seminars. The theme throughout will be environmental stewardship and gardener impact on the larger community. Most sessions will be on Saturday mornings. The tentative schedule includes:

- Saturday, 1/12--Dr. Michael Lizotte, a UW0-O biologist, will give an overview on the interconnectedness of soil, water, plants and human impact.
- Saturday, 2/29—Bus trip to the Garden Expo in Madison
- Saturday, 2/23--A speaker on butterfly gardens and another on green buildings
- Saturday, 3/15--March Into Spring—Speakers on organic lawn care and Greenville's new ordinance limiting the use of fertilizers containing phosphorous.

Other tentative topics include the green electrical grid (reducing electricity use), sustainable food production, food preservation, a vermiculture tour at the prison in Oshkosh; a May buying trip to the Madison area, a field trip on invasive species and a weekend bus trip in June to tour gardens in Minneapolis. The complete schedule will be announced in December.

Advanced Seminar Discs: WCMGA annually awards discs for completion of the 36-hour training courses. Some members have expressed concern about this to Linda Tobey because a 36-hour course is not being offered this year. She proposed offering a 2008 disc for environmental stewardship to certified MGs who complete a minimum of 15 hours of

advanced education offered by the WCMGA. The Education Committee will be offering at least that many hours of training in 2008. This disc program will apply only to 2008. In 2009, it is expected that regular 36-hour advanced classes will resume. Much discussion followed on how to keep the program simple and easy to implement. Barb Kuhn volunteered to amend the draft policy based on board discussion and have a revised copy ready for consideration at the November business meeting.

Election Procedure: Linda Tobey will make up a ballot for the November election of officers. Marge Bolding and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz will count the ballots during the meeting.

Because there are two candidates for treasurer, Linda Tobey suggested that the individual who is not elected treasurer consider taking a seat on the board. Both Alice Graf and Barb Kuhn were agreeable to doing so. Board elections will be held in January.

Linda Tobey said she would like to keep her president's gavel as it was a gift. Roy Anne Moulton made a motion to purchase a new gavel for the new co-presidents. Audrey Ruedinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved and Marge Bolding will make the purchase.

Tree Planting: Barb Kuhn would like to start a project of planting very small trees along public roads. She has contacted the Wisconsin DOT and Winnebago County. Of the two, the county seemed more receptive, but she asked for further suggestions on how to get started. She could provide a large number of white oaks. Linda Tobey said it might be simpler to work with burned-over areas rather than roadways and advised contacting the DNR. Roy Anne Moulton also suggested putting an article in the MG newsletter asking for others who might be interested in the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Submitted by,
Linda Werner
Secretary

NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

November 13, 2007

The meeting was called to order by president Linda Tobey.

Barge Bolding, treasurer, reported a balance of \$5,464.00 and presented a 2007 financial report. A MOTION was made and passed to accept her report. A MOTION was made and passed to accept the secretary's report as published.

OLD BUSINESS

Election

Ballots were cast as members entered for president and treasurer. Kathy Daniels and Mary Wiedenmeier were elected as co-presidents and Alice Graft was elected treasurer.

Letter Sent

Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz sent out board approved letters to all the people who signed up to take the training class to explain our not having a MG training class this year. An option was give to join the organization and take training later. So far there have been no responses to the letter. We will send out letters again announcing the seminar presentation in 2008.

Board Seat Election in January

The election of board member for the open seat will occur in January rather than the non-elected treasurer nominee automatically taking the seat as indicated in the newsletter.

MG Clothing Order In

Extra caps are for sale.

Board Meeting is December 18.

New co-presidents will have one meeting before MG membership meeting in January.

Seminars

Roy Anne Moulton announced the individual seminars. The focus will be on the environment and the impact of gardening on the environment. A tour and field trip will also take place. Certified MG's who earn 15 hours of education will receive a 'Stewardship' disc at the awards banquet. Total hours of the seminars will be about 17 hours. Members can take any or all of the classes. There will be a discount for certified members.

Brown Bag Conferences

Are usually set up on Friday mornings. Linda Tobey sends out a reminder.

NEW BUSINESS

Gavel

A gavel will be purchased for use at MG meetings.

Reminders:

Linda reminded everyone to send in their money and food preference for the awards banquet.

Nominations for the Golden Trowel Award should be given to Stan Meyer, Marlene Miller, or Audrey Ruedinger. Membership renewals due by the end of December. Mail to Chris Bellin. Renewal form in newsletter.

Business from the Floor- Tree Planting

Barb Kuhn presented a 'tree planting along the highway' project that she is interested in. The Winnebago County Hwy. Dept is willing to work on the project by pointing out where trees could be planted. Contact Barb if you are interested in working with her on this project. The planting is easy to do and worthwhile and would help the environment. Barb proposed partnering with youth groups to do the planting.

Basic Training Offered

Sue Bohn brought in several pamphlets about the basic training course starting in Waushara County in January. Fond du Lac is also offering a class.

A MOTION to adjourn was made and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz,
Secretary pro-tem

REPORTS

2007 Park View Prairie Annual Report

From the very early blooming Pasque Flower to the late blooming asters, once again the small Park View Prairie has provided continuous color throughout the growing season. The lavender to purple Pasque Flower is the first color noticed, usually in March and April soon followed by lavender, purple, and white violets. In late summer and early fall the asters in shades of lavender, purple, and white provide the predominant color while tall grasses add their airy graceful movement and golden hues to the prairie.

Grasses are an integral part of a prairie environment and the Park View Prairie has many varieties to enjoy; Big and Little

Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Blue Grama, Sideoats Grama, Junegrass, Dropseed, and Porcupine Grass are some of the varieties to be seen in the Park View Prairie.

This year in mid-summer new plantings of Little Bluestem were added to the prairie. The plants were started this spring from seed collected from existing plants last fall. After over-winter stratification in an unheated garage, the seeds were started under lights in the basement and moved outside in larger containers until planted.

Ninety five prairie plants have been identified in the Park View Prairie and many are located by numbered stakes corresponding to an identification guide. The identification stakes and guide are one of the continual efforts in maintaining and improving the Park View Prairie.

Invading species control is another continual effort in prairie maintenance. Although not considered an "invasive species", early in the year cool season turf grasses had seed heads removed to slow down their spread. Throughout the year buckthorn, honeysuckle and queen Anne's Lace were removed. The location of the Park View Prairie, surrounded by maintained lawn which borders on a tree and shrub environment, makes it susceptible to the invading species. Paved drives and walks at the edges of the Park View Prairie were kept vegetation free by a generous application of Roundup as a housekeeping measure. Spring and fall cleanups are also part of the housekeeping efforts. In the spring, debris was picked up and dead plant material removed. In the fall, heavier stalks and plants were removed leaving the grasses to provide winter texture, a source of bird and animal food, and to add to the prairie grass seed bank. Adding donated plants from our gardens, path maintenance, watering new plantings, and selected seed head removal round out our Park View Prairie activities for this year.

All this was made possible by the time and effort volunteered by Marge Bolding, Marti Norton, and Joel Eisch. Thanks to all of you

for your work and knowledge in helping make this another successful year in the Park View Prairie. I know from talking to the Park View staff, residents and visitors that have enjoyed the prairie our efforts are appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of the master gardener group to visit the prairie. I also encourage anyone who has an interest prairie plants and would like to help with the Park View Prairie project to contact me. We would welcome the help in maintaining and improving our little prairie environment.

Ken Hawk
Park View Prairie project lead
920-426-1691
kehawk@earthlink.net

Plant Health Advisors (PHA) @ UWEX December, 2007

Calls have finally slowed to the PHA's hotline the last few weeks. It's been a fun but busy year as our calls have increased 55% over last year through November 21st. The inquiries have gone from 208 in 2006 to 322 this year. A more detailed report will be assembled after the first of the year.

Many thanks to our PHA crew for 2007. They were Arlene and Bob Kosanke, Ken Friedman, Dave Leonard, Jerry Robak, Sarah Hanson, Pat Rockow, Pat Behm, Sue Tappy, and Linda Loker. Also a special note of appreciation to the UWEX staffs in Madison and at the Coughlin Center. They were wonderful support to us especially with the extra load put on them with the absence of an advisor.

Please consider volunteering as a PHA next year. New PHA's will get help to start out. 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. If you are interested, contact Curt Reese @ cbreese@new.rr.com or 426-4992.

Park View Fair Results - 2007

The Park View Residents are proud to report that they again did well at the Winnebago County Fair. Entries totaled 21 and there were twelve awards. The twelve awards consisted of four firsts, four thirds, two fourths, and two specials. The residents thank the MG's for their support.

Submitted by Curt Reese

**SEE YOU AT THE AWARDS DINNER
DECEMBER 3RD
SOCIAL HOUR 6:00-7:00 PM
DINNER AT 7:00
ROBBINS RESTAURANT**



Environmental Stewardship Focus of 2008 MG Continuing Education

The WCMGA Education Committee has chosen Environmental Stewardship as the theme of a series of continuing education seminars that will be presented during the first six months of 2008. Not all of the details are nailed down yet, but you may want to put the following dates on your calendar. Flyers and registration forms with additional dates and information will go out a little later in December.

January 12: (8 a.m.- noon, Coughlin Center) Mike Lizotte, a professor of biology and ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, will set the stage for the seminar series with a presentation how our interactions with the environment affects the land and water around us, especially in the Lake Winnebago area.

February 9: Bus trip to the Garden Expo in Madison. There are always many great workshops to choose from. www.wpt.org/gardenexpo

February 23: (8 a.m.-noon, Coughlin Center) This Saturday morning session will feature Anita Carpenter speaking on "Jewels in Your Garden," the ecology and life history of Wisconsin butterflies and how to attract them to home gardens. The second part of the program will be Annette Weissbach with a presentation on "green building." Annette is with the DNR's Northeast Region office and was very involved in designing the LEED-Gold certified DNR headquarters building in Green Bay. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and sets "green building" standards.

March 15: (8:00 a.m.-noon, Coughlin Center) The topic of this "March Into Spring" session will be environmentally healthy lawn care. The Town of Greenville is the first government entity in Northeast Wisconsin to ban fertilizers that contain phosphorous. Dean Schiller, Greenville Public Works Supervisor, will discuss how and why the Town took this action. The second speaker that morning will present on how to have a healthy, attractive lawn without phosphorous fertilizers.

April 12: (9:00-11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Correctional Institution) The program will include a presentation on vermiculture and a tour of the prison's worm casting operation.

May 3: One-day plant shopping bus trip to southern Wisconsin. Stops will include Koepke Garden Center, Oregon, and Ebert's in Ixonia.

Other programs still in the planning stage include:

- growing organic food and the benefits of buying locally produced foods (date TBD)
- ID of invasive species (April field trip)
- Minneapolis public gardens (June weekend bus trip)



What Am I?

By Bruce Abraham

I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Pinaceae**; Genus **Larix**. My habitats range from bog, pine barrens, sand dune, shrub carr to boreal, northern lowland and southern lowland forests. I prefer poorly drained soils, such as bog and swamp and cool north-facing slopes. My height ranges from 30' to 65' tall. My needles are a pale to bright green, 3/4" – 1" long, three-sided, and in clusters of 15 to 25 on short woody projections from the branch – turning bright yellow in autumn. I am deciduous, the most cold-hardy of any native American tree, and the strongest wood in my tree classification. I flower in April and May with red seed cones that turn brown with age – my pollen cones are yellow. Native Americans were known to have chewed my resin to relieve indigestion. With the use of wooden sailing ships years ago, my roots were used to join the ribs to the deck timbers. What Am I?

Datura – Don't Grow It!

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Datura stramonium is commonly called jimsonweed. Other common names are thorn-apple, mad-apple, angel's trumpet, devil's trumpet, hell's bells, devil's weed and devil's cucumber.

Datura is an annual weed, but some people intentionally grow it in their flower beds as it is fast growing and has pretty white trumpet-shaped flowers up to 5 inches long. It can spread up to three feet and grows up to five feet tall. The leaves are alternate, 3-10 inches long, and have an unpleasant odor when crushed. The fruit is a spiny egg-shaped capsule, 1-3 inches wide similar to the fruit of the wild cucumber. The stem is smooth and hollow, greenish purple, and becomes almost woody.

Datura is a serious weed of cultivated fields, row crops and farmyards. It has been reported to reduce yields by 45% in beans and 77% in tomatoes. The nectar of the flowers contains compounds that contaminate honey. Over 55 viral diseases have been associated with *datura*

including beet curly top, cucumber mosaic, and several potato, tobacco and tomato viruses.

Even if you are not growing any of these crops, please consider your neighbors with vegetable gardens, farmers and honey producers. Don't grow *datura* and remove it immediately if you find it in your landscape.

An even more important reason not to grow the plant is this: All parts of the plant are poisonous, especially the seeds. The plant has a narcotic effect that may result in death to livestock or humans. Less than .01% of body weight is considered a lethal dose. A Kaukauna teenager was recently in the news for ingesting *datura* seeds and hallucinating for several days. Internet accounts of others who ingested the plant tell of a young man who drank a tea made of only a leaf and a half and was tripping for three days. Mary Powers of the Wisconsin Poison Center says that the plant can also cause a sharp increase in body temperature and seizures. The scary thing is that when *datura* users finally come out of it, they remember most of it, and think it was wonderful and want to do it again. One young man tried to cross a busy interstate and was pulled back by some construction workers. Although he remembers that happening, he does not comprehend, or care, what could have resulted.

The common name, jimsonweed, comes from the town of Jamestown, Virginia. It seems that British soldiers sent to quell Bacon's Rebellion of 1676 were accidentally served the unfamiliar plant as food and many of them were incapacitated for eleven days.



WE CARE Pick 'n Save Community Dollar Program Our Account # 939280

WC Master Gardeners are a member of this program. Sign up with our organization Account # at the Service Counter at Pick 'n Save. Then when you purchase groceries at Pick 'n Save, a donation from the grocery purchase is added to our organizations' account. When the amount in our account for four consecutive quarters reaches a certain amount, we will receive \$50. **Folks, this is free money!** So, sign up on our account.

Marge Bolding

MEMBERSHIP 2008

If you haven't turned in your registration and dues for 2008, you can find a form on the last page of the newsletter. Please do so as soon as possible. It takes a little time to put together the lists and Membership books. Hope to see you in the New Year. We have many plans, and all ideas are welcome!

Answer: I am a perennial tree - *Larix laricina* (Du Roi) K.Koch; common name: Tamarack (from an Algonquin word, akemantak, meaning "wood used for snowshoes"), larch



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

JUST A WORD

FALL GARDEN TIPS

November through January

Information provided by Audrey Reudinger

- No more planting of herbaceous plants.
- Beds can be prepared for spring if the weather is permitting
- Top dressing with organic matter, if not done in the spring, can be done after autumn clean-up.
- Use boughs to cover roses. Wait until spring to prune.
- Mulch with old Christmas tree boughs once the ground has frozen.
- Be certain all water and irrigation systems are turned off and drained.
- Do not prune evergreens, mums, tender perennials, or anything with attractive winter interest.
- Do not prune spring blooming trees and shrubs, most buds are already set. Wait until after bloom.
- Ensure that all newly planted evergreens are watered before first hard freeze.

IN ADDITION:

Speaking of "Where are they?," we also have a 10X10 pop-up canopy shelter stored at my house.

Ken Hawk

DECEMBER TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- Shovel heavy snowdrifts off low-lying perennial beds to prevent waterlogging during thaws. Don't shovel snow onto perennial beds. Disturbed snow is denser and can reduce oxygen to the soil.
- Early flowering tulips can be forced indoors after 13 weeks of cooling.
- **Week 1.** Wash clay pots after soaking in 10% bleach solution.
- **Week 3.** Check amaryllis to see if any are beginning to sprout; bring upstairs to bright area and water.
- Purchase holiday plants. Proper watering and lighting conditions are important. Keep them away from heat outlets.

Vegetables and Herbs

- Spread manure on next season's early pea and onion beds.
- Inspect stored vegetables. Anything showing signs of spoilage should be removed immediately and either used or discarded. Remove sprouts from stored potatoes and use up any sprouting onions.
- Inventory, clean, repair and coat the metal parts of garden tools with vegetable oil before storing.

Lawns, Trees and Shrubs.

- Use a broom to bump heavy snow off evergreens. Tie up branches of upright arborvitae or juniper shrubs to prevent winter snow or ice damage.

Fruits and Berries

- Inspect fruit trees for damage after severe weather. Immediate repairs can save trees that might be irreparable if neglected until spring.
- After the ground freezes, mulch shallow-rooted dwarf fruit trees to prevent heaving roots during thaws.

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!

☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

The Vegetable Garden contact Susan Steinhilber
235-1031 or email steinsb@northnet.net

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS - Menasha

Contact Ruth Freye

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS – Oshkosh

Contact:

☞ 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

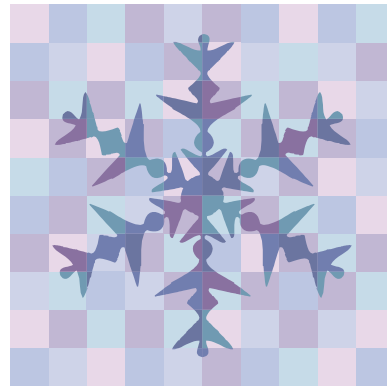
☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

☞ MENASHA NATURE'S WAY PROJECT

Contact Gale Davey

☞ LOOK FOR MORE PROJECTS TO COME!



DECEMBER 2007

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

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THR | FRI | SAT |
|-------------------|--|---|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 WCMGA AWARDS DINNER @ ROBBINS | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 NEW MOON ● | 10 | 11 6:15 MG BUSINESS MTG | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 6:00 BOARD MTG @ Coughlin Center | 19 | 20 | 21 WINTER SOLSTICE | 22 |
| 23 FULL MOON ○ | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

**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**