



# 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

## JANUARY 2007

### SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

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

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

### OPEN / CLOSED SANCTIONED PROJECTS

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

### COMMITTEES

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

### OFFICERS

President	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Vice President	
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Secretary to be nominated:	
Linda Werner (upon vote)	725-8168
Treasurer	
Marge Bolding	233-8668

### MEETING NOTICE

**Monthly Business Meeting**

**January 9, 2007**

**at 6:00 pm**

**At the Coughlin Building**

**All members are welcome!**

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

Wow! Wasn't that Holiday party fun? It looks like we are outgrowing the Garden View though. 80 of us kind of burst the seams of the facility. Even though it was a little crowded the food and company was awesome. Visiting with everyone was such fun. I am sorry that all of the members weren't able to come. Maybe next year!

My congratulations to all of the hour's award winners and to Lawanda for winning the Golden Trowel this year. I don't think the award could have gone to a more worthy member. I know some of you didn't even know who Lawanda was by sight. I know I was surprised the first time I met her. I had a picture of her in my mind, not getting the North Western I hadn't seen a picture of her for real, but I did have the picture the wisdom in her articles gave me. I saw that very intelligent, 50ish woman with short graying hair and glasses perched low on her nose in my minds eye. I must have stood there with my mouth hanging open like an idiot the first time I met her because there in front of me stood this lovely slender young woman: not at all the sagely looking school-marm of my mind. That really showed me that knowledge comes in many forms. Again, Lawanda, thank you for your wisdom and the caring you have shown us for all of this time.

Now that the party is over we will be full steam ahead with our recipe book. We have until our meeting in January to get all of our recipes in, so keep them coming. We could use desserts and main courses, but anything would be welcomed. In fact, if you have any good household or garden tips send them in. We are going to have a tips section too.

We have a lot of work to do in a very short time putting together our recipe book. I know we can do it and do it well as long as all of us do our part. At our meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January I think after a very, very short meeting we will break into small groups and brainstorm discussing what form we would like the book to be in. We need to decide on what type of artwork we want? How much artwork should we have? Do we want all the same font or various fonts throughout the book? What should the title be? What artwork for the cover? After we brainstorm for a short time we will get together and make our decisions by voting. Then the real work begins. I urge ALL of you to be involved in this project in some way. If you are unable to attend the meeting or unable to get out due to health or child restrictions please give me a call. We could use your help typing, editing and other things dealing with the assembly. Remember, all of our time spent on the book will count for hours as this is an WCMG project

We had our December Board meeting last week, and what a meeting it was. We didn't get to the budget yet, but we did make some big decisions on where we are going. One huge thing is we will not start class until March. This affords us the ability to do some hands on in the growing season classes. You know, like doing a Weed ID Class when there are really weeds to ID. We have also moved class from Wednesday's to Tuesday nights. This will allow more of you to attend our meetings because we will have meetings before class. During the course time we will start our meetings at 5:30 and run into the first ½ hours of class. This will better introduce new members to the group and have better interaction with them. Now they won't have to worry about going to the meeting and not knowing anyone the first time. What better way to explain what a Master Gardener is than to be involved in the process of being one from the beginning. We are also working on having a class project. Why not learn how it's done while in class? Students will be able to learn about hours by earning them and how to work as a group by doing. I don't know about you, but I find this all very exciting.

Well, it's time for me to send Dorothy the recipes that just came in. I am very excited about this New Year. I couldn't have dreamed up a better last year of my Presidency than to have you all take hold of this group and make it yours. It is my hope that you will become as excited as I am. Remember your ideas are always welcome. Please come to our Board Meetings or our Business Meetings to let us know your ideas and position on things. New ideas are wonderful things. If you have an idea and can't make a meeting for some reason drop a note to any of the Board members or give any us a call. We are always glad to hear from you.

Happy New Year, and by the way I'll see you in the garden  
Linda

1. **JANUARY MEETING:** The next business meeting will be **January 9, 2007** at the Coughlin Center at 6:15. The doors will be open at 6:00 and the formal meeting will begin at 6:15. It is my hope that the meeting itself will be over by 6:30, and we can then get to our cook book plans.
2. **JANUARY BOARD MEETING:** Our January Board meeting will be **January 3**. It will be at the Coughlin Center at 6:00. All are welcome.
3. **LIST OF 2007 BOARD MEMBERS:** Linda Tobey (President) – 734-2264; Susan Bohn (Vice President) – 685-0427; Marge Bolding (Treasurer) – 233-8668; Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz (past officer) – 233-8468; Lynne Goudreau – (past officer) 722-8233; Stan Meyer (past officer) – 725-6486; Marlene Miller (past officer) – 231-4339; Chris Bellin (member at large) – 233-4968; Ken Hawk (member at large) – 426-1691; Curt Reese (member at large) 426-4992; Audrey Ruedinger (member at large) 231-5745; Robert Potter (appointed) 233-3349. Due to the shortage in Board members, because we do not have a sitting Secretary, Marlene Miller will retain her position on the Board until she resigns or until we have a Secretary.
4. **SOP CALENDAR FOR JANUARY:** 1. Local and state dues are all paid, 2. New Officers take seats officially, 3. Short-term projects finalized, 4. Annual Project line up finalized, 5. Start-up committee meetings begin.
5. **CHANGES IN OPERATING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES FOR WIMGA:**

There are a lot of changes in the guidelines. If you want a complete copy let Linda Tobey know and we will make you a copy or go to the WIMGA website and get your own. Here are some of the highlights:

  - a. From now on we will not be called MG's (Master Gardeners) we will be referred to as MGV's (Master Gardener Volunteers) One reason for this is to make it very clear that we are volunteers and not staff personal.
  - b. Volunteers are expected to provide unbiased, research based, environmentally sound educational assistance to the gardening public. One of the benefits of the program is the ability of the Extension agent to spend less time answering routine horticulture-related questions from the general public and spend more time on other programming. A MG Volunteer staff can be trained and utilized to expand access to traditionally underserved audiences and generally enhance program delivery.
  - c. Leadership development of volunteers is an important component of the program. In addition to the general training time must be planned for volunteer supervision and leadership development.
  - d. In the future volunteers working with youth must undergo a criminal background check, and take special training. (*This is NOT a regulation as of yet, but will be as soon as guidelines are worked out*)
  - e. The training program is the responsibility of the UW-Extension (not MGV's or an MG association). Locally, Extension may delegate facilitation of the program to the MGV's, but the Extension is still ultimately responsible for decisions regarding training.
  - f. The training class must include an orientation to Extension and the WI MG program. Additional short presentations that focus on specific aspects of the MG Program should be introduced throughout the course.
  - g. The MG Manual is no longer available for sale to the public.
  - h. Every new participant in the MG Program MUST sign the Volunteer Agreement provided by the MG Program office. (Those are the forms all of us had to sign last year)
  - i. Name Badges: The cost of the standard MGV name badge is not included in the standard training fee. Name badges are only available to certified MGV's, based on information in the statewide database. The cost of the name badges may be covered by a county Extension office, included in county training fees, or be paid for individually by MGV's. Name badges are ordered from the MG Program Coordinator. .. Extension reserves the right to request/demand a nametag be returned should an MGV either be dismissed from the program or choose to no

longer participate. ( *our association buys and gives members a name badge at our Holiday party after certification since 2004*)

- j. General training is now a prerequisite for specialized training.

**THE ITEMS BELOW ARE TOTALLY NEW. THEY DEAL WITH THE USE OF THE MG TITLE, SPEAKER FEES FOR MG'S, DISPLAY OF CERTIFICATES AND USE OF MG TITLES IN BUSINESS.**

- k. Occasionally a MGV may be offered a gift or honorarium as a speaker. It is permissible to accept a small gift but not money.
- l. An MGV may accept reimbursement for travel and expenses associated with preparing/conducting an educational program.
- m. MG training and experience may be given as qualifications when seeking employment. It is acceptable at any time or place to say that you have completed the Wisconsin Master Gardener Training Program and credentials may be displayed by an employee or employer in a business. However, the Master Gardener Volunteer title can only officially be used when working on UW-Extension approved volunteer projects.
- n. The US Supreme Court ruled that participation in a volunteer program is a privilege and not a guaranteed right. The federal government views volunteers as having many of the same rights and responsibilities as paid staff. The most notable exceptions include monetary compensation for work, fringe benefits, workers comp and an appeal process. Since volunteering is a privilege, UW-Extension has the right to determine who will serve as volunteers, and the volunteer does not have the right to appeal the decision.
- o. Volunteers can be dismissed (fired) by the local Extension agent or county Extension director for misconduct, failure to perform duties or failure to follow program policies. ( there is a process listed saying the agent should have a face to face meeting with the volunteer with witnesses present and the volunteer should be allowed to give their side of the issue.)
- p. The entire handout is 9 pages long if you are interested in getting one.

**Master Gardener Board Meeting  
Coughlin Center**

**December 12, 2006**

No Minutes to report.

(See items listed above.)

**Master Gardener General Business Meeting**

(No Meeting in December)

**RECIPE BOOK:** Our Recipe Book is our number 1 focus right now. **Please ALL** come to our meeting on **January 9** to begin the actual creation of our recipe book. We have a lot of work to do in a short period of time; if we want to get this ready for sale by the end of March. Please, come and help. We need you.

**UNCLAIMED AWARDS:**

Here is a list of those who have unclaimed awards from our Holiday Party and Awards Dinner. We have no secretary to send these items out so please come to the Extension Office between 9:00AM and 4:00 PM on any business day to pick them up. These items range from plaques, and name tags to cards. Thank You! **Patricia Rockow, Bernie Meyer, Martha Skrubby, Marty Sacksteder, Sue Gremmer, Michael Koon, Vicki Schultz, Gail Roush, Lynne Druecke, Linda Werner, Linda Van Ness, Tom Fojtek, Becky Oftedahl, Bruce Abraham, Chris Westen, Sue Steinhilber, and Marti Norton.** *Anyone who is missing their class disc, please contact Dorothy Gayhart- Kunz or Marlene Miller.*  
*Any other problems contact Linda Tobey*

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS PROJECT OVERVIEW 2006**

<b>PROJECT NAME &amp; LEAD</b>	<b>VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>FINANCES</b>	<b>NARRATIVE OF PROJECTS</b>
<p><b>Park View Cutting Garden</b></p> <p><b>Rob Robinson</b></p>	<p>Mike Koon, Tom Fojik, Pat Behm, Ralph &amp; Sandy Giessen, Linda Robinson, Diane Kehrberg, Chris Weston, Debbie Quandt, Curt Reese, Gail Roush, Doane Iott, Linda Loker, Dawn Highland, Gale Davey</p>	<p>Funds Received \$200</p> <p>Funds Used \$170.16</p>	<p>The cutting garden at Park View is a large area. It has been in place for some years. There are many lovely hostas in the shady areas and lots of other perennials. This summer annual flowers were added to the flower beds, some of which were started from seeds by Rob. Staff from Park View bring residents out to the gardens at designated times for the patients to enjoy. The Master Gardener Volunteers pick flowers from here to take to the Flower Arranging on Monday afternoons where they assist residents who greatly enjoy arranging bouquets that they can take to their rooms. Residents entered flowers at the County Fair and won several prizes. This garden is enjoyed by residents, visitors and staff.</p>
<p><b>Park View Flower Arranging</b></p> <p><b>Marlene Miller</b></p>	<p>See Narrative</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>The flowers were in great abundance at Park View this summer. Between the pallet of colorful flowers tended by the Master Gardeners and those that were brought from our own volunteers, the bouquets at Park View never looked more splendid. It wouldn't have been possible without the ladies who arrived every Monday afternoon to assist the residents with the arranging. Thank you Pat Behm, Kathy Daniels, Mary Ginke, Arlene Kosanke and Marti Norton for sharing your time and special talents. Especially so for the fair bouquets. And a special thank you to Pat's neighbor and others who brought containers stuffed with flowers from their own yards for the fair project. Jan Klemm, Activity and Volunteer Director at Park View, called and left a message of thanks and appreciation. She reported that several awards were given for our residents' bouquets and single flower displays. Our thanks and appreciation to Rob Robinson and his crew of volunteers for giving us the variety and quality to help achieve this. I did get to work with most of you ladies and it was so enjoyable to see the response of the residents when their bouquets were finished. A job well done everyone, thank you.</p>
<p><b>Park View Vegetable Garden</b></p> <p><b>Sue Steinhilber Al &amp; Judy Harms</b></p>		<p>Received. \$68.32 Used. \$68.32</p>	<p>Successful 2006 growing season. Residents and staff pleased with opportunities to plant, water, and pick vegetables from beans to pumpkins.</p>
<p><b>Lincoln School</b></p> <p><b>Karen Wedde Janet Priebe</b></p>	<p>Bruce Abraham, Sandy Ansfeld, Sandy Gollither, Judy &amp; Al Harms, Ken Hawk, Mary McDaniel, Bob, Potter, Curt Reese, &amp; Mary Wiedemeier</p>	<p>Originally no funding. In Oct. approved up to \$300.</p>	<p>Blue chip junipers were added to the site (purchased by Karen Wedde). It was a year of general maintenance—spraying weeds, watering, and weeding. Considerable soil was removed to enhance the site. We are seeking donated plant materials to be added to the site.</p>

<p><b>Park View Prairie</b></p> <p><b>Joel Eisch</b></p>		<p>None</p>	<p>The Park View Prairie, located just north of the vegetable garden is a prairie plant identification area. This season Ken Hawk, Marge Bolding and myself met Wednesday afternoons. We added mulch to the path, dug, and pulled unwanted weeds and grasses and watered new plantings. A Spring clean-up leaves the Park View Prairie flat. Through the growing season with plants like prairie dock, compass plant, and tall grasses like big bluestem and Indian grass, the prairie can reach 8 feet tall! As the plants grew we placed stakes by some of each type. This season Marti Norton supplied plant identification stakes. As a group we researched additional prairie plants at the prairie and added them to the plant list located at the site (April—October). We encourage Master Gardeners to visit Park View Prairie and see the seasonal changes and variety of prairie plants.</p>
<p><b>Oshkosh Saturday Farmers' Market</b></p> <p><b>Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz</b> <b>Janet Priebe</b></p>	<p>Pat Rockow, Ken Hawk, Linda Van Ness, Martha Skrubby, Sue Tappy, Bob Potter, Terry Tappy, Sanda Gollither, Chris Weston, Bob Kosanke, Arlene Kosanke, Debbie Quant, Kay Bartell, Marge Bolding, Joel Eisch, Barbara Kuhn, Linda Loker, Diane Kehrberg. I hope we didn't forget anybody. If we did—sorry. Let us know.</p>		<p>Thank you to everyone who participated in the Farmers' Market. We set up five tables of information. We signed up people interested in taking the training course. We answered questions and/or directed people to sites where they could find the information that they were looking for. We explained how our organization works and how we support the community in various ways. We also sold \$300 worth of our famous "worm castings." We feel it was a worthwhile project which also served our own members by providing education hours. We worked from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm each Saturday, (June through the first of October) all summer long. It was fun, sociable and tasty (Special Olympics hamburgers and brats, freshly-made egg rolls, spring rolls, kettle corn, honey, fresh produce, great music, Kid's Days, beautiful flowers, crafts, soaps, lotions, wind, rain and sun – you name it), and lots of Chatting and trading garden know-how. Many people thanked us for participating at the market. Janet sent out a reminder postcard each week. Everyone showed up. Thanks. We couldn't do this project without having a lot of participants. We appreciate your dedication to the Master Garden Organization. We are hoping to continue this project next year. Please consider signing up again. If you haven't had a chance to participate, we welcome you to sign up for it next year!!</p>
<p><b>Home &amp; Garden Show</b></p> <p><b>Marlene Miller</b> <b>Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz</b></p>	<p>List of volunteers was not available</p>	<p>\$147.00</p>	<p>Each year we have a booth at the Home &amp; Garden Show to let people in our area know about MG. We have a display about our organization, what we do, our educational projects, and state our mission. We have a pictorial display about what we have done in the past year. Our classes this past year were on trees and shrubs so we had information about trees. Horticulture handouts were available.</p>

**INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS**

**Carole Dorsch**  
**Pickett Community Center**



My MGV project is located in a courtyard at the Pickett Community Center. The area had been an eyesore and dumping ground for many years. The first thing to be done was to clear out the debris and level the soil. We also had a load of black soil brought in. We installed a water faucet, and drain tile for an existing downspout. The workforce for this project was community members, with an average of 2 people present at any given meeting. Being that we had no budget, we solicited businesses, including a matching fund from Gro-Plant with the original funds being raised by community members interested in the project. We are continuing to raise funds for the project and future capital for the Pickett Community Center by running an engraved brick paver campaign for the pathway that has been created through the courtyard. In 2007 we will continue to put in perennial and annual plantings in the remaining space and spread mulch in the planted areas.

**Linda Loker**  
**St. Raphael Church**

I requested and received approval to work in the gardens at St. Raphael Church in Oshkosh, WI. This year began early in May by pulling everything out of two gardens near the church main entrance and replacing with new soil, new shrubs, perennials and annuals. We also have a large square garden centrally located in front of the parking lot that also was re-done by pulling perennials, dispersing elsewhere. A variety of annuals were then planted in this area. This same area was also planted this fall with over 200 bulbs - daffodils, tulips and hyacinths. A large planter at the base of the St Raphael statue was planted with annuals as well as several planters placed at the various entrances of the church. It was a very busy summer trying to maintain everything – watering was our biggest challenge as we were at the church almost every day. Fall brought new tasks of cleaning up and decorating with stalks, pumpkins, mums and hay bales. Throughout the summer we received many nice comments on our efforts. This was a very rewarding experience as we incorporated assistance from a few parishioners as well. We hope to increase our parishioner interest in the next planting season.

**EDUCATION & ERADICATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

**Garlic Mustard**  
**Lawanda Jungwirth**

In early May, MGs Lawanda Jungwirth and Marty Sacksteder surveyed and marked areas of garlic mustard along two miles of the Wiouwash Trail between County Roads GG and Y with bright orange tape. There were organized work dates for pulling garlic mustard the first two Saturdays in May. Six MGs worked the first Saturday along with two Wild Ones members. The second Saturday the weather was cold and rainy and only Lawanda and Marty came to pull, along with Lawanda's husband, Ron. During the first three weeks in May, Lawanda, Marty and Ron also pulled garlic mustard along the trail whenever they were able to get out on weekdays. By the end of the month, the two miles of trail was pronounced clear of garlic mustard.

The Winnebago County Parks Department helped tremendously by placing large garbage drums along the trail so the garlic mustard didn't have to be hauled away.

A follow-up check of the trail in August showed that there will indeed be work for next year. Seeds are viable for up to seven years so this will be a long-term project.

There is a possible bio-control method on the horizon being developed at the University of Minnesota. A large area of garlic mustard near the Coughlin Building is a candidate for bio-control.

<p><b>Purple Loosestrife</b></p> <p><b>Mike &amp; Eileen Meeker</b></p>	<p>The 2006 battle to control Purple Loosestrife in Winnebago County is complete. This year Winnebago MGs grew 200 pots at the Coughlin Center and another 80 pots were tended at the homes of MGs (Bernie Meyer and Lawanda Jungwirth) and by Fox Valley Wild Ones volunteers (Dave Peck, Kathy Wegner, Ken &amp; Sharon Ziebert). The 280 pots represent a significant increase over past efforts (100 pots in 2005 and 28 pots in 2004). We released between 300,000 and 400,000 <i>Gallerucella</i> beetles in mid-July. The target areas treated this year were the Winnebago County boat landing (south side of Lake Butte des Morts), Asylum Bay and marshes on the Fox River near Omro.</p> <p>The project, coordinated by Winnebago County MGs Mike and Eileen Meeker, was a cooperative effort. In addition to volunteers mentioned above, prisoners from the Oshkosh Correction Institution dug the rootstock from the marshes and helped in potting in May, the Winnebago County Parks Department supplied soil, fertilizer, heavy equipment and manpower, and the Wisconsin DNR supplied starter beetles. Speaker honoraria helped to pay for a second rearing cage.</p> <p>In April Mike Meeker was invited to attend a DNR workshop and was designated Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol Coordinator for Winnebago County. Currently we are exploring the creation of a three-country consortium with our counterparts in Calumet and Manitowoc Counties in order to share our expertise and resources.</p> <p>In late July and August Lawanda and Mike redid a purple loosestrife road survey in our county. This was part of the DNR statewide effort to assess the effectiveness of the biocontrol program. These sites had not been re-checked since 1985. In addition to helping the DNR, the data will also be used to help us define areas for future treatment. A GPS data base was created that contains locations and information about 56 sites in Winnebago County where purple loosestrife has been observed. The database also contains a record of our treatment program, i.e. where we have placed beetles.</p>
<p><b>Buckthorn</b></p> <p><b>Audrey Ruedinger</b></p>	<p>Two Buckthorn demonstration and work days were held on October 14th and October 28 at Prairiemeadow, located at 2736 Hwy 116, Waukau, WI. The weather was cool but pleasant. An invitation article was published in the Master Gardener newsletter, notice was posted in the Waukau post office and Lawanda Jungwirth had a buckthorn article in the Oshkosh Northwestern with the address and my phone number. We had 10 people on Oct 14 and 8 people on the 28th. There was a discussion on different approaches recommended for controlling buckthorn. We worked in teams, some cutting, others applying glyphosate and some dragging the buckthorn to a brush pile.</p> <p>The Master Gardeners who attended were Jerry Robak, Pat Behm, Marty Sacksteder, and Marge Bolding. Several local people also responded from the article in the paper and the post office posting. On the February 14 meeting with the Winnebago Parks Dept with Robert Way, the Waukau Nature Preserve was identified as a possible worksite for Garlic Mustard and Buckthorn in the future. By my observation . . . the buckthorn has moved in very fast and upon working with this invasive I can only say it is totally out of control. When removing the larger trees and observing the ground around, it is covered with many, many little plants. I would recommend addressing the fence rows and along the sides of roads . . . that is where the birds stop, especially out in the rural area. Eight years ago there was not any buckthorn on this property in Waukau.</p>

*Editor's note:*

Look at all we've done in 2006. Makes me proud! This overview was compiled from reports sent in to the Board. Be sure to notify the Board of your proposed projects in 2007. I'm looking forward to another year with the Winnebago County Master Gardeners. Let's see what we can do in the New Year.

*Linda Baeten.*



## “What Am I?”

By Bruce Abraham



I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Cyperaceae**; Genus *Carex* L. My habitat is the southern lowland forest and prairie. I grow 1' – 3' tall, in clumps, with my stems being slender, firm, and triangular. My leaves are narrow, smooth with rough edges. I flower in June through August with 2" bristle-like bracts which are topped with densely-flowered spikes that are 1-1/2" to 4" long by 1/2" wide. Staminate flowers are at the top of each spike and pistillate flowers are at the base – all flowers are green in color. Seedheads mature in late summer and spray out from the center of the flower clump resembling a fox tail. I do well in very wet, moist areas as well as normal prairie soils, but can spread quite rapidly. What Am I?



there is seasonal shade. For the most part, gardening books and the internet provide lists of which plants do well in the different environments.

It is also important to consider time of day when thinking about plants for shade – morning shade and afternoon shade provide two completely different growing situations.

A location with morning shade stays cooler longer after the sun comes up. When the sun hits the area suddenly at noon or early afternoon the plants suffer a fast and sharp rise in temperature which can stress them. If the area remains sunny for several hours, the plants can really suffer. The worst spot is on the west side of a brick or masonry wall. The wall will absorb the hot afternoon sun and retain the heat, making the microclimate around the plants even hotter.

Now think about a spot with morning sun and afternoon shade. The sun gently increases in intensity, allowing the plants and the soil to heat up gradually. By midday, the plants are already warmed up. By the time the day reaches its hottest temperatures and the sun is most intense, the plants are protected by a cooling blanket of shade.

Obviously, the second situation is much easier on the plants. If there is a choice as to where to place a shade garden, always choose morning sun with afternoon shade. There are a few plants tough enough to survive the reverse situation; however they are usually not found on lists of shade-tolerant plants. It would probably be better to look for plants that do well in part or even full sun.

What about areas in the shade of a building or a mature evergreen all day long, all year long? Rather than trying to create a garden there, perhaps the best thing to do is to grow shade-tolerant flowers or ferns in containers that you can rotate into and out of the area. Every few weeks, move the containers to a brighter location so they can regain their vitality.

## Shade and Time of Day

By Lawanda Jungwirth

One of the most common questions Master Gardeners are asked is, “What can I grow in the shade?”

There are many differences in what is meant by “shade.” There is partial shade, full shade, heavy shade, light shade, thin shade, medium shade, half shade, full shade, dense shade and heavy shade. Within these categories, many of which mean the same thing, are wet shade and dry shade. Further,

## Building Your Library of Gardening Books

By Lawanda Jungwirth

An easy and inexpensive way to build your library of gardening books is at the bi-monthly used book sales at the Oshkosh Public Library. Books are priced from 5 cents to \$5. Each sale offers about 10,000 books and there are at least several hundred gardening books among them. About 70% of the books are hardcover. Most of the books are in excellent condition and many are

donated books that are recently published Sales are held on Tuesdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Sale dates for 2007 are January 30, March 27, May 29, July 31 and September 25.

## Thank You!

I am so honored to have received this year's Golden Trowel Award. When I look at the many accomplishments of past winners, I feel like the young singer who has won an award that in the past has been won by Elvis, Paul McCartney and Johnny Cash! Sometimes we are so busy with our committees and meetings and record-keeping that we forget the important point that Audrey Ruedinger made in her lovely introduction to the award presentation. The very first item mentioned in our Master Gardener mission statement is to "provide horticultural education." And that is what I've tried to do in writing for both the Master Gardener Newsletter and the Oshkosh Northwestern.

- Lawanda Jungwirth

## FROM THE GARDEN

*Prose By Marge Bolding*

The Bird Brigade went through at breakfast- time  
Led by Mr. Cardinal,  
Followed by Purple Finches,  
One of them with a larger amount than usual  
of the rosy raspberry coloring,  
A White-Breasted Nuthatch on the suet,  
Some Slate-Colored Juncos on the ground,  
Cheery Chick-a-dees,  
and a smattering of Sparrows,  
Feathers fluffed by the chilling cold,  
and a squirrel below picking up leftovers.

Answer: I am a perennial sedge - *Carex vulpinoidea* Michx.; common name: Fox Sedge, Brown Fox Sedge

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

## JANUARY TASKS

### Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- Use a sterile soil-less starting medium to avoid damping-off disease.
- Give houseplants a monthly shower with tepid water.
- Start seeds for ageratum, begonia, and petunias.
- Use discarded Christmas tree branches as mulch on perennial beds or as shelter for songbirds near bird feeders.
- Begin planning your garden. Consider cold hardiness when selecting plants.
- Make plant labels for perennial and annual flowers

**Week 4.** Start delphinium seeds for late summer bloom.

### Vegetables and Herbs

- Begin planning your garden. Rotate crop locations each year.
- Before ordering seeds, check last year's seeds for viability by placing seeds between moist paper towels for several days.
- Select disease and pest-resistant varieties and varieties suited to Wisconsin's shorter growing season.
- Don't use seeds with poor germination rates; seedlings may be more prone to insect and disease problems.
- Make plant labels for vegetables.

### Lawns, Trees and Shrubs

- Check trees and shrubs for wildlife damage.
- To protect from rabbits, fence plants or pile snow around them.
- Spread sand, birdseed or kitty litter to provide traction instead of ice-melting chemicals on icy walkways; salts can burn the lawn and other plantings.
- If winter is droughty, water woody plants early in the day during any period of ground-thaw.
- Remove excess snow from ornamentals by placing a broom or rake under the branch and bumping it lightly.
- Do not try to remove ice from ornamentals.

### Fruits and Berries

- Check stored apples and discard any spoiled fruit.
- Prune apple pear, quince, grape, and bramble fruit.
- Replace rodent guards at base of fruit trees if they are damaged or not high enough for this season's snowfall.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## ☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

## ☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Rob Robinson.

## ☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

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

## ☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS

Discuss the 2007 Plan – Linda Tobey

## ☞ PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

## ☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Tobey.

## ☞ TRIPS

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

## ☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

## ☞ 2007 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Contact Jason Kruse

## ☞ MENASHA NATURE'S WAY PROJECT

Contact Gale Davey

## ☞ MG RECIPE BOOK

Contact Dorothy Kunz or Linda Tobey

### REMEMBER!

Association dues for WMGA 2007 are due!  
Membership in the State Organization is optional this year. Please use the Membership Renewal Form on the last page. State dues need to be sent by the middle of January!

## JANUARY 2007

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	2	3 BOARD MTG 6:00 @ COUGHLIN CTR all welcome  FULL MOON ☉	4	5	6
7	8	9 MGV MEMBERSHIP MTG – 6:00 @ COUGHLIN CTR all welcome	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18  NW MOON ●	19	20 Toward Harmony with Nature – Oshkosh Wild Ones
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 BROWN BAG2005- Fruit Production Update: The Year In-Review @ UWEX 12:00 noon
28	29	30	31			

### Wisconsin Gardener Program on WPT (Wisconsin Public Television)

**January 28, 2:30 PM/central "Garden Style"** (check your local listings, counts as continuing education)

Take a look at a variety of gardening styles from very formal to old fashioned country in this special new program. Also, visit a bonsai garden, a rooftop garden in downtown Madison, and learn how to create portable ponds

**2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

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

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

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

**\$25.00 single membership without state membership**

**\$30.00 single membership**

**\$45.00 couple membership**

**amount enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **WCMG**

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

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

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

Pay dues now even if you intend to take classes.

Dues were to be in by **December 27, 2006**

**MAIL TO: Marge Bolding**  
**1138 Evans St.**  
**Oshkosh, WI 54901**