

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.

1-920-232-1986

APRIL 2006

SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Gardens	
Open	
Education & Eradication 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 Reudinger	231-5745
John Procknow	429-4797
Park View Cutting Garden	
Rob Robinson	231-1162
Park View Vegetable Garden	
OPEN - LEAD WANTED!!!!!!!!!!	
Al & Judy Harms	688-5523
Park View Flower Arranging	
Marlene Miller	231-4339
Plant Sale	
Vickie Ludeke	582-4348
Mary Fischer	685-6022

OPEN / 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	
OPEN - LEAD WANTED !!!!!!!!!!!	

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, APRIL 11, 2006

Catalog and Magazine swap

Begins at 6:15 pm

BE ACTIVE

HAVE FUN!

Dear Fellow Gardeners,

I don't know about you but lately I need track shoes to keep up with time. It seems that I'm always playing catch up with it. It used to be that I was always waiting for time to catch up to me. I remember as a kid waiting for Christmas. It seemed that Christmas would never get here. This past year it was "Holy Cow Christmas is next week." When did time get so fast? Isn't he an old guy with a long white beard and an hour glass?

I know our new members are looking at the calendar and seeing time wiz by too. Class is almost over. What an exciting time this is for you. You will soon be on the next rung of the ladder to being a Certified Master Gardener. You will be leaving the student phase and entering the intern phase where you will be seeking *HOURS* in earnest.

I know you have thought about; some have even had nightmares about the dreaded *HOURS*. Let me see if I can help you get these hours in a little better prospective. You have only 24 hours to work to be certified. That really isn't much at all. Break it down. In the time you have left this year it is less than 5 hours a month. In future it comes out to 2 hours a month. We have meetings every month which run about 1 - 2 hours. You can claim those hours for just sitting there learning about your organization and becoming familiar with issues. You may even get involved and add to discussions or give us new ideas.

We also have Park View, the Paine and the Community gardens to earn time being involved in projects that are traditional hands in dirt gardening. You can get your hands dirty and become a part of what we are creating. Ask any of the MG's that have been around awhile what it's like to do a gardening project with the group. You dig, weed, plant, talk, laugh and enjoy yourself for a few hours. The time rushes by during these work sessions. You will have a task completed having laughed and chatted your way through it. Before you know it 3 hours are gone, the area you were working on looks wonderful and you have completed more hours by having had a new gardening experience. Work made fun is what these days are all about. We have lots of days like this as Master Gardeners. Your sense of accomplishment soars, you make new friends and you inevitably learn something new from working with these great people.

Guess what? Some of you have already earned hours. Those of you that worked at the Home & Garden Show have hours under your belt already. Those of you that have attended our planning meetings for the Community Gardens are hours ahead as well. Not only have you gained hours but I hope some excitement for a wonderful new project that is just beginning. If you allow yourself to be involved the hours mount quickly.

Here's a tip for you to keep track of your hours on a calendar. Each time you put in some hours mark it on the calendar on the day worked. You have a calendar to use each month in the newsletter. For example, if you came to our last Community Garden meeting from Oshkosh you could mark the calendar on March 6 (Commun. G. meet 2 hours). Don't forget too, to include your travel time in with your worked time. That would make the March 6th hours come to more like ½ hour from Oshkosh to Menasha, added to the 2 hours of the meeting and again add the ½ hour back making your 2 hour meeting into a 3 hour amount of time to take for your hours. You cannot include any detours you make for personal errands along the way, however. For me working at the Community Gardens would give me maybe 5 minutes: It's only a couple of blocks away form my house. When I travel to Oshkosh for meetings or other things like Park View or the Paine my travel time could be 20 minutes to ½ hour or better each way depending on what part of Oshkosh I'm going to. The point being, don't forget travel time, it adds up.

Well, guess what? I'm running out of time again. If you are concerned about getting your hours in you can call me or any of the Board members to ask questions. We will assist members in finding ways to do hours if there are personal or medical problems. Just don't wait until the last minute to start. I have no cure for procrastination. I am looking forward to spending hours with you.

See you in the Garden,
Linda Tobey

1. MAKERS & SHAKERS:

These are the members that were in attendance for our February meeting.

John Procknow	Pat Behm	Dorothy Kuntz	Linda Loker
Stanley Meyer	Ken Hawk	Vicki Schultz	Marge Bolding
Marlene Miller	Audrey Ruedinger	Lou Ann Hendershot	Curt Reese
Al Harms	Judy Harms	Rob Robinson	

Our March meeting on the 14 th was Apple Grafting.

2 Education Hours

Although I am not aware of any problems some readers of the newsletter are afraid that there might be some confusion about our new 5 hours of education. I know that most of you understand how they work. But for those persons that might have that little unasked question about what we are doing and why; I will fully explain. The 5 education hours that we speak of ARE NOT CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS. We know that recertifying members have to do 10 hours of continuing education. This has been the rule since before most of us joined Master Gardeners. We know that continuing education means we ourselves learn.

The 5 hours that we speak of, for the first time this year, are 5 hours that we will work to educate others. Our involvement in education is not what it should be. Remember what Master Gardeners was created for? We were formed to help the Extension teach the community about Horticulture. These 5 hours is our attempt to go back to our purpose. We will directly teach, or in various ways advance the horticultural knowledge of the community. We will take the 5 hours from our 24 volunteer hours. This will leave us each 19 other required hours to work on any of the rest of our sanctioned projects or other community education if we would like. Ways for us to work our 5 hours of community education are listed below. We know that these 5 hours are in NO way connected with the 10 hours of continuing education that all certified MG's must put in to retain certification. Please look at the list below to see what the Board has agreed we utilize to earn those 5 hours of Community Education.

WAYS TO EARN THE 5 HOURS OF EDUCATION TIME

- a. Write articles for our newsletter or newspapers
- b. Work at the Farmers Market booth
- c. Work at the Home and Garden Show / or the like
- d. Working in the office
- e. Working on our MG telephone line
- f. Creating displays for libraries on Hort. issues
- g. Make presentations to the group @ meetings etc.
- h. Work on the Community Gardens
- i. Any other project Okayed by the board for education

3. April meeting will be April 11th We will have our **CATALOG AND MAGAZINE SWAP NIGHT** - save your catalogs especially the ones you think are special and we will share them at our April meeting during what would normally be our speaker time.

4. **APPLE GRAFTING WORKSHOP:** Everyone leaving the Apple Grafting Workshop given by Robert Tomesh on March 14 had apple trees in hand and smiles on their faces. It was a great class. We all learned many things about grafting and had very little blood loss doing so. It was an evening that was well worth the small \$10.00 fee. We all give Bob big thanks for giving the workshop and Jason one for sharing the experience with us.

5. **COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE:**

We are full steam ahead on this project. We will be passing a sign up sheet for people who just want to sign up to help on the big week end and evening work times at the gardens. This is for people who do not really want to be a part of the committee, but want to be a part of the crew to get the work done. We welcome your assistance. It is also a very good way to get some hours in and have a good time working with the group. It has been said before that we need everyone to be involved with this project to make it really work. You are welcome to help in whatever capacity you can. - so please sign up, we need you.

6. **WINNEBAGO COUNTY FAIR COMMITTEE:**

We have not had a Fair Committee for the past few years. It would be a good idea for us to again be involved in that. Involvement in the Fair is involvement in serving and educating the County. We need at this time for someone to take on the role as Chair for that committee as well as a few members to serve on the committee. Having a booth at the Fair will allow us to spread information about Master Gardeners, answer questions from the community, have another venue to sell our worm castings and do what we were created for. We will sponsor 2 trophies this year for Outstanding Garden Exhibitor as we have in the past. It will be one in flower gardening and one in vegetable gardening. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has an interest in the Fair. Even if we do not become an exhibitor at the Fair we should have a person who will take on communication with the Fair Board.

ATTENTION.ALL MASTER GARDENERS

You are invited to the Master Gardener SPRING POTLUCK on April 19 at the Extension. All members are to meet at 6 pm and the class will be leaving from there to visit the gardens at Park View.

EVERYONE is asked to bring a dish to pass. We had an extraordinary variety of food last year so we look forward to the creative talents of our members again this year. The plates, napkins and forks will be supplied along with refreshments.

So please come join us, meet our newest members -- the class of 2006 and enjoy an evening of great food and conversation - great food and conversation - great food and conversa..... SEE YOU THERE!

This is an invitation to all of the Winnebago County Master Gardeners to join us at the Last Class pot luck. It is a great time for everyone to mingle. It allows old and new members to meet and join forces to tackle our projects. It gives everyone an idea of what is ahead of us this year and get us off to a good start.

Marlene Miller and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz are the chairs for the dinner. Please direct any questions to them. I can say for sure that you can bring any dish you would like. MG's will furnish serving utensils. plates silverware and we will have coffee, soda, water and tea if wanted. If you'd like to help, contact Marlene and Dorothy. Last year was a very nice time and I think this year might even be better.

Please mark April 19 on your calendar for the Last Class Dinner.



Board Meeting minutes March 7, 2006

Members attending: Ken Hawk, Curt Reese, Stan Miller, Marlene Miller, Marge Bolding, Jason Kruse, Linda Tobey, Lynn Goudreau, Audrey Ruedinger, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz.

Last MG Training Class Pot Luck Dinner
Chairs, Marlene, Miller, Dorothy Gayhart -Kunz
An invitation will be sent out in the newsletter inviting all members to attend.

Project Consideration
Ken Hawk will look over the information and let us know what he thinks about the possible project.

MG Projects
The board agreed to have a ceiling of \$1,000.00 on projects for 2006. Individual requests may not exceed \$200. Forms should be filled out to request funds for your project.

Nomination Committee
Curt Reese and Lynn have been asking around for members interested in the jobs of Vice-President and Secretary. They are also looking for members to work in the office. Jason will be available to talk to members about how to give out information. Jason also suggested we think about purchasing CDs from Brian Huddelson as a resource. There are a great variety of topics to be purchased.

Paine Plant Sale
Audrey Ruedinger will secure a free booth for us at the Paine plant sale. We will sell worm castings and offer gardening information.
Ken Hawk is looking for a co-chair for organizing this project.

Lynn Goudreau will organize a worm casting packaging in April. Worm castings have been sold at \$2.50 a pound with members being charged \$1.00 per pound.

Revamp Office of President
Linda has a list of ten items to be taken out of the presidency. She will be asking members to chair a meeting, with her help if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

State Conference/ Home and Garden Show
State Conference coming up soon. Everything is ready. Schedules and tickets were handed out to members for the Menasha Home and Garden Show. Both are on the same weekend.

Community Gardens
This project is growing rapidly and needs the support of our members. New gardens will be funded by a grant. The Mosaic Gardens will present different ethnic themes. Ecliptic, Latin Amer., Asian, Slovak, English. There will be five large beds. Signs will say welcome in four languages.

The first garden needs to be up by a conference in June. They are hoping to establish this garden as a big community garden project. Linda Tobey is the chair with a committee of eight to ten members. More participation is needed. The committee is interested in sponsoring sculptures for the centers of the gardens and are looking into it.

The meeting was closed by president Linda Tobey.
Respectfully submitted by,
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz
MG secretary.

BUSINESS MEETING, MAR 14

There is no secretary's report for the regular MG meeting due to the grafting workshop held on the meeting date.

NOTICE: Please contact Chris Bellin with any changes or corrections to the membership booklet.
232-4968

REPORTS

STATE MG CONVENTION

(Excerpt from a Letter from Marymargaret Moreau)

Hi All,
We did it!!!!!!!!!!!!, and in fantastic style. We have now set the bar for all future state Conventions. The only glitches (microphone failure and running short of food) were things that were not under our control. The place looked lovely, the registration ran smoothly, there were plenty of "orange aprons" to help, and the silent auction and raffle were outstanding.

So, jump up and down, and give yourselves a big hug and pat on the back
Thanks again and well done,

Mary



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wisconsin Gourd Society: Festival

Dear Master Gardeners,

The Wisconsin Gourd Society will be having its Wisconsin Gourd Festival on Saturday, April 22nd from 9-6pm at Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts in Mineral Point. Members of the Wisconsin Gourd Society are planning a great day of gourds. Gourd artisans and crafters will be instructing workshops and doing free demonstrations for anyone interested in learning gourd art and craft techniques. They will also be selling their unique pieces--bowls, birdhouses and beyond. There will be an art exhibit and competition, silent auction, raffle and door prizes. Gourd farmers will be selling seeds for growing gourds and dried gourds for arts and crafts. The Kid's Korner will be providing fun gourd crafting and educational activities for children. If you are interested, please visit www.wisconsinourgourdsociety.org for event details and updates.

Cheers,

Amy Thomas

WIGS Recording Secretary

INFESTED MULCH

Debunking the Termite-Infested Mulch Myth

There is an email making the rounds, warning of mulch coming from hurricane-damaged areas of the south containing termites. Below is the original e-mail:

"If you use mulch around your house be very careful about buying mulch this year. After the Hurricane in New Orleans many trees were blown over. These trees were then turned into mulch and the state is trying to get rid of tons and tons of this mulch to any state or company who will come and haul it away. So it will be showing up in Home Depot and Lowes at dirt cheap prices with one huge problem; Formosan Termites will be the bonus in many of those bags. New Orleans is one of the few areas in the country where the Formosan Termites has gotten a strong hold and most of the trees blown down were already badly infested with those termites. Now we may have the worst case of transporting a problem to all parts of the country that we have ever had. These termites can eat a house in no time at all and we have no good control against them, so tell your friends that own homes to avoid cheap mulch and know where it came from."

Please be aware that this is just an urban myth – there is no potential of infestation in Wisconsin from Formosan termites from mulch for several reasons:

1. Formosan termites are subterranean species and most likely would not survive the chipping process;
2. These termites cannot survive the cold winters this far north;
3. All wood products are quarantined from the infested parishes, so they can't end up in mulch unless treated (see Texas press release below).

Agriculture & Forestry Today with Commissioner Bob Odom:

"Don't believe everything you read on the Internet." That is the message Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry Bob Odom is stressing to the public as an email rumor about Formosan termite-infested mulch is circling the globe.

"The email is not accurate and doesn't even mention the quarantines this department put in place last fall to keep Formosan termites from spreading," Odom said. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry issued quarantines following the hurricanes for woody debris in Cameron, Calcasieu, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington parishes. Woody debris cannot be moved out of these areas without first submitting a plan for treatment to the department. "I've had my people out looking into these claims to make sure there are no violations of the quarantine. I've also had our invasive pest expert contact the stores mentioned in the email and we've yet to find any validity to the claims in the email," Odom said. "In my opinion, someone is using the Internet to cause hysteria about a problem that doesn't really exist. If there are people out there who know about someone violating the quarantines, then they need to report it to us. We'll shut the culprits down real quick but it has to be reported," Odom said. "I think the quarantines doing the job, though. We've worked with the debris contractors, the Corps of Engineers and FEMA to handle the debris and quarantines." To report a quarantine violation, call (225) 925-3763.

More...

Dear WGIF members: There are quarantines in place but there is the possibility of illegal movement of hurricane damaged wood debris being converted to mulch and distributed. **KNOW WHERE YOUR MULCH COMES FROM AND AVOID CHEAP MULCH.**

Brian Swingle, Executive Director

Wisconsin Green Industry Federation (WGIF)

phone:414-529-4705 bswingle@toriiphillips.com

More...

From the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection: "we have nothing to worry about in Wisconsin. There are quarantines regarding removal of hurricane debris to other states. We have had a couple of local health department agents call us, after receiving questions from the general public, concerning the potential of mulch wood products from trees destroyed by Katrina and being sold this spring throughout the Midwest. Apparently, the rumor/news reports state the mulch is infested with Formosa termites. If you receive such inquiries, please direct them to call Mr. Bob Dahl, Agricultural Resource Management, 608-224-4573. Mr. Dahl is handling questions regarding mulch from New Orleans.

To find out more about Formosa Termites, go to: <http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/household/termites.asp>

Editor's note: I think the bottom line here for us is that the Formosa Termites can not tolerate our Wisconsin Climate, (Let's hear a cheer for Zone 3, 4 & 5!) and the advice about buying good mulch from a reliable source is always a good idea

PAINE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Greetings to the Paine Gardens Volunteers:

Certainly we are all anxious for Spring to arrive and invite us outdoors to renew our own gardens. But it also behooves us as Master Gardener volunteers to partake in performing gardening duties in the community to earn those credits required for our personal accreditation. Sheila Glaske, the curator of the Paine Gardens, has been so impressed with and thankful for the help she has received from numerous and faithful helpers from the WCMG's in the past and is very interested in establishing a working schedule for 2006.

The Paine will also be taking on the responsibility, with the City of Oshkosh, to beautify as a Gateway to the city, the intersection of Algoma Boulevard and Congress Avenue. New gardens are being planned for all four corners. In particular, the Monument corner will be leveled and be redesigned with more permanent plantings. This renovation during April and May will provide a very interesting and challenging involvement for MG volunteers. Since The Paine will also be presenting a summer-long exhibition featuring fifty of Louis Comfort Tiffany's lamps, Sheila is going to correlate the

colors of the beds of annuals with those of the original lamps – another opportunity for MG volunteers to participate. In order to do the annual plantings, the "big dig" of thousands of tulip bulbs must take place, requiring able bodies to accomplish this, plus providing the opportunity of acquiring hardy bulbs for your own gardens. And on May 20 the Festival of Spring takes place when volunteers are needed to set up, assist and sell a wide variety of annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees at the plant sale. And that is just the beginning! We all are aware that successful and beautiful gardens take constant grooming-that goes on throughout the growing season and can be done at any time a MG volunteer wishes. Just contact Sheila on The Paine grounds or arrange a schedule with her by **telephoning 920-235-6903, ext. 39 or E-mailing sglaske@thepaine.org**

An orientation session for all MG volunteers, particularly those who are new to The Paine, has been scheduled by Sheila for Saturday, April 22 starting at 9:00 AM. She will give you a tour of the grounds, answer your questions, provide you with snacks and liquids, and then assign you areas to be groomed. It is recommended that you bring your own favorite garden tools and wear comfortable garden duds. If it rains, please come anyway so Sheila can talk with you and get to know you. The Paine Garden crew will officially start working outside on April 2, so any of you can participate in clean-up earlier than the date of orientation, if you so choose. You will be welcomed with open arms!

We would like very much to have those of you who have been Paine Gardens Volunteers in the past to respond to this notice indicating your intention **to** or **not to** volunteer in 2006 so we can correct our contact list. You can E-mail John at jjprocknow@yahoo.com or telephone him at 920-426-4797. A simple reply as "yes" or "no" is all we need, but any comments you wish to make are most welcome. Happy Gardening!

Regards and many thanks John and Audrey



WANT ADS

If you have items for sale or trade you can advertise in the newsletter. We have space too for members looking for that thing they just can't find. Maybe one of our members has it or knows where to get it. Call Linda Baeten 920-232-1224 to put an ad in.

NEW greenhouse for sale. It is still in the box. It is approx. 5 X 7. It has a louvered vent and sliding door. Call Lynne Goudreau 722-8233

BEING A RESOURCE PERSON

To be a Winnebago County Master Gardener, members must volunteer a minimum of 24 hours to work on projects sanctioned by our board of directors. Beginning this year, 5 of those required volunteer hours must be in the area of community education (minimum of 19 hours on projects + minimum of 5 hours for community education = a minimum of 24 volunteer hours). Community education is sometimes confused with community education. One way to keep them straight is to remember community education means 'I taught', while continuing education means 'I learned'. Opportunities for earning community education hours include answering horticulture questions from the public at the extension office, the Neenah Farmers' Market or the Home and Garden Show; teaching classes at the Community Gardens; writing an article for the newsletter or newspaper, to name a few.

Feeling a little intimidated? Don't know all the answers? Do not fret!! Help is on the way!! Dr. Jason Kruse, our Master Gardener adviser, will teach "How To Be A Resource Person" from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM on April 12 at the Coughlin Center. **All Winnebago County Master Gardeners are strongly urged to attend this informative and fun session.** "Being a Resource Person" class is free of charge to all certified Winnebago County MGs. THANKS!!

The best way to learn is to teach others and Jason will prepare us for our new roles as 'community educators'. As Master Gardeners, we represent the University of Wisconsin Extension and it is vital the answers and information we provide be based on the latest research available. Jason will share the best information resources, educate us on the various diagnostic labs at UW Madison and explain the inner workings of our extension office. This

session will be a great way to prepare for our new roles and the opportunity should not be missed. Please join us on April 12 at 6:00 pm at the Coughlin Center.

Garden Center and Nursery List

Spring is FINALLY here and I can't wait to visit the garden centers! I have LOTS of shopping to do to fill the new flower beds I made last fall. Chances are, you're just as excited as me to visit your favorite garden centers. Wouldn't it be great if we had a list of all the really great centers in our area? I broached this subject last spring and then let it fall through the cracks. However, I'm committed this year. Please email, snail mail, phone or hand me a list of your favorite garden centers and nurseries. Please include the name, address and phone number. I promise to compile the information and share it with all our members. Thanks in advance for your help with this project.

Roy Anne Moulton
920-886-1283
royanne@new.rr.com
1434 Silverwood Lane
Neenah, WI 54956

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Grape Pruning Workshop April 12

Quality grapes can be grown in Wisconsin. To demonstrate this, grapes have been grown successfully at the UW Hancock Ag Research Station for years. According to UW Extension Horticulture Specialist, Robert Tomesh, "The key to grape growing in our frigid northern climate is variety selection and vine management. The grapes we grow at Hancock are American grape varieties, which are more winter hardy than the European or French hybrids.

This outdoor hands-on pruning workshop will be held snow/rain or shine at the Hancock Ag Research Station Demonstration Garden, Wednesday April 12, 2006. Dr. Bob Tomesh, UW Horticulture Specialist, will be on hand to show participants the proper pruning technique and will give advice on grape management for Wisconsin.

Tomesh suggests that if you would like to start growing grapes, I recommend UW-Extension publication A1656 *Growing Grapes in Wisconsin*.

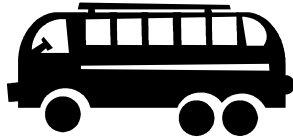
The workshop will begin at 4:00 p.m. (4 to 6:30 p.m.) at the demonstration garden which is across from the main UW Hancock ARS building facilities. Bring your pruning shears for a hands-on experience. Registration is not required and there will be no charge for the public.

News Release:

Contact: Jeff Breuer
UW Hancock Ag Research Station
Hancock, Wisconsin 54801
715-249-5961

TRIPS!

Outagamie County has seen fit to open this trip to the entire Tri County seeing that it came about because of the Tri County. There will only be **ONE** bus. This fact makes it a first come first serve event. If you want to go on this trip send your check ASAP.



We have been invited to Klehm's Song Sparrow in Avalon for a morning of shopping. They are opening special for us since Dave Wanninger spoke at our conference in March. They are not normally open to the public. I have catalogs for people who are going. We will also stop at the Northland Perennial Farm in Springfield.

The bus will leave at 6:00am from the University of Wisconsin-Extension located at 3365 W. Brewster St., Appleton on Saturday, June 17. It will also stop at the UW-Extension at 625 E. County Road Y in Oshkosh at around 6:15am. The group will return about 5:00pm. The cost is \$32 per person. Checks can be made payable to the Outagamie County Master Gardeners Association and can be sent to Meg Hunsader, 3161 Winnegamie Dr. Appleton WI 54914. For more information, go to www.songsparrow.com.

We plan to be at Song Sparrow from 9:00 to 10:30. In order to have more time to shop, everyone should bring their own lunch. If people have special plastic crates for their plants it would be great. They can also bring water for their plants. They should have their name marked on their crates.

Meg

Chicago Botanical Gardens

The Office of Continuing Education at UW Fox Valley is organizing this trip. Discover 385 acres of natural beauty featuring 23 world-class gardens

with over one million plants. Includes a tram tour with narrated highlights, and time to walk through the gardens on your own.

Date: Thursday, May 18

Fee: \$69.00 - includes round trip bus transportation, tram tour and evening meal at Old Country Buffet on the return trip.

Time: Leave UWFox at 7:00 am, return to UW Fox at 10:00 pm.

You can call 920-832-2636 to register, or online at www.uwfox.uwc.edu/conted

Pre registration is required. You may have received an e-mail with a registration form already. Forms will also be available at the MG class and/or Business Meeting.

What Am I?

I am a native Wisconsin plant, a perennial forb, Family **Araceae**, Genus *Arisaema*. My habitat in Wisconsin includes northern, southern, beech, and boreal forests to savannah, cliff, and shrub carr. I am an erect, herbaceous plant growing 1' to 3' tall. I have one or two basal leaves that have three segments. My flower, irregular in shape and about 3" long, is green with purple or brown stripes, is a modified leaf - this "pulpit" is called a spathe. The "jack" (spadix) is covered with tiny male and female flowers. I bloom from April through June from which follows a cluster of shiny green berries changing to red atop the "jack", a fleshy green spike that can be seen as my "pulpit" falls away.

I have calcium oxalate crystals present in me which provides a burning sensation if eaten raw. Drying or cooking removes this effect as American Indians are known to have eaten my roots as a vegetable. My plant parts have been used medicinally by American Indians as a cure for sore eyes, as a cold remedy, as a tonic, skin infections and to minimize pain and swelling. What Am I?



GREETINGS FROM THE PAINE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FESTIVAL OF SPRING at the Paine Art Center and Gardens

Festival of Spring will be held on May 20 from 9 am - 4 pm (8 am for Paine members & Master Gardeners). New this year, show your Master Gardener name tag and gain early access to the best selection and most unusual plants at the Paine's annual spring plant sale. Choose from new 2006 varieties of shrubs, perennials, annuals and much, much more. Sheila Glaske, Curator of Horticulture, and Paine volunteers have selected rare seeds from Seed Saver Exchange that will add a new twist to your vegetable garden and your table. With over 100 vendors of garden supplies, original art and crafts, it is a festival not to be missed. Visit the Paine's website for more information at www.thepaine.org.

Family Discovery Gallery Saturday Programs

The Paine Art Center and Gardens is pleased to announce the upcoming class schedule for educational program which offer children the opportunity to learn from real artists, art teachers and horticultural experts! Saturday activities focus on art and gardens and are offered in the new Family Discovery Gallery on a drop-in basis from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. The programs are geared for children ages 5-12. An adult must accompany children. No pre-registration is required. Programs are free with paid admission to the Paine (free for Members).

April 1, 2006

SPRINGTIME SMILE - Jessica Moore

Spring is a time for cleaning and maybe adding a few new colorful touches around your house to chase away any signs of winter. How about something bright for your kitchen? Jessica Moore has a project that will add some artwork to your refrigerator door. Use geometric foam shapes in your own design, add a few "extras" and a magnet on the back. Stick it up at home and the next time you reach for the milk for your cereal you might just bring a smile along to the table!

April 8, 2006

SUN CATCHERS - Jessica Beshel

We expect some cloudy days and April showers. But after you work with Jessica Beshel making today's project, you'll be hoping for the sun to peek through soon! That is because you'll be using colored tissue and wax paper to make a sun catcher to hang in your window. Even if the weather forecasters can't send any sun our way, this art project will brighten your day!

April 15, 2006

PHOTO MOSAICS - Alyssa Gruett

Hundreds of years ago you might have tiny pieces of stone, shell, glass or tiles that made a mosaic picture on your floor. This ancient decorative art has a new twist these days and Alyssa Gruett will introduce you to the

techniques you can use to create your own photo mosaic. Plan to spend a little extra time with her today and the reward will be an original and imaginative picture for you to display at home.

April 22, 2006

TINY TREASURES - Heather Kreif

Hiding in the tall grass you might find a bunny cuddled close to its brothers and sisters. Up in a tree deep in a soft nest you could find some baby birds. Spring is the time for new beginnings! Today Heather Kreif will guide you in sculpting a cute critter from colorful clay. After you take it home and bake it in your oven, you will have a delightful little reminder of the marvels of spring.

April 29, 2006

TOP IT OFF! - Becky Andersen

You are in for a great time today in our Family Discovery Gallery with artist Becky Andersen. Becky has a project in mind that is full of whimsy and glee! You'll pick your materials-beads, ribbons, sequins, spots, dots, and lots of other possibilities and create a one-of-a kind hat. Today you can wear your artwork home!

**Answer: I am a forb/herb – [Araceae](#)
[Arisaema triphyllum \(L.\)](#); common name:
Jack-in-the-Pulpit; Indian Turnip**

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

Peat Moss

Should You Use It or Not?

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Sphagnum peat moss is a fluffy brown organic soil amendment usually sold compressed into heavy "bales" which are sold in rectangular plastic bags.

The peat moss we buy is harvested from bogs in Canada which has more than 25% of all the peat in the world. Ninety percent of Canada's peat moss is exported to the United States.

Peat moss has no nutritional value for soil, but it does help in other ways. It retains up to 20 times its weight in moisture and then releases the water slowly as plants need it. It also keeps what nutrients are in or are added to the soil in place longer rather than allowing them to leach away. It loosens and aerates heavy clay soils and gives body to sandy soils. When added to compost piles, peat moss will speed the process, reduce odors and control air and water in the pile.

Peat moss decomposes slowly over several years and is free of insects, weeds, seeds, salts and chemicals. It is acidic and is best used around

acid-loving plants like azaleas, rhododendrons and blueberries. Peat moss is the major component in soilless seed starting mixes. Peat pots, used for starting seeds, are made of highly compressed peat moss. Peat moss is also often used as a medium in which to store tender bulbs over the winter.

What's the downside? Peat moss is hard to wet and once it dries out it is even harder to re-wet. It should not be used as a mulch because it forms a hard crust on top of the soil that repels water. Because it is so fluffy, care should be taken not to inhale the particles.

Peat moss is a renewable resource, but forms at a rate of only one to two millimeters a year. However, according to the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, the moss accumulates at more than 70 times the rate it is being harvested. (You have to remember that the Association is in the business of selling peat moss.)

Harvesting peat moss is an energy intensive activity whereby the moss is stripped from the bogs. First the moss is "milled" or loosened and allowed to dry and then huge vacuums come by and remove it. It is compressed into the bales and shipped long distances, a further energy cost.

You'll have to make your own decision as to whether peat moss is something you want to use in your yard or garden.

Is it true that it takes several thousand years for sphagnum peat moss to form?



No. Peat forms at a rate of 1 to 2 millimetres a year. According to a recent study by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Canada), harvested peatlands can be restored to ecologically balanced systems within 5 to 20 years after peat harvesting.

Isn't there a shortage of peatland in Canada? Isn't harvesting peat moss depleting these areas of wetlands?

No. There are more than 270 million acres of peatlands in Canada. Of that, only one in 6,000 acres (or .016 percent) is being used for peat harvesting. Canadian sphagnum peat moss is a sustainable resource. Annually, peat moss accumulates at more than 70 times the rate it is harvested. Harvested bogs are returned to

wetlands so the ecological balance of the area is maintained.

Can the supply of peat moss be completely depleted?

No. The bogs that are being harvested will be restored to functioning wetlands. In addition, there are millions of acres of bogs in national parks and other preserves that can never be harvested.

Once a peatland has been selected for development, surveying is carried out and a drainage plan is prepared. A drainage ditch is dug around the perimeter and drained to the low side of the bog. The surface vegetation is removed following the completion of the perimeter ditch.

To reduce the moisture in the top layer of the bog, shallow parallel ditches spaced 30 meters apart that drain into the perimeter ditch are dug. This allows the surface to dry enough that harvesting equipment can be used without fear of sinking. The fields between the parallel ditches are then profiled so that rain water will drain to the ditches. The deposit is then ready for peat production.



Harvesting the peat

Production requires the use of the sun and wind to dry the surface peat layer. An uppermost layer is usually harrowed, breaking capillary flow and enhancing the drying process.

Technically this process is called "milling" the peat. After one to three days, the dry peat layer is then



collected using large vacuum harvesters or other equipment. The peat is transported to a processing facility for screening and packaging. The main peat production season in Canada is the late May to mid-September period. Production can be severely inhibited by abnormally wet spring or summer weather resulting in significant variation in annual production.

Volunteer Opportunities with the Invasive Plants Committee

GARLIC MUSTARD

Call Lawanda Jungwirth at 836-2878 for more information

Come pull garlic mustard along the Wiouwash Trail the first two Saturdays in May (6th and 13th) from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Meet at Brooks Road parking area (From Oshkosh take Hwy. 45 north to County T. Turn right on T and go about 1 ½ miles. Go left on Brooks Rd. about one mile.)

Your help is welcomed even if you can come for only an hour or two.

Bring gloves, kneeling cushion and a dandelion digger. Garlic mustard pulls easily but a dandelion digger makes it even easier and helps ensure that the roots don't break off.

Call to make sure there is still work for the second weekend. With good weather and enough volunteers maybe we can finish the first Saturday!

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Call Mike Meeker at 582-7309 for more information

End of April: Help plant purple loosestrife rootstock in pots for people who will be raising the beetles.

Consider growing the beetles in your yard. You will be provided with wading pools, pots, netting, loosestrife rootstock and beetles. Once the pots are set up all you have to do is keep water in the wading pool from April until the beetles are set free in July.

July and August: Consider participating in a road survey to locate purple loosestrife so the 1988 survey can be updated.

BUCKTHORN

Call Audrey Ruedinger at 231-5745 for more information

Attack buckthorn infestations sometime in summer and/or fall. The treatment will consist of cutting the stems and/or trunks and treating the cambium layer chemically.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT QUESTIONS

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

☞ 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 needs a lead person. Contact Linda Tobey.

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS

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

☞ HELP AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

☞ BE A GUEST SPEAKER

Contact Linda Toby.

☞ HELP WITH BASIC TRAINING

Jason will be needing monitors for a Basic Gardening Course.

☞ TRIP COORDINATOR

Meg is no longer doing trips for Winnebago County and we need someone to step up!

☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ELIMINATION

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

APRIL 2006

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
						1
2 DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS – turn your clock ahead!	3	4 6:00 pm MG BOARD MEETING	5 6-9 pm MG Training Class “Disease ID & Control”	6	7	8
9	10	11 6:15 pm MG BUSINESS MEETING	12 6-9 pm MG Training Class “Being a Resource Person”	13 FULL MOON ☉	14 GOOD FRIDAY	15
16 EASTER	17	18	19 MG ANNUAL POT LUCK – MEET AT COUGHLIN 6:00pm	20	21	22 9:00 am Volunteer Orientation @ the Paine 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Earth Day in Appleton
23	24	25	26	27 NW MOON ●	28 National Arbor Day	29
30						

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM SCHEDULE
“Trees & Shrubs”

Master Gardener Training will be held at the JP Coughlin Center, 625 East County Road Y, Oshkosh. All sessions are on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-9:00 PM.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTER
7	April 5	Disease ID & Control	Brian Hudelson, Plant Disease Diagnostician, UW Ext. Madison
8	April 12	Being a Resource Person	Jason Kruse, UW Ext. Winnebago County
9	April 19	Pot Luck & Visits to Project Sites	Linda Tobey, President, Winnebago County Master Gardeners

A CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY IN APPLETON

WHAT: Habitat for Humanity is having a celebration of Earth Day on April 22, 2006. They have invited the Master Gardeners to participate.

TIME: 10 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: 3,000 East College Ave., Appleton. This will be held outside in the parking lot.

CONTACT: Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz dbkunz@voyager.net or call 233-8468

We will need Master Gardeners to be at the display. If you are interested please call or e-mail me. This is a good project for earning hours.

Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz

NAME YEAR END HOURS REPORT

Must be received by September 1, 2006

ADDRESS														PHONE:				Support	EDUCATION			
DO NOT WRITE IN OTHER INFORMATION - ONLY FILL IN APPROPRIATE BLANKS																						
2004 - 2005	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRL	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	Services	Comm	Youth	Cont.					
CORE																						
ATTEND MEETINGS														0.00								
OFFICER / BOARD														0.00								
COMMUNITY GARDEN														0.00								
PAINE GARDENS														0.00								
ALL PARK VIEW PROJECTS														0.00								
INVASIVES														0.00								
COMMITTEE WORK														0.00								
OPEN / CLOSED																						
DOTY CABIN/LINCOLN SCH.														0.00								
PLANT SALE/WORM CAST.														0.00								
MEMBERSHIP														0.00								
RAIN GARDENS														0.00								
HOME & GARDEN SHOWS														0.00								
TRIP COORDINATOR														0.00								
APPROVED INDIVIDUAL														0.00								
COMMITTEE																						
STATE REP./ GROUP SALES														0.00								
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE														0.00								
SOCIALS														0.00								
HISTORIAN / TIMEKEEPER														0.00								
TRI COUNTY														0.00								
ANY OTHER SERVICE														0.00								
EDUCATIONS																						
COMMUNITY EDUCATION															0.00							
FARMERS MARKET															0.00							
EXTENSION/PHONE LINE															0.00							
EDUCATION COMMITTEE															0.00							
GAVE PRESENTATION															0.00							
NEWSLETTER															0.00							
WORKED W/YOUTH																0.00						
CONTINUING EDU.																						
CLASS																	0.00					
GUIDED GARDEN TOUR																	0.00					
WORK SHOP/SEMINAR																	0.00					
TV SHOWS & VIDEOS																	0.00					
COLUMN TOTALS														0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00					

**SEND TO: SHELLEY AaHOLM
1420 S. RIVERVIEW LN
APPLETON, WI 54915**

GRAND TOTAL
EMAIL: aaholms@new.rr.com