

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

APRIL 2008

COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Event Planning	
Kathy Daniels	233-0410
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Historian	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Membership	
Chris Bellin	233-4968
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	
State Rep	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Judy Harms	688-5523
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Hours	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Time Keeper	
Shelley Aaholm	731-8570

SANCTIONED CORE PROJECTS

Community Education

OPEN

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

Nature's Way – MENASHA

OPEN

Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
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

OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Susan Bohn (V.P.)	685-0427
Linda Werner (SEC.)	725-8168
Alice Graf (TRES.)	203-8252
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Marge Bolding	233-8668
Stanley Meyer	725-6486
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

Business Meeting
April 8, 2008
6:15 PM @ Park View
All members encouraged to attend!

APRIL - PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The vernal equinox took place in the northern hemisphere on March 20th at 1:48 am EST, marking the first day of spring. And, thanks to daylight savings time, we're enjoying an extra hour of daylight at the end of the day. I have to agree with cartoonist, Gary Larsen, who said, "Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."

April is a busy month for Master Gardeners with many activities in the works including work at the Paine Gardens, vermiculture presentation and tour, Park View organizational meeting and Garlic Mustard pull. You can refer to our calendar at the end of the newsletter for dates and times.

Please plan to attend our business meeting Tuesday, April 8th. It will be held in the Great Room at the new Parkview facility. We will begin at 6:15 with a talk on Operation Take Back Medication. This is a program to reduce pollution, contamination of water resources and poison prevention by proper disposal of unwanted and expired medicines. We will also have short reports by our Project and Committee leads with sign up sheets. This is an opportunity for all to learn about our projects and sign up to obtain your volunteer hours. We will finish with our business meeting.

Please save the date of Tuesday, June 10th for our annual picnic held at the Gazebo at Parkview. We plan to include a plant swap, so if you're dividing plants, pot up one or two to bring to the picnic. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Both Kathy and Mary wish to thank all members for their input, meeting attendance and cooperation as we lead the group. Please contact us if you have questions or suggestions.

Happy Gardening,

Kathy & Mary

NICK'S NOTES

Hello Master Gardener Volunteers, In April the 2008 Sherman Road Community Gardens registration forms will be mailed out. I look forward to my first summer working with the garden because produce is my preferred horticulture topic...because I get to eat the "fruits of our labor". It occurs to me that the community garden will consist of more than just vegetables. I look forward to seeing cut flowers such as gladiolas and enjoying the fragrance of fresh herbs. I know many of you already rent a plot (20 X 40 ft) or two or three or four.

If you find participating in the Sherman Road Community Garden was a worthwhile experience, I ask that you share the word with friends and family. During the past two years, the garden has been operating with a growing financial deficit. The largest operation expenses are labor to provide irrigation water and rental of port-o-potties. If ample rainfall arrives, the irrigation expense hopefully will go down. However, the best way to resolve this deficit is the fill all of the spaces! The last few years had a large decline in space rentals. So let's invite a friend to garden with us this summer at the Sherman Road Community Gardens.

Best Wishes,

Nick Schneider
Winnebago County Agriculture Agent



Due to space constraints you can read more about Roof Gardens and Diatomaceous Earth on the web site at www.winnebagomastergardners.org

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Dear Readers,

I am Linda Tobey one of your new editors. I have been a member now for over 6 years and have been an officer for 5. I am now turning my attention to the newsletter for a new challenge. My co-editor is Jean Reed. Jean has been a member for 6 years also and is our MG computer person.

Having done the newsletter for several years Linda Baeten would like to experience some other aspects of Master Gardeners. She leaves a very large Editors footprint to fill. She has given us many things to think about as well as a few things to chuckle about. We will endeavor with the help of her contributors Lawanda and Bruce to publish a newsletter that will stay within her high standards.

Jean and I want to invite all of you to feel free to contribute items any time you find an interesting topic. If you go on a trip and see wonderful gardens please feel free to write us and send pictures about your experience. If enough of you share your trips with us maybe we can have a travel log section to inspire our vacations. We will be introducing, in our first newsletter, the flower of the month, MG of the Month and some more items of interest along the way.

Please bear with us while we begin.

Linda & Jean

Master Gardener Board Meeting

March 4, 2008

Coughlin Center, 6 p.m.

Members present: Kathy Daniels, Bob Potter, Audrey Ruedinger, Ken Hawk, Linda Werner, Mary Wiedenmeier, Alice Graf, Stan Meyer, Marge Bolding, Linda Tobey.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alice Graf reported a checking account balance of \$9,003.87 as of February 29, 2008. Total funds held by WCMGA are \$14,103.87. Audrey Ruedinger requested a \$50 gas card for Annette Weissbach, one of the speakers at the February 23 training. Alice will purchase gas cards that were requested for all of the speaker honorariums and give them to Audrey to send out.

Secretary's Report

No changes were requested to the minutes of the February 5 Board minutes as published in the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Individual project request: Ken Friedman's application to participate in preliminary planning for use of the Vulcan Quarry in Oshkosh received limited approval. Marge Bolding made a motion that Ken be allowed to count MG volunteer hours for submitting articles to the newsletter about the project and for making a presenting to a MG business meeting. Stan Meyer seconded the motion and it was approved.

Website

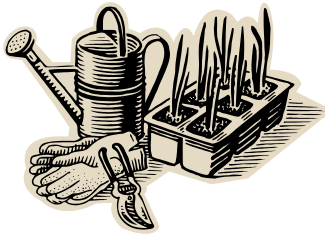
Sue Bohn is working on updating the information for the web site.

NEW BUSINESS

2008 Budget

Alice said her income and expense projections were on the conservative side. It was recommended that administrative expenses be increased to \$1,000 to cover copies and postage through the UW Extension office. Bob Potter made a motion that Alice buys 200 forever stamps before the postage rate goes up. Audrey seconded the motion and it was approved. "Other" under expenses was increased to \$500 to cover unanticipated expenses that arise during the year. It was suggested that in the future MG clothing orders be billed to WCMGA instead of paid in advance

so a MG check can be issued. Linda Tobey made a motion to approve the 2008 budget with the requested changes. Audrey seconded the motion and it passed. The budget will be presented to the membership at the March business meeting. Marge made a motion that a check for \$600 be sent to the UW Extension to cover 2008 copying and postage expenses. Bob Potter seconded the motion and it was approved. Linda Tobey suggested selling the barrel tipper that was purchased for bagging worm castings. It is no longer needed because the type of barrel has changed.



Master Gardener Business Meeting

March 11, 2008
Coughlin Center, 6:15 p.m.

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Linda Loker, Kathy Daniels, Alice Graf, Mary Wiedenmeier, Steve Schueler, Jerry Robak, Stanley Meyer, Ken Schwanke, Bruce Abraham, Sandy Ansfield, Ken Hawk, Dorothy Bonnin, Janet Priebe, Kay Bartell, Lawanda Jungwirth, Betty Kuen, Joni Pagel, Cindy Meszaros, Andy Krueger, Debbie Quandt, Judy Harms, Al Harms, Pat Behm, Bob Potter, Linda Baeten, Marge Bolding, Marge Menacher, Audrey Ruedinger, John Procknow, Dawn Kent, Sandy Giessen, Linda Werner, Roy Anne Moulton, Diane Iott.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Alice Graf reported a total balance of \$14,103.87 as of February 29, 2008. The 2008 budget was presented and approved.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the February 12, 2008 MG business meeting were approved as presented in the March newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Copies of the bylaws with the approved amendments were available to members. The changes designated the chairperson of the Education Committee as one of the at-large members of the Board and established the criteria for emeritus membership. Trustee Emeritus John Procknow was introduced. The other current emeritus members are Burt and Agnes Carpenter.

NEW BUSINESS

Education Committee Report: Chairperson Roy Anne Moulton reminded members of the training program on environmentally friendly lawn care scheduled for Saturday, March 15. The date of the vermiculture tour at the prison has been moved from April 12 to April 19. The plant buying bus trip to Oregon and Ixonia, Wisconsin, is scheduled for May 3. There will be garlic pull/invasive ID sessions the mornings of April 26 and May 3 and wildflower walks on May 9 and 10. The newsletter and special flyers will contain details for these events.

The Paine: Project Chairperson Bob Potter reported that the first clean-up date is April 1 and on April 26 there will be another clean-up session and a formal introduction to the Paine gardens. May 16 is set-up day for the spring festival on May 17. MG will sell worm castings and cookbooks and have sign-up sheets for individuals interested in MG training.

Basic MG Classes: MG Advisor Nick Schneider plans to start the basic series of classes on September 4 and finish November 20. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings, 6 to 9 p.m. Most of the classes will have a speaker, but he will try a few distance education programs to see how well they are accepted. A sign-up sheet will be available starting on March 15.

Spring Picnic: The annual MG picnic will be held June 10 at the Park View gazebo. It will be a potluck with the Association providing

meat, beverages, utensils and door prizes. There will also be a plant swap.

Garden Walks: Spring garden walks will be held at the homes of Marge Bolding and Bob Potter in May and the home of Linda Tobey in June. A tour of the Park View gardens will take place in August. The newsletter will carry the details as the time gets closer.

April Business Meeting: The April 8 business meeting will be held at Park View starting at 6:15 p.m. Directions will be in the April newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunity: Nick asked for volunteers to help at the Oakwood Environmental Charter School family day on April 19 from 10 to 3 p.m. The volunteers will need to set up a booth and answer questions.

Submitted by,
Linda Werner, Secretary

FLOWER OF THE MONTH narcissus/daffodil

THE MEANING & SYMBOLISM OF NARCISSUS / DAFFODIL

Symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings, the daffodil is virtually synonymous with spring. Though their botanic name is narcissus, daffodils are sometimes called jonquils, and in England, because of their long association with Lent, they're known as the "Lent Lily." Lore connecting the daffodil to not only a sign of winter's end but a lucky emblem of future prosperity is found throughout the world. In Wales, it's said if you spot the first daffodil of the season, your next 12 months will be filled with wealth, and Chinese legend has it that if a daffodil bulb is forced to bloom during the New Year, it will bring good luck to your home. The March birth flower and the 10th wedding anniversary flower, a gift of daffodils is said to

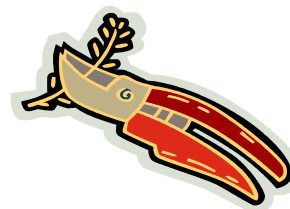


ensure happiness. But always remember to present daffodils in a bunch - the same legends that associate this cheerful flower with good fortune warn us that when given as a single bloom, a daffodil can foretell misfortune.

Master Gardener of the Month

Kathy Daniels – Co-President

Let me introduce myself. I am a breast cancer survivor, married, have two daughters, one son-in-law, a grandson and new granddaughter. I have lived in Oshkosh most of my life. I have been in the automotive business for many years, working for my parents at their dealership and then owning an automotive parts store and oil change for 15 years with my sisters. In 2000 we sold our business. Now I work part-time for Provident Financial as an Administrative Assistant and manage 200 mini warehouses. My hobbies are crocheting, sewing, quilting, basket weaving and gardening. My husband & I live on the airport in Oshkosh, where the plane he built is in the hanger. My gardens around the house are a work in progress. I have Iris along the garage with crabapple, olive and plum trees in the yard. The house is surrounded by woods on two sides which has plenty of buckthorn. The backyard looks out onto a farmer's field which was planted with soybeans last year. Last year I started an herb garden and planted garlic in the fall. I have been in the MG program for 3 years. Learning about gardening and doing community service is something I enjoy doing. I have been a Kiwanian for 16 year which is another way I give back to my community thru service work. I also have my own small business. Kathy's Loving Bears LLC. I make bears from clothing of loved ones. This is a fun sewing project that I do. My website is kathyslovingbears.com



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

It is time for new leadership for the Community Education Committee.

Community Education is in charge of doing the Home and Garden Show every year. We also set up displays in Libraries and we arrange to be at any Community activity that Master Gardeners is asked to attend.

Dorothy and Linda will lead the way again this year for the Home and Garden Show and request that the people interested in taking over join us in preparing and doing the show. This way you will learn the ropes and be ready to do it next year. We are withdrawing from the committee after the show this year.

This is a great committee and one that allows you to earn most if not all of your hours doing one event.

Contact Linda Tobey @ 734-2264 or linda@americanpresstech.com
Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz @ 223-8468 or dorothy.kunz@sbcglobal.net

PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS (PHA) @ UWEX

Please consider volunteering as a PHA. 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.

We'll be having an **organizational meeting** on April 8th at 5:30 before the regular monthly meeting. Please let me know if you will be able to attend so we will have some idea of the number of copies of materials to make.

PAINE CELEBRATES ARBOR DAY April 23-24, 2008

Each year, Arbor Day activities at the Paine Art Center and Gardens in Oshkosh provide educational activities about trees for over 450 fourth grade students in Oshkosh and the surrounding area. This year's activities will be held on April 23rd and 24th for the students. The activities teach an appreciation for trees and their

significance in the environment through four different hands-on activities. At the end of the visit, each student is presented with a White Pine seedling and encouraged to plant the small tree in recognition of its importance in a healthy environment. In coordination with area teachers, volunteers and staff, Arbor Day activities provide area youth with a fun and educational day that builds an appreciation for the natural environment. Volunteers are needed throughout the two day activities and help in teaching 4th grade students about the importance of trees in our natural environment. To volunteer during Arbor Days, please contact Jeanne Wagner, Museum Educator, at the Paine Art Center and Gardens at (920) 235-6903 ext. 34.

www.thepaine.org for more information or call (920) 235-6903.

PRAIRIE FEST CHILDREN'S AREA COORDINATOR

About Prairie Fest:

Prairie Fest is scheduled for July 26th from 10am-3pm.

Prairie Fest is an outdoor environmental education event for adults and children. It takes place at the Gottfried Arboretum, on the grounds of UW Fond du Lac. The event is a combination of activities, programs, tours, food and music. For more information, visit the Arboretum's web page at www.fdl.uwc.edu-arboretum.

Children's Area Coordinator Job Description:

- Plan 5-6 gardening or nature related programs or activities for children.
- Develop job descriptions for activity leaders
- Help recruit and train activity leaders
- Suggest ways to market children's area to children and their families.
- Request needed supplies and needed tables, etc.
- Plan set up of tents, tables and chairs.
- At event, serve as contact person for children's area. Check in activity leaders and make sure all is running smoothly.

-
- With Prairie Fest Committee, review the event and suggest changes for next year.

About the Activities:

We are looking for activities that help children understand and become interested in the natural world. Hands-on projects work well—this could be a game, an art project, a demonstration, or a tour of the prairie. The event will be taking place outdoors, so keep that in mind when designing activities. For example, on a windy day, small pieces of paper might blow away.

A sample of activities we've had in the past:

- Coloring table—Color a picture of a bug, reptile, bird or flower.
- Planting seeds—Plant your choice of radishes, beans or peas
- Clothespin butterflies—Make a butterfly to take home
- Bug Barn—Purchase a bug barn and have it personalized with your name.
- Flower making—make colorful flowers with tissue paper.
- Recycled art table—make one of three projects with recycled materials.
- Bug tour—tour the prairie and use a butterfly net to collect and identify insects.

To learn more, Master Gardeners can email me or call (920) 324-5329.

Thanks,

Erika Jensen
Arboretum Programs Manager

UW-Ext Plant Health Advisor (PHA) Report

This was our second year of answering inquiries at the office and at outreach events. A total of 328 inquiries were handled – a 59% increase from 2006. This total includes 56 inquiries at the county fair and at the Paine May Fair. Most of the questions came from the Paine May Fair where we had a separate question booth for the first time.

Inquiries at the Farm Market, Garden Show, and other events were not recorded and thus not included in the PHA numbers.

Contacts were 233, 38, 56, and 1 by phone, walk-ins, outreach, and email respectively. Contacts by month were 3, 15, 14, 81, 53, 53, 46, 33, 15, 10, and 5 from February thru December. Again, May was high due to the 43 inquiries at the Paine. (I should add that many inquiries at the Paine were not recorded including those at our normal informational booth).

The following data concerns the percent a subject was raised based on the total number of contacts. Most of the contacts involved more than one subject so the percents add up to much greater than 100%. The subject raised most often involved trees at 37% of the contacts. Insects and diseases were discussed in 35 and 22 % of the contacts respectively. Veggies were a topic of discussion on 13 % of the contacts and flowers on 12%. The other subjects (lawn, shrubs, fruit, weeds, animals, identification, soil, pesticides, culture, and MG questions) were all less than 11%. No questions were asked concerning houseplants.

There were 8 cases where we failed to provide information to an initial contact. This was the result of people failing to return calls or of us not able to get through to the provided phone number.

We often offered to send samples to Madison for analysis but only two agreed to pay the fee which is around \$25. Seven other inquiries were emailed to Madison, to which all were replied.

A total of * hours were devoted to answering questions not including Jason's time nor the assistance of the other paid people in the office. They are all very helpful. A special thank you to Jerry Robak, Ken Friedman, Dave Leonard, Martha Skruby, Arlene and Bob Kosanke, Sarah Hansen, Sue Tappy, Pat Behm, and Pat Rockow who all spent days in the office answering questions.

We'll be back at it again starting in April. I'm hoping to get enough PHA's so that during the busy 4 months we can schedule 2 days a week in the office. Keep in mind that if you can't make the office during the day, you can still participate by answering calls from home in the evening or on weekends.

CLASSES AND EVENTS

CLASSES SPONSORED BY WCMGA:

“Vermiculture”

Saturday, April 19, 2008

9 –11:30 a.m., Oshkosh Correctional Institution,
1730 W. Snell Road

A presentation and tour on vermiculture, a type of composting that uses earthworms to create a natural soil fertilizer known as worm castings. The Institution has had a successful program for many years.

Fee \$15

This is a letter from the Oshkosh Correctional. There are some rules and regulations that must be followed. Please read the letter.

Everyone attending must be registered by Wednesday, April 9th so Alice can get the list to the prison on time. This is important. If you have questions, call or e-mail me, Mary or Alice.

This letter will confirm The Winnebago Master Gardeners' Group visit at Oshkosh Correctional Institution scheduled for April 19, 2008 at 9:00 AM.

Full name and date of birth of each individual touring will be provided to me one week prior to tour. On the date of visit, all adults will be required to provide a picture-type identification card to OSCI Lobby staff. The IDs and any other item carried in, such as **wallets or keys**, will be secured in a locker during your visit.

The group will need to walk outdoors after they enter OSCI. Please ask your group to **dress for weather and wear comfortable shoes**.

Please inform your group that they will be **required to pass through a metal detector to be admitted**. It is most important to inform them to dress appropriately and in a manner that will facilitate quick passage through the metal detector; **bras with under wire support, rivets on button fly jeans or bibs, and costume jewelry can cause visitors to fail to pass the metal detector**. If group members cannot pass metal detector due to **pacemakers, artificial knees, hips, rods or pins in their bodies** please inform me when providing list of names.

Items such as **cameras, purses, handbags, video equipment, cell phones and pagers**, etc. will not be allowed on the tour.

OSCI looks forward to greeting your group.

Registration Form (copy as needed)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Please check the sessions you wish to attend & enter the fee:

Vermiculture (birth date ___/___/___) **\$15** _____

Total \$ _____

For more information contact:

Audrey Ruedinger, (920) 231-5745 or aud@vbe.com

**Make checks payable to: WCMGA
Mail to: Alice Graf, Treasurer
1270 Locust Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902**

WHAT AM I?

I am a native, perennial Wisconsin plant of the Family **Violaceae**; Genus **Viola**. My habitats are cliff; savannah; and the following forests: northern upland, southern upland and lowland, beech and boreal. My preferred habitat is rich, moist woods. I grow upwards of 12" – 16" tall. I have heart-shaped, green, 3" long leaves with serrated edges and am heavily veined. I flower from April through July. My nodding ¾" yellow flower has 5 petals with purple veins on the inside on long stalk. My fruit is an elongated brown seed. What Am I?

SANCTIONED PROJECT OF THE MONTH

Park View Health Center

This is the first in a series of articles that will hopefully get you better acquainted with the WCMGVA core sanctioned projects. We will attempt to briefly explain the goals, scope, significant features and volunteer opportunities for each project.

This month Park View Health Center is the featured project. Park View is the senior member of our sanctioned projects group. It is also probably the most diverse with four separate areas of MG effort and expertise at work. There is a perennial/annual cutting garden, a vegetable garden, a small prairie area, and a flower arranging activity.

The shared goals of these four areas are first of all to present the opportunity for the Park View residents and staff to enjoy and participate in the gardening effort. This is accomplished by resident involvement in planting, maintaining, and harvesting the vegetable garden, cutting and arranging flowers for display in their rooms and throughout the Park View facility, and just getting outside for awhile in a beautiful garden and prairie setting. To aid residents, all garden areas are accessible by paved surfaces. Residents also harvest and enter vegetables and flowers in County Fair competitions. As with all WCMGVA projects, other goals include

providing horticultural educational opportunities for association members and the community and the opportunity for members to fulfill their commitment to volunteer hours.

The cutting garden is a mix of perennial and annual plantings and features an extensive hosta collection. The cutting garden has been developed over a long period of time and has become quite a horticultural showcase. Volunteer opportunities include annual spring and fall cleanups, spring bed preparation and planting of annuals, adding perennials, and maintenance such as deadheading, watering, and weeding. For more information on the cutting garden, contact Bill Weber at 920-231-2936 or wweber1@new.rr.com.

The vegetable garden includes a selected array of garden vegetables, a pumpkin and gourd patch, and an herb collection. The garden features raised beds allowing access to those residents and visitors who are wheelchair bound as well as limiting bending over to work. There is significant participation by Park View residents in the planning, planting, maintenance, and harvesting of the vegetable garden. Volunteer opportunities include annual bed preparation and planting, fall cleanup, and weeding and watering maintenance. Additional information on the vegetable garden and volunteer opportunities is available from Sue Steinhilber at 920-235-1031 or steinsb@northnet.net.

The prairie area includes in excess of 90 plant varieties found in prairie settings. This variety provides blooms from April to November. The prairie features a range of grasses including Big and Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Blue Gramma, Sideoats Gramma, Junegrass, Dropseed, and Porcupine Grass. Volunteer opportunities include spring and fall cleanups, invasive species control, plant identification and tagging, new plantings, and watering. For more information on the Park View Prairie and volunteer opportunities contact Ken Hawk at 920-426-1691 or kehawk@earthlink.net.

The flower arranging activity involves collecting flowers from the Park View gardens and MG volunteer's gardens, bringing them to the Park View facility, where the MG volunteers and residents create floral arrangements. The arrangements are placed in resident's rooms and public areas of the facility. Residents are particularly interested in creating arrangements to enter into the County Fair competitions where they have won numerous awards. For more information on Park View flower arranging and volunteer opportunities, contact Marlene Miller at 920-231-4339 or marigoldmg@yahoo.com.

The Park View projects offer a variety of opportunities to learn and participate in the MG program. The interest, excitement, and joy expressed by the Park View residents as they garden, arrange flowers, or just visually take in the garden areas makes it a very rewarding MG experience as well. The enthusiasm with which the Park View staff embraces the MG efforts is also testimony to the success of this project. Help is needed in all Park View project areas so I urge you to contact the project area leaders and share in the Park View experience.

Ken Hawk
Park View Prairie Lead

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY PLEASE HELP PULL GARLIC MUSTARD!

Come help pull garlic mustard along the Wiouwash Trail on two Saturdays, April 26 and May 3 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Meet at Brooks Road parking area. From Oshkosh, take Hwy. 76 (Jackson St.) north (or go north on Hwy. 41 to Hwy. 76 exit; turn left at bottom of exit) Go under Hwy. 41 and turn left at the first road after the light (the frontage road - Green Valley Road). Turn right on Brooks Rd. just before Stuart's Landscaping (used to be Gro-Plant). Go 3 miles to the trail.

Your help is welcomed even if you can come for only an hour or two! Come anytime!

Bring gloves, kneeling cushion or knee pads 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.

If you cannot make either of the work dates, Lawanda will meet you at the trail anytime during the first two weeks in May to pull garlic mustard. This is a rather pleasant pastime on a nice spring day. No mosquitoes yet!

Call Lawanda Jungwirth at 836-2878 or e-mail ljungwirth@new.rr.com for more information or **JUST SHOW UP!**



Guest Speaker for April 8 business meeting:

“Drugs Are In Our Water, Why Should We Care?”

Medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, are showing up in our water. Treatment plants were designed to filter out solid waste, not microns of medications. Sue Ashton, a Public Health Nurse for Winnebago County, has been researching the problem of what to do with medical waste and other chemical pollutants in our water. She has launched an effort in Winnebago County to deal with unwanted prescription drugs. She will give a presentation at our April Meeting in keeping with our Environmental Stewardship theme. Please join us for this very important informational talk. Learn what medical waste is doing to our environment and what you can do for proper disposal.

HerbFest

Northeast Wisconsin Unit of the Herb Society of America presents the 4th Annual Northeast Wisconsin HerbFest

When: Saturday, May 3, 2008
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Gardens of the Fox Cities - Appleton WI
1313 Witzke Blvd., Appleton WI 54911
920-993-1900
www.gardensfoxcities.org

Cost: \$3.00 for the whole day

Presentations: Herbs 101, Aromatherapy, Designing Your Herb Garden, Herbs for Health, Nourishment and Fun, Cooking with Herbs and Natural Cleaning Products to Make for Your Home

Ongoing demonstrations
Vendors with herbal and garden products

HUGE HERB PLANT SALE - courtesy of
Thistledown Greenhouse, Bonduel WI

Learn about herbs and all their uses with other herb enthusiasts

For more information contact: Jackie Johnson,
920-246-7377, scentedgardens@msn.com

Do You Have Invasive Plants in Your Yard? I do!

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The “big three” invasive plants we keep hearing and reading about are buckthorn, garlic mustard and purple loosestrife. Reed canary grass, phragmites and teasel are also relatively well-known invasives.

But there are many seemingly innocent plants that are invasive or poised to become invasive and some of them could be growing in your yard. In fact, they probably are. I used two sources to learn what invasives might be growing in my yard, the Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin website: www.ipaw.org, and the book *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest* by Elizabeth Czarapata.

Here is my confession, with the caveat that I didn't plant them – they were here when I moved here in 1991. That doesn't absolve my responsibility for removing or controlling them, however.

Bush honeysuckle. Yes it has pretty pink flowers and smells like a piece of heaven for about a week in spring, but really, the rest of the year it's kind of ratty looking. In the last few years, I noticed several volunteer honeysuckles growing in the unmowed part of my yard and also entwined in the chain-link fence that surrounds my property.

Black locust. Again, the smell of the flowers in early June is magnificent and since it is a legume, it fixes nitrogen in the soil and the grass surrounding it is the best in the yard. It also has heavy thorns up to an inch long and the leaves, seeds and bark are toxic to humans and livestock. I thought that black locust spread only by underground rhizome or suckering, and since it is in the middle of a grassy lawn area I wasn't concerned, but have since learned that it also reproduces by seed.

Bittersweet. Oriental bittersweet is invasive; American bittersweet is not. One of these two grows on my back fence. When it leafs out in spring I will positively identify it. I have a bad feeling that it is oriental, though, since it seems to have climbed several trees in the wooded area over the fence, and has spread quite a way along the fence. That is, until it met up with . . .

Wild grape. This is actually a native plant that can be very aggressive. It climbs, covers, and shades out trees and other plants. The wild grapes that originally grew just on my back fence have traveled well into the wooded area over the fence, covering many of the trees with a thick blanket of leaves. For many years I hopped over the fence and pulled or cut them all down, but the current owners of the property are not as open to that idea as the former owners were. My consolation is that many of the plants being smothered are buckthorn.

Canada thistle. An ongoing battle in the unmowed area, I made great progress last year by easily pulling up young plants after every rain.

Reed canary grass. When we let the unmowed area grow up, we found that the lawn had consisted of many different grasses, one of which was reed canary grass.

Cattails. Okay, this one I did plant, in my pond. I didn't know it was invasive at the time but it is certainly spreading throughout the small pond and I can see how it could take over a whole marsh. New plants pull up easily since the pond is lined.

Norway maple. I'm pretty sure that the huge maple that shades my deck is a Norway. It spreads by seed and I spend many hours each summer pulling up maple seedlings from the wood-chipped areas of the yard.

Russian olive. This is considered an invasive "of lesser concern" and the two on my property seem to be dying anyway.

Burning bush or winged euonymous. Also "of lesser concern." The fall color is so spectacular, it will be hard to eliminate this one!

Creeping bellflower. "Of lesser concern." I was surprised to see this on the list. It grows in my flowerbed under my rose bush and the clump has remained the same size since 1991. It spreads by seed and creeping underground roots. My plan for the future is to deadhead the stems before they go to seed.

Lily of the valley. "Of lesser concern." Lily of the valley is acceptable in formal gardens but shouldn't be planted near natural areas. It spreads slowly but steadily by means of its root system. Mine are bordered by the garage and a brick bed edging. They aren't going anywhere.

Creeping Charlie. "Of lesser concern?" Hah! Not according to the e-mails I get from people wondering how to control it. FYI: Dissolve 1 cup of 20 Mule Team Borax per gallon of warm water and use that to cover 1,000 square feet. If you are using a sprinkling can, this means you have to walk FAST so that you don't burn the grass by putting it on too thickly.

Here are some other invasives that are or have recently grown in my yard: baby's breath, orange daylily, orange hawkweed, yellow hawkweed, yellow water-flag iris, butter-and-eggs, spearmint, tansy, quackgrass, tall

fescue, Kentucky bluegrass (!), Siberian pea shrub, comfrey, curly dock, deadly nightshade, hoary alyssum, Johnson grass, red clover, sweet violet, white clover, yellow sedum and white poplar. All these on one little acre, in the yard of someone who has been intentionally planting only native plants for ten or more years.

Obviously it is not practical for me, or anyone else, to completely re-vamp an entire landscape all at once. I'm just asking you to take a look around your property to see if there is something that needs removal or control and that before you plant *anything* you check www.ipaw.org or another invasive plant list for our area to see if you might be creating a problem.

Answer:

I am an erect, perennial forb/herb - *Viola pubescens* Aiton; common name: Yellow violet, Yellow forest violet, Downy yellow violet, Smooth yellow violet

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



Bruce Abraham
March 19, 2008

2008 HOURS REPORT

Must be received by September 1, 2008

PHONE:

NAME

ADDRESS

ONLY FILL IN APPROPRIATE BLANKS WITH INFORMATION												DO NOT USE GRAYED AREA					
	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	Services	Comm	Youth	TOTALS
2007 - 2008 SERVICES																	
ATTEND MEETINGS																	
OFFICER / BOARD																	
COMMUNITY GARDEN																	
PAINE GARDENS																	
PARK VIEW PROJECTS																	
INVASIVE																	
HOURS COMPUTATION																	
MEMBERSHIP																	
WORK AT SHOWS																	
WORK AT CLASS																	
APPROVED INDIVIDUAL																	
ANY OTHER PROJECTS																	
COMMITTEES																	
TRIPS																	
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE																	
REFRESHMENTS																	
SOCIALS																	
HISTORIAN/STATE REP																	
ANY OTHER SERVICE																	
COMMUNITY EDU.																	
NATURES WAY																	
FARMERS MARKET																	
PLANT HEALTH ADVISOR																	
WORKED SHOWS																	
GAVE PRESENTATION																	
NEWSLETTER																	
ANY OTHER COMM. ED.																	
WORKED W/YOUTH																	
TOTAL OF VOLUNTEER HOURS ONLY																	
CONTINUING EDU.																	
CLASS																	
GUIDED GARDEN TOUR																	
WORK SHOP/SEMINAR																	
TV SHOWS & VIDEOS																	
TOTAL CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS DO NOT GET ADDED with TOTAL HOURS																	
TOTAL CONTINUING EDUCATION ONLY																	

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

EMAIL: aaholms@new.rr.com

HOW TO USE HOURS FORM

1. Make sure your name, address and phone are on the top lines. They must be on the form so we know who you are even if you send it electronically.
2. Put total hours worked in each category in the box under the month in which the hours were worked.
3. If you are sending this electronically the hours will add up for you automatically. All you need to do is put the numbers in the boxes.
4. If you do not see your project listed use the any other projects, any other services, or any other community Ed. Categories to put your hours in. The state isn't interested in exactly what you did. They want to know what category you did it in.
5. If you are sending this manually you can add your rows and place the total in the open space at the end of the row and then add the columns. Total the Services, Comm., and youth columns and place the result in the empty boxes at the end of each column and total them in the empty box in the totals columns. All 4 of these last boxes are next to each other.
6. Total your Continuing education rows and place total in the total box at the end of each row. Put total of continuing education in the box set aside for the result.
7. Our form is very simple and easy to use. The biggest thing for you to remember to do is PUT YOUR NAME AND INFO ON THE TOP.
8. **DO NOT WRITE IN THE GRAY AREA OR GIVE US ADDED INFORMATION.** More info is not needed.
9. **Any questions call Linda Tobey @ 734-2264 or email to linda@americanpresstech.com**
10. **If you want the electronic version either go to our website or email Linda Tobey at the above address.**

WAUSHARA COUNTY WILDFLOWER WALK

Friday May 8, 2008 - Repeats - Saturday May 9, 2008

Meet 8:00 AM

Leave 8:15 AM

- Carpool to Wautoma area –
- Those not driving will pass the hat to help pay for gas.
- Wild flower & Bird walk will take approx. 3 hours.
- Previous years observations have included 30 plant species, scarlet tanager and rose breasted grosbeck.
- Guide DNR Land Procurement Specialist and expert in native vegetation.
- Wear light colored clothing, long pants, walking shoes or hiking boots and socks
- Dress for weather
- Bring: Water
 - Field guide books
 - Camera
 - Note Book & Pen
 - Binoculars
 - Repellant & Sun Screen

We will stop in Wautoma at the Farmers Market to purchase lunch or bring your own.

NO FEE

Return to Oshkosh around 3:00PM

LIMIT 20

MUST PRE REGISTER CALL AUDREY @ 231-5745

PLANT BUYING BUS TRIP TO SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Saturday, May 3, 2007

*The bus leaves 6:30 a.m. from the Coughlin Center, Oshkosh, Returns 6:00 p.m. (approximately)
Stops include Koepke's in Oregon, and Ebert's in Ixonia. Fee \$30—Bring a brown bag lunch*

Make checks payable to: WCMGA

Mail to:

Alice Graf, Treasurer
1270 Locust Street
Oshkosh, WI 54902



APRIL GARDEN TASKS

Houseplants, Perennials and Annuals

- Remove mulch from spring bulbs and hardy biennial and perennial beds.
- **Week 1.** Sow annual seeds that require 6 – 10 weeks to bloom
- Uncover roses shrubs
- Place Canna, Dahlias and Callas in moist peat moss and place in a warm room
- Side dress Lavendar with wood ashes.
- Plant or transplant shrubs, trees and hedges
- Watch for aphids, spider mites, white fly and fungus gnats on houseplants.
- **Week 2.** Uncover hybrid Tea roses and prune back to good wood if frost danger has past.
- Top dress moisture loving plants such as Hostas and ferns with well rotted manure or compost
- Avoid cultivation heavy clay soil while it is wet which will create heavily compacted ground.
- **Week 3.** Prune ground covers such as Wintercreeper and Vinca Minor.
- Apply dormant oil spray to fruit trees, ornamental shrubs and roses 24 hrs before rain w/ night temps above freezing
- Make sure Hybrid teas roses are pruned within 8" of the soil, Grandifloras prune to within 1" of soil, cut out any dead or weak growth on all types of roses.
- **Week 4.** Dig and divide fall flowering perennials
- Plant hardy vegetables such as peas, radishes, onions and beets
- Turn compost pile and add fresh kitchen scraps, composted manure and dried leaves.
- After Forsythia, Lilacs, Quinces have completed their bloom period, prune shrubs by 1/3rd. On Lilacs all dead blossoms should be removed. Also cut out the oldest woody branches at ground level.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

☞ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

☞ PAINE GARDENS

Contact Bob Potter

☞ PARK VIEW CUTTING GARDEN

Contact Bill Weber.

☞ PARK VIEW-MG LIASON

Contact: Mark Weber

☞ PARK VIEW VEGETABLE GARDEN

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

☞ COMMUNITY GARDENS - Menasha

Contact Ruth Freye

☞ PLANT HEALTH ADVISORS

Contact Curt Reese at 426-4992.

☞ TRIPS

Contact Roy Anne Moulton of the Education Committee

☞ INVASIVE SPECIES ED & CONTROL

Contact Lawanda Jungwirth.

☞ NEWSLETTER

Contact Linda Tobey or Jean Reed

☞ LOOK FOR MORE PROJECTS TO COME!

APRIL 2008

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
		1 6:00 BOARD MEETING	2	3	4	5
6	7	86:15 MG BUSINESS MTG @ Park View PHA meeting 5:30 before reg. meeting	9	10	11	12 VERMICULTURE 9 – 11:30 AM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Paine garden intro moved from 26th	22 EARTH DAY	23 PAINE'S ARBOR DAY	24 PAINES ARBOR DAY	25	26 GARLIC MUSTARD PULL
27	28	29	30			