



# Winnebago County Master Gardener

April 2014

## Volunteer Newsletter

### Mission Statement

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

### PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Now that most of our snow has started to melt - it is fun to walk around the yard to see if any of our spring flowers have started to come up (it is spring isn't it!) along with looking for any rabbit and vole damage to trees and shrubs.

There are many opportunities for our new master gardeners to get involved with projects in the spring. The plant health advisors (PHA) are having a meeting for the new season on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM in room A at the Coughlin Center. ALL are welcome to find out how to get involved with the advisors. Learn all about garlic mustard by pulling this invasive on May 3. Contact Lawanda Jungwirth for further information. Buckthorn will be pulled on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the North High Conservancy. Linda Petek is looking for volunteers to man the Master Gardener Booth at the "Paine Festival of Spring" on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. Oshkosh Corporation is looking for some master gardeners to man a booth at their Sustainability Fair on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Contact Mary Shepard for further information. These are all core projects and a great way to get your volunteer hours in. Remember you can count driving time to and from the project in your volunteer time.

Our first garden tour has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 1st at Linda Christensen's and her neighbor's, Betty Humphrey. Betty has a fantastic garden with many hostas, heuchera, hellebores, and a small pond. Linda has a larger pond and also many hostas.

Jack Voight will be talking to us about "Butterflies" on May 13<sup>th</sup> at our business meeting. Chad Muche from Stuart's will be speaking at our April 9<sup>th</sup> business meeting. These speakers can count towards your education hours.

Looks like a very busy Spring!

Remember that projects and committees are listed in the back of your green membership booklet along with contact information.

Happy Spring!

*Mary and Linda*



*Happy Easter*





## New Member Liaison Group

A new group is taking shape with the goal of helping new members ease into our organization. After I presented the idea at the February business meeting, many members, both new and old, shared ideas and comments. From those comments, it seems the group will be a welcomed addition. I'm hoping that we will become a resource ( a "go-to") place for new members to have questions answered, directions given, and introductions made. As a relatively new member myself, I remember how it was being the "new kid on the block".

Audrey Ruedinger, an experienced member, will be my resource person for questions I can't answer, along with current board members. I've also asked a couple of recent graduated class members to help me out. They are currently helping me draft a questionnaire for new graduates and the next class members. I hope to introduce them to you soon.

As the next class forms in September, I plan to come to several of their classes and hope to be an "ice-breaker", a familiar face, when they start attending meetings. As time allows during their classes, I hope to get some of the project leads to present their 5 minute talks. I know this has been done in the past, but I think it's an effective tool to gain the class's interest. One new member requested a mentor and one old member wanted to become a mentor--so they've already been matched up! (If you're a newbie and want a mentor or an oldie and want to be a mentor speak to me or shoot me an e-mail).

If you are new come and introduce yourself to me at a meeting. I'll try to sit in the back of the room.

Being that resource person, member Diane Iott ([dianeIott44@yahoo.com](mailto:dianeIott44@yahoo.com)), is looking for newer members who need hours. She has a project at the Theda Clark Hospital gardens. She will be having a couple workdays this spring and needs some help for spring clean-up. She would appreciate your help so if you're interested feel free to contact her.

Keep your ideas and comments coming!

Virginia Slattery

## Artemisia is 2014 Herb of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The International Herb Association makes an annual selection for Herb of the Year based on the herb being outstanding in at least two of three categories: culinary, medicinal, or ornamental. IHA has selected Artemisia as its Herb of the Year for 2014. This is a rather unusual selection, because there are about 400 different species in the genus Artemisia! You are probably already familiar with some of them.

The ubiquitous 'Silver Mound' Artemisia was used everywhere in formal landscapes in the 1990s and early 2000s. The mounded clumps of soft silver foliage are perfect for edging beds and in rock gardens.

In your spice cabinet you might find tarragon, also one of the artemisias. Tarragon can be grown as a perennial plant in our Wisconsin herb gardens. If you grow tarragon from seed, be sure to buy those of French tarragon, *Artemisia dracunculus* var. *sativa*, rather than the Russian variety that lacks strong aromatic oils. Most gardeners buy tarragon plants or get cuttings or divisions from friends. Tarragon is not an especially attractive plant and is grown primarily for its culinary value.

Another of the well-known artemisias is wormwood, *Artemisia absinthum*. Perhaps you can guess from its Latin name that it is used to make the alcoholic drink absinthe. This perennial plant grows 2-3' tall and has deeply lobed aromatic, silvery-gray leaves covered with silky hairs.

White sage is another artemesia. 'Silver King,' 'Powis Castle' and 'Valerie Finnis' are some well-known cultivars. These shrubby plants grow 2-4' tall and have lance-shaped leaves 4-6" long.

White mugwort, *Artemisia lactiflora*, is the only artemesia grown for its flowers rather than its foliage. In late summer, plumes of small, cream-colored flowers are held atop erect leafy stalks 3-6' tall, similar to astilbe. The flowers are excellent in fresh arrangements and can be hung upside down to dry for use in dried displays. Foliage is dark green with silvery undersides.

In general, artemisias thrive in average, well-drained soil in full sun. A soil too fertile will cause them to flop. They are good for hot, dry areas and once established are quite drought tolerant. Because most of them are so aromatic, deer tend to avoid them.

Fast-spreading, clumpy types – especially the white sages - need dividing every few years in spring or fall to keep them in place or to rejuvenate old clumps. To prevent them from taking over the garden, consider planting them in large, sunken, bottomless flower pots. Woody types are not as aggressive.

Prune all species back hard if they start to lose their shape or become scraggly.

In the landscape, artemisias are good weavers, plants used to unify more colorful perennials. The silvery foliage makes nearby pinks, reds and oranges look even brighter, or presents a cool, relaxing feel when combined with blues, purples or soft pinks. The tallest species provide a good backdrop for the border, while the shorter ones make a neat edging.



## FIVE FRUIT SALSA

2 c fresh cantaloupe, chopped into small pieces

6 green onions, sliced thin and using some green

3 Kiwi, peeled and chopped into small pieces

1 navel orange, peeled and chopped into small pieces

1 yellow pepper, seeded and chopped

1 red pepper, seeded and chopped

1 - 8 oz can crushed pineapple, unsweetened and undrained

2 jalapeno peppers, seeded and chopped

1 c fresh strawberries, chopped into small pieces

Mix all but strawberries together. Cover and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight. Drain if desired. Add strawberries just before serving.

Serve with cinnamon tortilla chips, or lime tortilla chips.

Enjoy!

Linda Loker



## Buckthorn Removal Dates

May 10th and 24<sup>th</sup>

For more information contact

Sue Egner 231-1729

2014

Flower Arranging schedule at Parkview Health center

Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30

April 21 <sup>st</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from our gardens
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	their fair flowers from our gardens
August 25 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from our gardens
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	flowers from our gardens
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Garden Gate

## Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to [aldoug5@charter.net](mailto:aldoug5@charter.net)

## What are Plants Doing All Winter?

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

In winter, trees, shrubs and perennial plants go dormant. They stop growing and in some cases die back to ground level.

The single signal that leads plants to begin the process of going dormant is day length. When daylight hours shorten in fall, growth regulator hormones begin to build up in plants, slowing their growth. It happens consistently every year, regardless of temperature, rainfall or soil fertility because change in day length is constant from year to year. Once the dormancy process starts, cool temperatures, water stress and low fertility may speed the process. Warm temperatures, too much water and excessive fertilizer too late in the season won't stop the dormancy process, but it can slow it down so much that the plant is caught off-guard by an early hard freeze that it can't survive, or that parts of it can't survive. This is why it is important to stop fertilizing plants and to cut back on watering, except for evergreen plants, by mid-August.

There are two stages of dormancy. The first is called endo-dormancy. Endo is a Greek word meaning "inside." Thus, something inside the plant, those hormones, is causing dormancy. While the plant is endo-dormant, it begins counting chilling units, which are hours of time spent above freezing. Temperatures from 40°-50° are most effective. Each plant needs a certain number of chilling units before it can move on to the next stage of dormancy and wake up in spring. Chilling units needed range from 300 to 1500 or more, depending on the plant. Plants native to Wisconsin require an average of 1,000 chilling units.

Once the necessary number of chilling units is reached, plants enter a phase called eco-dormancy. If conditions are right, the plant could actually break dormancy and begin growing, but now something in the environment, usually freezing temperatures, are preventing it from growing. This is the most dangerous part of winter for plants. An early warm-up could prompt them to begin to grow, leave the dormant state, and lose their ability to adjust to cold temperatures. Then when cold weather resumes they are killed. This is also the part of winter, usually late February to late March, when you can prune branches of forsythia, crab apple, pear and other flowering fruit trees and bring them indoors to force them into early bloom.

Knowledge of the fact that daylight hours trigger dormancy has a practical application as you dream your way through seed and nursery catalogs this time of year. It's important to order plants and seeds grown in a latitude similar to Wisconsin's. Here's why: say you buy a tree produced in North Carolina and say this tree begins the dormancy process when daylight shortens to twelve hours. That happens much earlier in the south than it does here, so the tree will continue to grow late into the fall, failing to start the dormancy process in time for our cold winter weather. Without time to move into dormancy before winter, the tree will die.



## **Master Gardeners Business Meeting**

**March 11, 2014**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Presentation: Oshkosh Food Co-op**

Presented by Bridgette Weber and Lawrence Stahowiak

The co-op will be a member-owned business. The Oshkosh Food Co-Op will be a not-for-profit membership organization that connects local residents with real food, emphasizing natural, organic and locally sourced food.

A food co-op offers products like any other grocery store, but is owned by the people who shop there. Because the people who share the same interest and values own the co-op, the co-op can source food locally and emphasize natural and organic food. There are currently food co-ops in Milwaukee, Madison, Racine, LaCrosse and Eau Claire. They are also opening one in Racine and Green Bay.

They differ from grocery stores as they are owned and operated by the members. Food co-ops are committed to consumer education. They try and buy as much locally grown as possible, which supports the local economy. There is less fuel needed to transport the goods, which is also better for the environment.

Top professionals will conduct the feasibility study. This study will analyze multiple sites to determine which site is the most viable for the co-op. They look for areas that do not have grocery stores in a populated area, also referred to as a food desert. The steps after that would be a formal market study, community survey, research of suppliers and vendors, and develop a business plan.

The co-op held the first meeting in 2011, and incorporated in 2013. They have a board, which consist of an accountant, small business owners, and a professor along with other professionals. They do have a website along with face book and gmail.

The membership is \$180. This will get you discounts at the co-op. The other forms of funding are contributions, private investors, membership drives, and loans. They estimate it would be around one million dollars to get the co-op operational. They would be open all year round.

### **Project Presentations:**

#### **Octagon House-Jerry Robak**

This house was built in the 1850's and is owned by the Neenah Historical Society. The gardens there include kitchen gardens, rose garden, herbs, and perennial gardens. The vegetables are grown in raised beds and include heirloom varieties. There will be a meeting for planning in March or April. They currently have five new members who have sign up for volunteering.

#### **Education and Control of Invasive Species-Audrey Ruedinger, Lawanda Jungwirth and Sue Egner**

This project focuses on mainly the invasive species of garlic mustard and buckthorn. They will take volunteers for any period of time they can come. There are many dates they get together from spring thru fall.

#### **Webster Stanley/Washington School- Marge Menacher**

This is an after school project using hands on projects to teach students about planting vegetables and flowers. This year both schools are having their boilers replaced. Emmeline Cook School has asked for assistance with their three beds. Marge is looking for volunteers. This is several week project.

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## **Plant Health Advisors at the UW-Extension- Ann Gratton**

This is a project is a resource for community questions. The volunteers come in the office to take calls from the community on gardening. The questions come in thru email, calls or walk ins. There is a class to train volunteers. They are currently looking for more volunteers.

### **Treasurer's Report: Sue Egner**

Report for February was presented

### **Secretary report**

Board minuets are not up to date on the website. There was a motion to have the minutes emailed to the Extension and have them forwarded to the members. Motion was approved.

### **Old Business**

Ivan is looking into having the signs put into the project sites

### **New Business**

Apparel forms are available to order Master Gardner's logoed apparel. Orders need to be by March 25<sup>th</sup>.

We are looking for ideas for speakers for the upcoming business meetings. Please see Mary with your ideas

We are also looking for ideas for garden visits this summer

Linda Beaten spoke about the fund raiser for the "Seeds of Hope" This is at FVTC on March 22

The state has new brochures for us to use.

### **New Opportunities**

#### **Omro Library- site landscaping**

**Oshkosh Corporation is looking for volunteers for April 29 from 11:00-2:00 either as a speaker, doing a demo or having a booth for the Sustainability Fair**

### **Education Committee Report:**

The trip for Savannah is filled

Roy Ann asked if there was any interest in a pruning class

### **UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller**

A reminder that the mandatory reporting of child abuse must be completed before you submit your hours

Level two training will be starting in March

Next Business meeting will be April 8

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## Winnebago County Master Gardeners Board of Directors

### Co-Presidents

Mary Shepard 235-9242

Linda Petek 233-5730

### Co-Vice Presidents

Ivan Placko 721-9394

Jane Kuhn 231-3993

Secretary Mary Jo Maher 915-2506

Treasurer Sue Egnor 231-1729

### Members

Linda Baeten 232-1224

Pat Behm 410-3290

Diana Dougherty 233-7137

Donna Kudlas 233-0367

Marge Menacher 233-3467

Roy Anne Moulton 915-9731

Anne Murphy 379-7132

Dara Sitter 420-0620

## Committees

Education and Trips	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education - Meetings	Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	Donna Kudlas	233-0367
	Kathy Daniels	233-0410
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
Membership	Linda Baeten	379-8377
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	Sue Egner	231-1729
SOP & Bylaw Committee	Ivan Placko	721-9394
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012

## Core Projects

Community Gardens	Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
	Synda Jones	233-3228
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Matt and Julie Miller	233-8370
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Pat Behm	410-3290
	Dara Sitter	420-0620
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
ThedaCare	Diane Iott	379-4176
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467

*April 2014*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 MG Board Mtg	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 MG Bus Mtg 6:00	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20  Easter	21 Parkview Flower Arranging	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

*May 2014*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 MG Board Mtg 6:00	7	8	9	10 Buckthorn Removal
11	12	13 MG Bus Mtg 6:00	14	15	16	17
18	19 Parkview Flower Arranging	20	21	22	23	24 Buckthorn Removal
25	26  Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31