

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER DECEMBER 2011 - NEWSLETTER

(click here to go directly to website) www.winnebagomastergardeners.org
920-232-1986

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

As Mary said in the last newsletter, this is my last newsletter as we are done with our term as Co-Presidents. This has been a rewarding and fun past four years. I have gotten to know so many of the hard working people in this group. Keep up the good work!

January brings not only snow and cold weather but two new Co-Presidents: Mary Shepard and Linda Petek. We wish them best of luck to move this organization forward.

Don't forget our Awards Dinner is Monday, December 5th. Hope you can attend. Upcoming events include our Winter Escape-Summer Dreams conference Saturday, February 4 at Reeve Memorial Union on the UW-Oshkosh campus. Keynote speaker is Don Engebretson, "The Renegade Gardener". This will be an exciting and fact filled day. The cost will be only \$35 for early registration.

Mary & I wish everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday season. May all your wishes come true for a prosperous 2012.

Kathy and Mary

Where is it?

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NICK'S NOTE:

The 2011 volunteerism totals from the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association are 6,100 hours of community service, 1,300 hours of community education, and 600 hours of youth education. Plus, 1,800 hours of continuing education was attended. Let's just use our imaginations for a moment to picture the way projects locations looked before and then after Master Gardener volunteer involvement. Thank you for making a difference in the communities of Winnebago County.

I also want to wish you all a very Merry Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year.

Nick Schneider, Winnebago County Agriculture Agent



Save the Dates!

Dec. 5 – WCMGV Awards Dinner

Feb. 4 – Winter Escape – Summer Dreams

Flower Arranging Dates:

(All are Mondays, 1:30@ PV)

Dec. 5---Christmas gift bag arrangements Aurora



Happy DECEMBER Birthdays



Amy Asenbrener, Kathy Daniels, Ken Hawk, Diane Iott, Thomas Jack, John Procknow, Audrey Ruedinger, Tom Weber, Joe Wichman

Linda Tobey Receives Emeritus Status

Article by Linda Baeten

Linda Tobey has requested and been approved for Emeritus Status in 2012. She joins the respected ranks of Agnes Carpenter, Mary Ginke, Marlene Miller and John Procknow.

To become an Emeritus member you must have at least ten years of active membership. You also must have been an officer or a member of the board to achieve this honor. In lieu of that, you have to have been the chair of a larger project for at least two years. Linda has been an active member since 2002. She has also held the office of President for five years. She was involved in many projects over the years, and is currently the editor of, and has agreed to continue for a time producing, the WCMGA Newsletter. She is a past recipient of the Golden Trowel Award. Congratulations Linda!

Necessary steps to become an Emeritus member and its privileges are noted in the By-laws (III.C.2.).

If anyone is interested in becoming an Emeritus member and feels they are eligible, notify any Board Member. By-laws are on the website in the Membership area.

www.winnebagomastergardeners.org.

Again We Say Farewell to a Beloved Friend and Teacher

It seems this year we are saying good bye to many of our beloved friends. This time we say good bye to one of our teachers. Although Bob Tomesh was not a member of our group he was a member of our Master Gardener family and one of our favorite Madison instructors. We will miss his wisdom and great humor.

Madison/ Cottage Grove paper wrote in part.

- Dr. Robert "Bob" Tomesh, age 63, passed away peacefully after a courageous battle with cancer on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, at Agrace Hospice Care.

Bob earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the UW-Eau Claire and a Doctorate from the UW-Madison. He recently retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison/Extension as a senior lecturer in horticulture, and outreach specialist.

He was very involved with the State Master Gardeners program as its Educational Director and changed the quality of life for many gardeners in the state. He was a frequent guest speaker on Public Radio's "Garden Talk" program with Larry Meiller. Bob loved sharing his extensive knowledge of horticulture with all, not only in the state but beyond its borders, whether it was as president of the Minnesota Grape Growers Assoc. or as a consultant internationally to countries such as Serbia and the Republic of Georgia, most recently. His knowledge was truly a valuable resource to the state, whether it was to UWEX agents, master gardeners, or neighbors, family and friends.

Flower of December - POINSETTIA



Also known as the Christmas flower, legend has it that poinsettias began as a humble weed. When a little girl – with no means for a grander gift – placed weeds on a church altar, they turned into brilliant red blooms. Symbolizing good cheer and merriment, this December birth flower is a fitting tribute to December's joyful celebrations.

A Remembering Tree

In memory of long time Master Gardener Burt Carpenter, a Japanese Tree Lilac is being planted in Abe Rochlin Park at 1300 N. Sawyer Street, Oshkosh. The Memorial Tree Program is sponsored by the Oshkosh Southwest Rotary. The City of Oshkosh Forestry Division will plant Burt's tree hopefully this fall, if not next spring.

I have had discussions with Agnes Carpenter in regards to the selection and location. Being the gracious lady she is and also a past Master Gardener, I chose the flowering tree for her spring pleasure. Included is a marker which will be placed on the ground near the tree. The marker will read Tree Lilac/In Memory of Burt Carpenter/2011.

We also purchased an oak tree in 2006 in memory of Master Gardener Jim King.

Audrey Ruedinger



What am I? by Jane Kuhn

I am a sun loving perennial herb plant known as a xerophyte which is a plant that has adapted to living in dry conditions. Poor soils are not a problem and are in fact preferred over rich moist ones. My height ranges from two to three feet and my spread can reach up to double that. I have two kinds of leaves. The main ones are opposite and whorled in shape and oblong-linear. When I am young these leaves are gray but as I mature they turn green. My secondary leaves are narrower in shape and persistently grayer with a whitish hairy appearance. I can withstand the cold conditions typical of zone 5 and sometimes zone 4 with proper winter care. I bear flowers that grow on spikes and range in color from white, pink and lavender to the deepest purple.

Since I am difficult to start from seed, you will want to purchase seedlings at a nursery. People as well as butterflies are attracted to me for my fragrance. However, ants dislike my smell making me a possible weapon for organic ant control. I may also be effective for deer-control since they think I stink. I am very popular in cottage herb gardens and am perfect for a sun drenched location such as a hot dry bank or along sidewalks and driveways.

Brewers hit a home run for tree planting and greening Milwaukee

MADISON – The Milwaukee Brewers recently donated 150 landscape-sized saplings to the Department of Natural Resources as part of the team's "Root, Root, Root for the Brewers" tree planting campaign. For every 20,000 tickets sold during the regular season, the team donated a tree to be planted on the neighboring state-owned [Hank Aaron State Trail](#). The goal of the initiative was to offset the number of trees used to print the club's season ticket sales.

"What a fantastic opportunity to work with the Brewers, celebrate the value trees have to the environment and enhance one of our most popular state trail corridors," said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp.

Fifteen native species, including serviceberry, pagoda dogwood, hackberry, hawthorn, and Kentucky coffee tree will be located along the bike trail and pedestrian bridge. Half of the trees were planted in mid-October with the balance to be put in the ground next spring. McKay Nursery of Waterloo provided the nursery stock and is responsible for the planting. The DNR will oversee future care and maintenance of the saplings.

"We enjoy developing close working relationships with partners like the Milwaukee Brewers in the metro area," said Melissa Cook, Hank Aaron State Trail property manager. "The trees being donated by the Brewers add more green space and beauty to our trail visitors' experience. It's a gift that will be enjoyed for many years to come."

According to the National Tree Benefit Calculator, each young sapling, depending on species, will offset from six to 12 pounds of carbon during the first planting season. As the trees grow, their contributions to greening Milwaukee will increase.

For more information contact: Pat Murphy (715) 839-3760



Close of the Farmers Market for Another Season

The Farmers Market (aka Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market, Downtown Farmers Market, Saturday Farmers Market, and The Market) is proud to admit that the move to North Main Street was a smashing success. The way that the community embraced the market as its own has thrilled us to no end. We'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate every visitor, customer, merchant, vendor, musician, advertiser, donor, sponsor, volunteer, and committee member whose combined efforts made this a season-to-remember! The Thank You Page on our website "OshkoshSaturdayFarmersMarket.com" will give a detailed listing of all of the individuals and groups we can't personally mention here. To omit one name would be unthinkable.



For you number crunchers: At City Hall, in 2010, we had a total of 109 vendors and averaged 51.9 vendors

each Saturday. We estimated between 1,800 and 2,300 customers each week. This year we had a total of 165 paying vendors and an additional 53 non-paying Community Outreach groups who were there at least once, we averaged a total of 98.9 vendors every Saturday, the Oshkosh Police Department estimates we had between 9,000 & 10,000 customers each week, our vendors report that they regularly saw 4 or 5 times as many customers as last year, and the number of positive comments we've received about the market were uncountable. The market brought 200,000 people to downtown Oshkosh.



Every one of you who visited or supported the market in any way should pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. From the

bottoms of our hearts . . . we thank-you for making the Farmers Market an event to cherish

Dennis & Karlene Leatherman, Managers
Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market

What Am I: Answer

By: Jane Kuhn

I am English Lavender. Family: Lamiaceae. Genus:



Lavandula. Species: *L. angustifolia*. Common names: English Lavender, true lavender, narrow-leaved lavender, common lavender.

Lavender is used to

lend fragrance to linens, sachets and potpourris. Lavender essential oil is used as a relaxant with massage therapy and in lotions, soaps and bath oils. The flowers are used as a culinary herb, most often as part of the French herb blend called *herbes de Provence*. As the photo shows, lavender plants can also add interest to the winter garden.

Resources: USDA Plants Database and associated links

Growing Carrots

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Carrots are one of the last vegetables to come out of the garden in fall, although they can be harvested much earlier if desired.

There are five types of carrots categorized according to shape. The types are: Danvers, Nantes, chantenay, imperator and ball. Each type has many varieties. There are early and late varieties, disease and crack resistant varieties, and colors that range from white to yellow to traditional orange to red to deep purple.

Imperator carrots are the long, tapered ones you see in the grocery store. Nantes grow 5-7 inches long and are crisp and sweet, but don't store as long as other types. Danvers have a thick, cylindrical shape, often with a yellowish core. They are especially good for juicing and are used for baby food. Chantenays have conical roots with broad shoulders and rounded tips. They have a rich, sweet flavor and store well. Ball carrots have round, cylindrical or tapered roots less than 5 inches long. They have a crisp texture and are sweet. They have limited storage potential.

Carrots can be planted as soon as the soil can be worked in spring. Several plantings spaced three weeks apart until mid-July will ensure a long harvest.

There are three important things to know about planting carrots: they need a deep, loose soil, the

seeds should be spaced according to the directions on the seed packet, and no nitrogen should be added to the soil. If a carrot root hits a stone or clod of clay, it will branch, twist, or simply stop growing. Raised beds are especially good for growing carrots. Seeds planted too closely will impede each other's growth. Nitrogen causes excessive feeder roots, or "hairy carrots."

Two important things for after planting: the soil should be kept moist until germination, which may be up to three weeks, and the bed should be kept weed free.

Finally, two things to remember after germination: continue to keep the area weed free, and if the carrots start to lift out of the ground, mound a little soil or mulch around the crowns because exposure to light will cause them to turn green and bitter.

To harvest carrots, water thoroughly to soften the ground and try to pull them up by gripping their tops firmly at soil level. If they don't come up, use a spading fork to lift them. Be careful - nothing is worse than having your prize carrot gored by the spading fork!

Cut or twist the tops off and store carrots in plastic bags in the crisper drawer, either washed or unwashed.

Carrots get sweeter the longer they are left in the ground, as long as the ground does not freeze. You can leave them underground covered by a thick mulch well into the fall and harvest them as needed if you don't have room for storage inside.

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Business Meeting November 8, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Mary Wiedenmeier
5:30 pm

Treasurer's Report – Alice Graf

A handout was available. Total in the Treasury is \$13,786.70.

Secretary's Report – Linda Baeten

Linda reported that the Board Minutes were sent to Jean Reed for posting on the Website. Business Minutes are sent to Linda Tobey to be included in the Monthly Newsletter. No one had any corrections.

NEW BUSINESS

Elections – Mary introduced the Nominees: Sue Egner is the sole nominee for the office of Treasurer. Board Member nominees include: Marge Menacher, Diana Dougherty, Linda Petek, Mary Shepard and Ann Murphy. No one is running for President. Voting will take place later in tonight's meeting

NeighborWorks Project – Linda Baeten explained that Ron Hansche had brought this project before the Board. NeighborWorks is an organization dedicated to renewing and energizing the Northeast side of Oshkosh. They offered an opportunity for a Master Gardener to design a perennial bed in a triangle located between Bowen, Mill, and Waugoo Streets. The City of Oshkosh will do the maintenance. NeighborWorks will pay for plant material and may be no higher than 36 inches. Anyone interested should contact Ron Hansche at 235-4740 for more information.

Cobra Tool Order – Jane Kuhn and Alice Graf Examples and order forms were available.

Buckthorn Removal – Sue Egner is hosting Buckthorn Removal sessions at the Oshkosh North High School Conservancy on November 12 & 19 from 9-12 or 1-4. Lunch will be provided. Bring your gloves and tools. New members may count these hours. A sign-up sheet was passed around.

Name Tags – Kathy Daniels will be ordering Name Tags for the new Master Gardener class. If anyone needs a replacement, let Kathy know before the Awards Banquet.

LIR – Learning in Retirement – Curt Reese reported LIR is looking for a presenter on February 3 at 9 a.m. See Curt for details.

Public Library Book Sale – Kathy Daniels reported the Oshkosh Library will have a sale November 29 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Gardening books will be available.

State Representative Report – Sue Bohn attended a face to face meeting. The new Basic Training format was discussed:

- We have an advantage by doing the pilot. Winnebago County has a good reputation.
- Webinars are presented on-line. Includes class activities, assignments.
- Sue will be meeting with the Eastern District tomorrow, and hopes to dispel any technology fears about the new format.

- The State Conference will be held in September 2012 in Ashland Wisconsin. It will be in Janesville in 2013 and Outagamie in 2014.
- The International MG Conference for 2013 will be an Alaskan Cruise.

MG Clothing Orders – Kathy Daniels: If you ordered, your item is here with your name on it. See Kathy if there are problems.

Project Applications – Jane Kuhn: a few Project reports are still outstanding...they were due in October.

If you are planning to continue a project or start a new project, turn your application into either Jane or Ivan. There will be a Project Lead meeting in February.

Octagon House – Jerry Robak: This project is open to new members. Every year the kitchen garden needs to be re-done. A Country Fair is held in October. It is a work in progress. See Jerry if you're interested.

Nominations – Ballots were handed out. Mary Wiedenmeier asked 3 times for nominations from the floor. Diana Dougherty nominated Jerry Roback for President, but Jerry respectfully declined. He appreciates the gesture, but enjoys his work on the Octagon House. Votes were cast, ballots were handed in. Further business was discussed while the ballots were being counted.

Education Committee – Audrey Ruedinger: Winter Escape/Summer Dreams will be held February 4, 2011 at UWO Reeve Memorial Union.

- Members plan to do a site visit tomorrow.
- Bob & Arlene Kosanke will send vendor letters after Thanksgiving. If you know of someone interested contact Bob.

(For details and a brochure, visit our [website](#).)

Lawanda Jungwirth Book Project – Mary Shepard

- Committee members have been reading and choosing Lawanda's articles for the book.
- 125 will be included.
- Pen & ink drawings will be done by area art students.
- There is a competition to name the book.
- Photos for the cover are needed, if someone has something local and relevant, see Mary.
- The back of the book will list "tools" for gardeners such as websites and other resources. Mary is looking for input.

Golden Trowel – Linda Baeten:

This year's Golden Trowel Committee consists of Linda Werner, Linda Baeten and Stan Meyer. Linda Baeten thanked those who gave input. The recipient of the Award will be revealed at the Awards Banquet.

Awards Banquet – Mary Wiedenmeier

The banquet will be held at the Bridgewood Convention Center on Monday, December 5. Reservations are needed by November 29. Forms are in the Newsletter or on the Website.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- Bob Potter thanked Mary Wiedenmeier and Kathy Daniels for their term of Co-Presidents. Applause all around!
- Baby spider plants were given away
- Questions – Japanese Barberry is it invasive? We have it at the Octagon House.

ELECTION RESULTS

Treasurer – Sue Egner!

Board members – Marge Menacher, Mary Shepard, and Diana Dougherty!

(Write-ins for president: Mary Shepard, Ivan Placko, Curt Reese. Please consider...)

New Co-presidents – Mary Shepard and Linda Petek!

Board Member – Ann Murphy will be on the board as Mary Shepard and Linda Petek have taken on the presidency!

Under our Newsletter Christmas tree we have the gifts of Hope, Joy and Love that we pray you all will have in abundance this coming year

MERRY

CHRISTMAS



CORE PROJECTS

Community Education	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
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
Humane Society Memorial Garden	
Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	
Linda Christensen	233-0044
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Betty Kuen	558-9586
Park View Cutting Garden	
Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	
Judy & Al Harms	688-5523
Park View Prairie Garden	
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	
Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	
Ann Gratton	231-3015
Rushford Town hall	
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Carol Dorsch	589-5936
Shared Harvest	
Ken Friedman	235-6766
Habitat for Humanity Partnership	
David Leonard	379-5860
Washington & Webster Schools	
Marge Menacher	223-3467
The Wild Center	
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Ivan Placko (CO-VP)	721-9394
Jane Kuhn (CO-VP)	231-3993
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Carole Dorsch	589-5936
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

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	
Membership	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	
Linda Tobey	734-2264
Jean Reed	729-9012
Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
Jane Kuhn	231-3993
Refreshment Committee	
Linda Loker	426-1435
State Rep	
Sue Bohn	685-0427
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Ivan Placko	721-9394
Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	
Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	
Patty Schmitz	236-8887
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

BOARD MEETING
No meetings / Party time
BUSINESS

OUR 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.







2011

“Merry Christmas, Ho Ho Ho.”

Santa Claus

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 Flower Arranging Awards Dinner 	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Master Gardener Brown Bag Program	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31 