

# *What's Growing On?*

December 2014



WINNEBAGO MASTER GARDENER'S NEWSLETTER

## *CONSTRUCTION ZONE*

PLEASE EXCUSE US DURING OUR NEW CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEWSLETTER! YOU WILL EXPERIENCE BUMPS AS WE WIND OUR WAY AROUND THE MANY TURNS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE!

**THE NEWS CREW-** KATHY GORE, VIRGINIA SLATTERY, MARY JO MAHER- EDITORS  
CONTRIBUTORS- JENNIFER FOOTIT-TANK, LAWANDA JUNGWIRTH, ANNE MURPHY, ERIC KROPP, LINDA LOKER, JANE KUHN, LYNNE SLAT, MARGE BOLDING AND JULIE BIRSCHBACH

## *The President's Pen*

We are looking forward to the look of our "new" newsletter and want to thank the volunteers who stepped up to take it over! It is our WCMGA newsletter so feel free to contribute articles and news items to Kathy Gore at [sadiegirl22@ME.com](mailto:sadiegirl22@ME.com).

We want thank our outgoing officers and board members for their service; Ivan Placko, Jane Kuhn, Mary Jo Maher Diana Dougherty, Marge Menacher, and Anne Murphy. We would like to welcome our new officers and board members: Bette Hoytink and Eric Kropp, Co-Vice Presidents; Kathy Schultz, Secretary; Stanley Meyer, Valerie Stabenow, and Peggy Wagner, Board members. Feel free to contact any of the officers or board members with comments and suggestions. Also, remember that any of our master gardener members can attend our board meetings. We meet the first Tuesday of the month at the Coughlin Center at 6:00 p.m.

Our annual seminar "Winter Escapes Summer Dreams" is coming up on Saturday, February 7 at Reeve Memorial Union at UW-Oshkosh. Don't forget to mark your calendar! We are looking forward to a great turnout. Also coming up is the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Show in Madison on February 13, 14, and 15. What a great way to pick up some educational hours. We will have a bus going to the event.

Mary and I want to wish everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!

Mary and Linda

**NEED TO CONTACT ANY BOARD MEMBER? PLEASE SEE  
THE MEMBERSHIP BOOK FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.**

# YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS AND PROJECT UPDATES

By Kathy Gore



The Paine Art Center and Gardens is a private, nonprofit organization located at 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh. The grounds have numerous display gardens as “galleries” of horticulture. Sheila Glaske is the Curator of Horticulture for the Paine.

The Paine has been a Master Gardener Project for many years with Pat Behm and Dara Sitter as co-leads the past few years. They have now resigned from the Project. They both say it is an awesome place to be involved and Sheila has wonderful ideas. The new lead for the Paine for 2015 is Virginia Slattery.

The Paine offers a variety of ways to volunteer and get hours by digging up tulip bulbs in spring, helping with the Festival of Spring, planting the many beds, making up containers, planting and maintaining the Herb Garden, planting 7,000 tulip bulbs in fall and as always deadheading, weeding and watering. There is always raking and clean up for fall.

As a seasonal worker there, I enjoy all of the above activities. Plus, it is such a beautiful, peaceful place to work. Working with the Master Gardener volunteers is always fun. I have learned so much from Sheila while working there and you will also when you volunteer. The hours we work are Monday thru Friday 7:00 am to 2:30 pm. You can work as many hours and days as you wish to get your hours.

The picture below is from Rooms of Blooms - an event the Paine does every other year. It is fun and we did many different tasks with other volunteers to make the room so beautiful.

To volunteer at the Paine contact Sheila at 920-235-6903 or Virginia Slattery at 920-231-5082 and they will help you.



***This segment will showcase our projects and volunteer hours. Please contact Kathy Gore if you have news on projects or committees.***



# IT'S A GARDENER'S LIFE: Anne Murphy

By Virginia Slattery



I was born in Oshkosh, raised in Winneconne and earned my undergrad and graduate degrees at UWO where I have worked for 26 years. My husband, Pat, and I have been married for 24 years and we have one lovely daughter, Keeana.

Having graduated in 2007 from the Master Gardener program, I tried several projects including: watering at the Park View gardens; teaching at Webster/Washington; answering garden questions as a Plant Health Advisor; tabling and question answering at Winnebago County Fair, the Tri-County Home and Garden Show and the Farmer's Market. I've also worked on the education committee, the June Master Gardener picnic, newsletter, nominating committee and have been a Board member.

I think my love for gardening came from my mother. When I was young, she had a huge veggie garden and did a lot of canning and freezing. I have followed in her footsteps by also having a vegetable garden and if time wasn't an issue, it would even be similar to hers without weeds.... I have to admit it tends to get out of control!

I really just enjoy being in the garden-- there seems to be such a calming effect within my garden fences. I always look forward to finding that first new growth in spring. My style of gardening is kind of eclectic. I like to search Pinterest for new gardening ideas and enjoy attending workshops to increase my knowledge. Master Gardeners has provided me the avenue to gain knowledge about topics for which I have a passion. I enjoy both learning and volunteering to give back a little of what I've gained.

# SEED FOR THOUGHT

BY JENNIFER FOOTIT-TANK

## December is the month to ...

- **Cover** spinach and other [overwintering crops](#) with a row cover, and then top with 8 inches of straw.
- **Collect** the seeds from pods and seed heads gathered earlier—wrap up some to give as holiday gifts.
- **Continue** harvesting greens from the hoop house or [coldframe](#).
- **Scout** for egg masses and other signs of trouble on trees and shrubs especially from tent caterpillars, tussock moths and gypsy moths.
- **Trim** back and mulch perennials on a warm day.
- **Wrap** trees to protect them from deer and rabbits. Secure your fencing and apply repellants to areas frequented by animals. Reapply after storms and always follow the label directions.
- **Start** an indoor garden of salad greens and [herbs in pots in a south-facing window](#).
- **Force** some paperwhite narcissus bulbs: Put them in a bowl with pebbles and water, set the bowl in a bright cool window, then enjoy the show. Click the link to take you to the video. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEztZ\\_ubwW4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WEztZ_ubwW4)
- **Take** photos of your property to decide what needs changing before snow cover obscures your view.
- **Grab** a cup of tea or coffee and review you garden journal of this past season. Revise your garden plan to show what you actually did versus what you had planned to do.

Galloway, Willi Evans. "Over Wintering Spinich." *Organic Gardening*. Web. 31 October 2014.

"Make Your Own Coldframe." *Organic Gardening*. Web. 31 Oct. 2014.

"10 Best Herbs for Indoors." *Organic Gardening*. Web. 31 Oct. 2014.

P. Allen Smith "Planting Paperwhites." Online video clip. *YouTube*, Web Oct. 2014

**Jennifer's segment will be discussing gardening ideas while using hyperlinks and YouTube videos. Please click on the hyperlinks to see the detail on the subjects.**

## *Lawanda's Garden Path*

### Autumn Decorations from Your Yard the Roadside

By Lawanda Jungwirth

No need to splurge at the florist for a centerpiece to decorate your holiday table. Look around outdoors and you'll find all you need.

Prairie plantings abound with stiff-stemmed flowers topped with interesting dried seed heads. The prickly tops of spent purple coneflowers are classic. The rattling pods of wild indigo hang on the stems all winter. Muted golds, yellows, coppers and browns are found in prairie grasses like big bluestem, little bluestem, sideoats grama, Indian grass, bottlebrush grass and switch grass.

Along the roadside, you'll see interesting dried weeds and invasive plants. At least they're good for something! Look for the folded up nests of Queen Anne's Lace, nubby, chocolate brown stems of curly dock, faded sprays of goldenrod, spiky burdock, wheat-colored reed canary grass, airy asparagus, towering teasel and many other grasses and weeds.

Alongside farm fields, you might find interesting seedpods on the stems of velvet leaf. Trailside you'll discover the stiff stems of motherwort, spiny wild cucumber pods and tall, candle-like mullein stalks. In marshy areas, you'll find cattails that can anchor the center of your decoration.

It's not necessary to identify weeds to use them, but be warned: poison ivy produces white berries that linger on the stems. Don't touch!

As an aside, if you harvest weeds with seed heads attached, be sure to dispose of all of them in your garbage. One of the ways that invasive plants spread is by improper disposal from discarded floral displays. Do not attempt to compost them, your compost pile will not get hot enough to kill the seeds.

In your own backyard, look for interesting branches, rose hips, bittersweet berries, dried tops of sedum, perhaps annual flowers that you haven't yet pulled up. Check arborvitae for its miniature sprays of pine cones, or pick up larger cones from other evergreens.

Even if leaves have lost their vivid hues and turned brown, press them between sheets of newspaper weighted with heavy books for a few days. Scatter them around your holiday table.

If everything you've collected is brown, brighten up a few of the stems and leaves with spray paint in autumn colors.

When you've collected your plant materials, choose a vase and start arranging. Use a sharp scissors or clippers to cut stems to size. I admit that flower arranging is not an area where I excel, but one tip I do have, even more important for a dried arrangement where pieces of dried plant material will fall off as you work, is to make the arrangement in your hand first and place it into the vase all at once. Choose the tallest items first for the center and then add shorter ones as you turn the arrangement in your hands.

Tie a colorful ribbon around the vase and center it on a placemat or piece of fabric in autumn colors and your holiday centerpiece is ready to be surrounded by good food and family!

# *THE LATEST DIRT*

## WINNEBAGO MASTER GARDENER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **NEWS ALERT – Silent Auction Donations Needed!**

*Something new and exciting is being planned for Winter Escape/Summer Dreams for Saturday, February 7, 2015. We are having a **Silent Auction**. We invite and encourage all our members to participate in donating items. Start putting on your thinking caps to come up with some nice, clever items. We are currently gathering an enthusiastic group of Master Gardeners to do the planning. Much is to be done .....*

*We will keep you well informed on all the news in regards to our first Silent Auction. This could be an excellent moneymaker to support our many projects and a wonderful opportunity for the new, kind-of-new, and the not-so-new members to join together on a new activity.*

A Fellow Master Gardener..... Audry Ruedinger

**Marge Menacher is  
awarded the Golden Trowel  
Award for 2014 at the Awards  
Banquet on December 2, 2014.**



**2015 Flower Arranging schedule at Park View Health Center  
Master gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30**

**January 26<sup>th</sup>  
February  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
April 20<sup>th</sup>**

**flowers from Pick N Save  
no flower arranging  
flowers from Pick N Save  
flowers from Pick N Save**



# THE LATEST DIRT

## WINNEBAGO MASTER GARDENER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

On behalf of Dorothy, Janet, Synda and Patty, we would like to personally thank everyone for their contribution of time to the Oshkosh Farmer's Market. Our booth was a success because of the help from many volunteers who donated their time and shared their knowledge with the community. You are critical to the success of any organization, so we wanted to take time to remind all of you how special you really are!

**We look forward to seeing every one of you next spring**

Twelve or more of the newly graduated class members are interested in having a mentor. What's involved? Just being friendly, able to answer questions (either by phone or e-mail), giving advice about projects, being a friendly face at meetings....Perhaps you could turn them toward a project that fits their interest and schedule. Mainly, being a mentor is sharing your love of gardening and your experience. If you are interested in helping a new member assimilate into our group, please contact or talk to me so that I can try to match you up with someone with your same interests.

*Virginia Slattery, new member liaison*

***Want to be a photographer for the newsletter? We are currently looking for a volunteer to take pictures. If you have an interest, please contact one of the editors.***

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2013 ON YOUR CERTIFICATION



Pictured left to right: Eric Kropp, Gerald Schaefer, Nancy Karuhn, Joseph Jares, Maria Talin, Vicki Daniels, Lori Berndt, Jeanne Jacobs, Lana Angle, Gina Eiden, Kathy Schultz and Jan Wetterau-Houge

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 6	BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 13	BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 24	HARMONY WITH NATURE CONVENTION- WILD ONES
FEBRUARY 7	WINTER ESCAPE AND SUMMER DREAMS- WINNEBAGO MGA CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 13-15	WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION GARDEN EXPO
FEBRUARY 21	A DAY IN THE GARDEN, FOND DU LAC MGA CONFERENCE
MARCH 28	MARINETTE MGA CONFERENCES

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS THE 15<sup>th</sup> OF THE MONTH**

## CUTS AND CLIPS

Source: 2008 edition of Wisconsin Garden Journal from Madison Area Master Gardeners

*By Marge Bolding*

Tasks for December:

- Don't shovel heavy snow onto perennial beds, heavy snow is dense and can reduce oxygen to the soil.
- Wash your clay pots with 10% bleach solution to get them ready for spring.
- Spread composted manure on next season's pea and onion beds.
- Remove sprouts from stored potatoes and use up any sprouting onions.
- Clean, repair, and coat the metal parts of your garden tools with vegetable oil before storing.
- Inspect fruit trees for damage after severe weather. Immediate repairs can save trees that might be irreparable by spring.

# GROWING PAINS

## STRETCHES TO HELP WITH THOSE "GROWING PAINS"

BEFORE &  
AFTER

### GARDENING

APPROXIMATELY 4 MINUTES

Before you do any work in the garden, do a few minutes of easy stretching. This will help get your body ready to work efficiently without the usual tightness and stiffness that results from this kind of work. Stretch to reduce muscle tension and make work easier.



10-15 seconds  
(page 55)



10-15 seconds  
each leg  
(page 71)



10 seconds  
each leg  
(page 75)



10-15 seconds  
(page 54)



3-5 seconds  
2 times  
(page 46)



10-15 seconds  
(page 46)



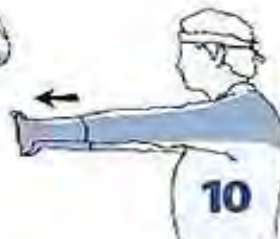
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8-10 seconds  
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5-10 seconds  
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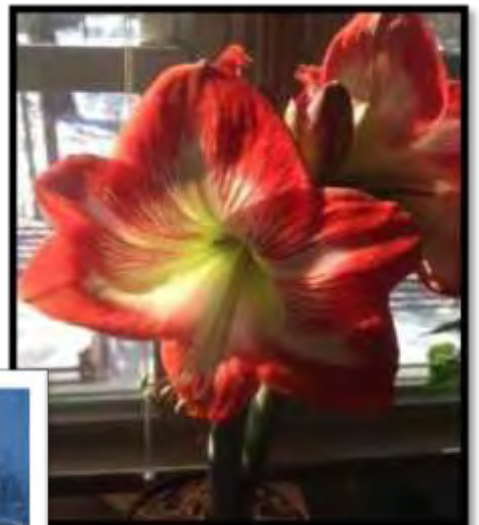
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# *Show us your Bloomers*

Member's Garden Photos- Please submit your garden photos to Kathy Gore or Mary Jo Maher





# *Buzzing Around*

By Mary Jo Maher

One of my favorite things to do is hop in the car and discover garden centers. The invention of the GPS opened all kinds of doors for me, without it, I get helplessly lost. It is always the first thing packed for vacation.

This segment will tell you about garden centers you can discover and some good eats along the way.

This month's road trip will feed your gardening soul during these cold months. So, get in your car and let's go discover Menasha and Sheboygan area.... don't forget the GPS!

*My motto- the car is not full till everyone has a plant on their lap.*

## *Wreath Factory- 220 Main St. Menasha and N6625 State RD 57, Plymouth*

Started in 1983 as fundraiser for a small Wisconsin 4-H club, the simple evergreen wreaths that began the business have become part of a year round lifestyle business, including home decor, event planning and Otter Creek Landscape, an award-winning landscape division named for the small creek that runs through the property. Throughout the summer, The Wreath Factory's 2 destination locations feature distinctive plants and perennials, gifts, and home & garden décor. While in fall, the showrooms are transformed into dazzling Holiday wonderlands, showcasing an array of Christmas decor and, of course, the fresh, evergreen wreaths and greenery that started it all. The Wreath Factory, located on highway 57, north of Plymouth and downtown Menasha in the Fox Valley, is open year 'round to welcome and inspire visitors. The Wreath Factory has been a "Revolutionary 100 Garden Center" by Today's Garden Center Magazine for 13 years in a row!

### **Recently published in *Verve Magazine* (copyright 2014 Delta Publications):**

If there is such a thing as a heavenly scent, it must be what The Wreath Factory smells like each November and December.

Since opening its doors to the public at N6625 State Rd 57 just north of Plymouth in 1993, The Wreath Factory at Otter Creek has been making its own fresh wreaths for everyone from walk-in customers to businesses, organizations and individuals thousands of miles away.

The wreath making effort actually began a decade before that when owner Michael Beeck made wreaths for a 4-H club to sell. Family and friends joined Beeck in the effort as they worked out of a nearby shed with no running water or heat.

These days somewhere between 15 and 20 additional staff members come on board for the holidays, working out of a large room near the rear of The Wreath Factory. Mardell Blohm oversees the wreath aspect of the business and is blessed to have other "seasoned" employees helping make the wreaths. Some of those wreath makers are retired individuals from the area. Some might work 20 hours per week making wreaths, while others work up to 60 hours per week at this time of year.

Matt Trotter, who handles marketing for The Wreath Factory, said the average wreath maker working at a good pace can produce 50 wreaths per day. They need that type of production because The Wreath Factory sells thousands of wreaths during the holiday season.

Cedar and pine used for wreaths comes from Wisconsin, but balsam is brought in from Nova Scotia as it is of a different quality which lends itself well to wreath making. Botanical flowers, berries, eucalyptus and other adornments are brought in from California and elsewhere.



When it comes to wreaths, The Wreath Factory has virtually every size, shape, variety and price point to please any customer, from a 12-inch wreath to a 72-inch wreath and from \$20 and up.

Employees who are new to the wreath making operation cut their teeth by cutting the greenery for the wreaths. Their cuttings are then taken by the wreath makers who use wire forms and a relatively simple but important foot-operated machine to pinch the wires around the greenery. Use too little cedar, pine or balsam and the greenery can fall out; use too much and the wires cannot be closed properly.

Decorators then take the wreaths and add flowers, berries, bows and other adornments. As Trotter said, the entire process is really an artistic team effort.

An important step comes near the end as their wreaths are sprayed with a safe preservative which allows them to be shipped to businesses, organizations and individuals around the country. Trotter said the combination of fresh products and the preservative allow The Wreath Factory's wreaths to often last until Easter, and some customers indeed choose to keep them up until then.

The Signature is the name of one of The Wreath Factory's most popular sellers. That wreath features fresh, fragrant mixed evergreens, dogwood, seeded eucalyptus, pine cones and berries.

Other wreaths carry some unusual names, including American Spirit, Flying Advent, Merry Berry, Ring a Ding, and Southern Charm.

Custom orders can sometimes be done on the spot if the store is not too busy, but pre-orders are the preferred way to go. Some orders for individual or bulk wreaths have already arrived, others will be coming in throughout November, and still others will arrive just days prior to Christmas. The Wreath Factory employees even have been known to do installation of wreaths throughout eastern Wisconsin.

Customers also are able to purchase their own wreath making ingredients from The Wreath Factory and make their own wreath, or take part in classes which are conducted at the sprawling location.

In addition to wreaths, The Wreath Factory also provides evergreens as hanging baskets, boughs, garlands, and potpourri bags, according to Tina Nohl, event planner for the year-round business.

Nohl said the week before, during and after Thanksgiving is prime time for the Christmas rush at The Wreath Factory, which is open seven days per week and often hosts bus tours and other groups.

*Good eats in Menasha- try the Weather Vane at 186 Main St. It offers a wonderful breakfast and lunch.*

Please enjoy this coupon when you visit the Wreath Factory



**Other green houses in Sheboygan area:**

- **Restoration Gardens- 6018 Superior Ave, Kohler**
- **The Mustard Seed- 601 N Main St (hwy 32 N)- Sheboygan Falls**

**Places to eat in that area:**

- **The Wildflower Café, serving breakfast and lunch- 1272 Westview St in Cleveland.**
- **The Horse and Plow inside the American Club- 419 Highland Dr., Kohler**



## CAAN FLORAL AND GREENHOUSE 4422 S 12<sup>th</sup> ST., SHEBOYGAN

Caan Floral & Greenhouses in Sheboygan has been in business for almost 30 years. Previously known as Waldheim Nursery, this premier Wisconsin grower was purchased by Don and Donna Caan in 1986. When the Caans purchased the business, the entire operation was housed in what is now known as the indoor plant atrium. Once you walk through the atrium doors you see the significant expansion, looking over the large Gift Gallery and the Patio and Grill Showroom, which has been transformed into their annual Christmas wonderland. In 1995, Tom Caan, the owners' son, purchased the business and began the expansion that you see today. A little over one year ago, Tom sold the business to Kris Shepard, formerly of Alsip Nursery in Frankfort, Illinois.

For the past seven years, Caan Floral & Greenhouses has been voted *Best of Sheboygan County* for both Flower Shop and Garden Center. It has also been on the Revolutionary 100 Garden Centers list for the past three years--an award given to the top 100 garden centers in the United States. Many local customers consider this garden center not only the best in Sheboygan County, but the best place in the entire state to buy quality plants; annuals, perennials, and outdoor planters. Here's an idea of just how much Caan's grows each year:

50,000 geraniums  
20,000 hanging baskets  
20,000 flats of annuals  
30,000 perennials  
25,000 poinsettias  
3,000 fresh wreaths



This foremost garden center is currently located on seven acres on the south side of Sheboygan with three of those acres being dedicated to their extensive growing operation. Caan's employs 25 full-time employees and 40-50 employees in their peak season. As mentioned earlier, the store is currently decked out for Christmas, providing fresh cut trees and greens, the largest selection of artificial trees, myriad decorations, hard-to-find ornaments and unique gifts. Visit Caan Floral & Greenhouses at 4422 S. 12th Street in Sheboygan, today.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Butternut Squash Bisque

Source: [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

Submitted by: Ginny Slattery

1 Tab. canola oil

1 Tab. unsalted butter

1/2 cup diced onion

3/4 cup diced carrots

4 cups peeled & cubed butternut squash

3 cups vegetable stock

salt and pepper to taste

ground nutmeg to taste (opt.)

1/2 cup heavy cream

Heat oil and melt butter in large pot over medium heat. Cook and stir the onion in the oil and butter until tender.

Mix in the carrots and squash. Pour in the stock and season with salt, pepper, and nutmeg. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer until vegetables are tender. Puree the soup in a food processor or blender.

Return to the pot and stir in the heavy cream. Heat through on low heat. Do not let it come to a boil.

Serve warm with a dash of nutmeg.

"I baked the squash ahead of time to reduce cooking time and help to get a smooth soup. I also substituted half and half for the heavy cream."

A special treat for a special dinner!

## **Master Gardeners Business Meeting November 4, 2014**

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

### **Presentation:**

Anne Murphy and Mary Shepard presented a power point on how to use the Master Gardeners website

### **Treasures Report: Sue Egner**

Report for October was presented

### **Secretary report**

The minutes are now up to date on the web site

### **Newsletter update**

Virginia Slattery and Kathy Gore gave a description of some changes to the newsletter. They ask if you have any pictures from your garden to submit them to Kathy Gore. Three names were voted on for the newsletter. They were; "The Garden Shed, The Gardeners Pen, and What is Growing On"

### **Nomination**

Eric Kropp and Bette Hoytink are the new vice-presidents

Valerie Stabenow, Peg Wagner and Stanley Meyer are the new board members

Kathy Schultz is the new secretary

### **New Business**

The awards dinner will be at La Sur's on December 2.

The first colony of monarchs made it to Mexico

We are looking for suggestions for the Golden Trowel award. Submit your suggestions to Linda Beaten

Sue Egner gave a report from the state WMIGA meeting

Kim did an article for the paper for the Parkview project

### **Project News:**

A sign up sheet was passed around for the presentation of the core projects to present from January-May.

All Project summary reports are due before the end of the year

Octagon House received a grant for \$400 for signage

### **New Opportunities**

There are opportunities for several committees. The hours will count toward required hours. The committees available are the Sunshine Committee, and Website development

### **Education Committee Report:**

There are four speakers set up for the Winter Escape, Summer Dreams. Audrey presented the idea of a silent auction for the event with the members donating items for

Bus trip will be on February 14 to the Madison Garden Expo.

There will be a bus trip to Chicago Botanical Gardens in the spring.

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

Sara Thompson accepted the position of Youth and Science Educator

Michelle will be changing duties to more of the 4-H

New office staff is Ashley Roth, who will be our support staff person

Budget approved the position for a 100% Horticulture agent. Kimberly was appointed

Next business meeting will be on January 13, 2015

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary

Winnebago County Master Gardeners