

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

December 2016-Issue 25



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

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Submitted by Maria Talin/ Google photo

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DATES TO REMEMBER

WCMG Awards Banquet - December 6
Home and Outdoor Living Show - Jan 20-22
Winter Escapes- Summer Dreams – Feb 18

The President's Pen

From Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker



Sleigh Bells Ring...Are You Listening?

Wow! We are finally entering into our winter season. This year we had a spectacular fall - the color, the re-blooming flowers and the particularly difficult time putting our flower beds to sleep when there was still so much green and even blooms that would not quit!

Congratulations to our new officers to the Board of Directors. Nancy Karuhn (V.P.), Anna Abraham (Secretary), Diane Iott and Lori Berndt (Members at Large) will be joining the board at its meeting in January. We also want to extend a thank to Eric Kropp for staying on as co-vice president for another term; and a belated thank you also to Linda Werner who now sits on the board as Education Committee Chair.

Thank you to outgoing board members Bette Hoytink, Linda Petek, Donna Kudlas, Stan Meyer, Roy Anne Moulton and Mary Shepard for your many years of dedication and work as members of the board. Your efforts are well noted in the success of our program in our county!

Winter Escape Summer Dreams seminar is coming together nicely with all speakers in place. It will be held again at LaSures on February 18, 2017. Members should have received a save the date reminder already. We had a great turnout last year and we hope you will consider attending the event. AND....all MG's attending the event will receive 4.5 hours of continuing education! That is almost half of the hours needed for re-certification!

There is no business meeting for December. This is the time of year we look forward to the hustle and bustle of the season, enjoying our family and friends. We also look forward to the beauty of this season - the snow covered pines (and hopefully our precious plants are covered in snow all winter too!), sitting by a cozy fire and all the winter activities that have replaced our gardening efforts. We hope that you will enjoy this holiday season with peace, joy and safety.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

See you next year!

Kathy and Linda

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

As I look out my window and see a few flakes of snow and hear the wind blowing, I wish spring would come soon.

The Home and Garden Show Project sounds like a great way to volunteer and have a bit of early spring. Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel are the Project Leads for this project. I have asked them to explain the project and how to volunteer.

HOME AND GARDEN SHOW PROJECT

We have a project with two different names: Home & Garden Show and Home & Outdoor Living Show. So which is it? This project began at the Tri County Arena in Neenah, it was held at the end of March, and the show name was Home and Garden Show.

Fast forward ... we transitioned in March 2015 to doing a similar show in Oshkosh at Sunnyview Expo Center. This show is called Home & Outdoor Living Show and is sponsored by Winnebago Home Builders Assoc. (WHBA). By tradition we've kept the original name of the project as Home & Garden Show.

The 2017 Home & Outdoor Living Show dates are: Fri., Jan. 20th – 3pm to 8pm; Sat., Jan. 21st – 10am to 5pm and Sun., Jan. 22nd – 9am to 3pm. We will have the sign-up sheet circulating at the January business meeting. People volunteering at the show need to wear their MG name tag. This serves as your entry ticket into the show.

This event brings MGV's right in the midst of the public to answer horticulture questions and direct people to reference materials, garden handouts, etc. The bonus for MGV's is it is your chance to earn community education hours while having fun meeting new people and acquiring more knowledge.

On Sat., Jan 21st we are hosting two – 45 minute sessions with MG speakers. Linda Werner is presenting "Start at the Beginning: Planting from Seed" and Roy Anne Moulton's presentation is "Making the Cut: How to Prune Your Trees and Shrubs". Times for these sessions will be announced at a later date.

January isn't an active gardening month for us, but it is a perfect time to conjure up all those great garden ideas and projects. You're invited to join us at the 2017 show where we together can whet our appetites for the next gardening season.

Cindy Meszaros 920-233-2550

Joni Pagel 920-233-6619

SHARING YOUR TIME

By Kathy Gore

BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT LUTHERAN HOMES OF OSHKOSH

Submitted by Jane Kuhn

Attached is a photo taken at the breakfast that LHO had for our Butterfly Garden project team and some of the elders who visited us in the garden on our workdays. Conversation included our home gardens as well as the Butterfly Garden and their appreciation of the flowers and butterflies. We particularly enjoyed the 95-year-old elder's discussion about her life and how she enjoyed watching us work in the garden.



WCMG members include: Jane Kuhn, Diana Dougherty, Sue Egner, Marge Menacher and Debbie Quandt.

Trivia: A slug has 3,000 teeth and four noses

Submitted by Cindy Meszaros

WHAT AM I

By Jane Kuhn

I am a low growing, spreading, woody-based, herbaceous perennial or sub-shrub which forms a mound up to 12 inches tall and at least 18 inches wide. While in warmer climates I am an evergreen, in colder climates as zones 4 and 5, I am a semi-evergreen and my foliage suffers significant decline in harsh winters. My small, white 4-petaled flowers form dense clusters, appearing in early to late spring, and leaves are oblong, narrow, dark green and leathery. I need a good, well-drained, alkaline soil in a sunny spot. Pruning back after spring flowering is recommended and I often rebloom in the fall.

Propagation can be accomplished by dividing the root ball, from herbaceous stem cuttings and from seed. I grow well in a rock garden, spilling over a wall, draping from a hanging basket, as a ground cover and as a border plant. My fragrant flowers attract bees, butterflies and birds and I tolerate drought, rabbits and deer.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

By Renee Donner

This is an old favorite that we often forget about. Grandkids as well as adults love!!!

Puppy Chow

9 cups Rice Chex, Crispex or other crispy cereal

1 cup chocolate chips

1/2 cup peanut butter

1/4 cup butter

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 1/2 cup powdered sugar

1. In large bowl measure out cereal, set aside.
2. In microwavable bowl put in chocolate chips, peanut butter and butter. Microwave on high for 1 minute, stir and return to microwave for 30 seconds or until smooth. Stir in vanilla. Pour over cereal mixture, add powdered sugar. Spread out on waxed paper to cool. Store in an airtight container.

Source: Betty Crocker Cookbook

LAWANDA'S GARDEN PATH

By Lawanda Jungwirth

New Buckthorn Control Method

Buckthorn is a nasty plant that is taking over woodlands, wetlands, prairies and other natural habitats. You may have some growing in your own yard and not know it.

Buckthorn was introduced to the United States in the 1800s as a tough, hardy landscape shrub. That toughness resulted in it becoming aggressively invasive to the point where it out competes native plants for nutrients, light, and moisture, degrades wildlife habitat, contributes to erosion, and forms an impenetrable layer of vegetation that crowds out woodland wildflowers and young maple, oak, ash and hickory seedlings necessary to regenerate the forest.

Buckthorn is easiest to identify in late fall; it is the only tree or shrub still holding onto its green leaves. Common buckthorn leaves are dark, dull to glossy green and rounded to egg-shaped with finely toothed margins. Glossy buckthorn has dark green, glossy, oval-shaped leaves. Bark is dark gray to brown and there are often sharp thorns protruding from both the trunk and branches. A good way to make a positive identification of either species is to scratch the surface of a trunk or stem. If you find orange inner bark, it is buckthorn.

Both species grow 10-25 feet tall and may be either trees or shrubs. In fall, berries turn black and are much loved by birds throughout the winter. Each berry contains 2-4 seeds that are poisonous to humans. The berries have a laxative effect on birds which ensures the spread of the seeds throughout the habitat. Seeds are viable up to five years so thousands of buckthorn seedlings can sprout from the berries of one mature tree.

Look closely at the woody shrubs in your yard. Are there a couple stems in the middle still holding green leaves? That is buckthorn and you need to get it out of there. If you can't pull it, cut it and carefully brush the cut with a brush-killing herbicide.

Cutting buckthorn trees or shrubs without the herbicide follow-up is worse than not cutting them at all since they will re-sprout heavily with more branches than before. The best time of year to treat buckthorn with herbicide is late fall when the sap is flowing toward the roots.

A new, non-herbicide buckthorn control method is available thanks to UW-Madison engineering student Matt Hamilton. After a childhood spent pulling buckthorn on his family's property, he knew there had to be a better way. He developed the Buckthorn Baggie, a black plastic bag that is placed over a buckthorn stump cut at 6" high. The bag covers the cut stump and spreads out over the root flare and is zip-tied in place at 3" high. It is left in place for several months to a year until the buckthorn tree is entirely dead.

While pulling young buckthorn is easiest done after a soaking rain and herbicide application is best done in autumn, the Buckthorn Baggie method is effective year round.

Methods of buckthorn removal:

[Spray foliage or cut stumps with an herbicide- Glyphosate](#)

[Buckthorn Baggie – UW-Madison Oct 18, 2016 Buckthorn Baggie kills invasive trees without chemicals](#)

The Invasive Grapevine

(The Invasive Grapevine features a short and easy fact about invasive plant species each month.)

Emerald Ash Borer first arrived in the U.S. in Detroit in 2002 in packing materials from China. Studies have shown that on their own, the beetles would have traveled *less than ten miles* from the port in Detroit by now. Unfortunately, humans have assisted in their spread across the United States by moving infested firewood. It was thought that emerald ash borer would stop its westward march at the Great Plains for lack of trees. And it did. Except that there is a large infestation in the Denver area. All it took was *one person* transporting firewood to Colorado to start an infestation that could annihilate every ash tree in the Denver area.



WHO KNEW?

By Lynne Slat

<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2015/06/leap-faith-proves-pollination-can-be-honeybee-free>

by John Carberry

Just such a leap is paying off now at Cornell Orchards in Ithaca, as researchers and managers from the Horticulture Section of the School of Integrative Plant Science and the Department of Entomology celebrate a solid spring pollination season for the site's apple trees. While crisp apples and fresh cider are no strangers to fans of the 37-acre research and outreach site, this year's crop provides an extra bonus for New York apple growers: proof that pollination can be done commercial honeybee free. "This is a food security issue," said entomology professor Bryan Danforth. "We need to know if growers can continue to produce food in the absence of honeybees." Populations of imported European honeybees, relied upon for centuries in American agriculture, continue to decline under pressure from an array of pathogens, parasites and other problems. Danforth said honeybee hive managers are seeing losses at 30 to 40 percent each year, with damages during the worst "colony collapse" years topping 70 percent. With that key agricultural resource insecure, apple growers in New York – the nation's No. 2 apple-producing state – face a future of higher hive rental costs or limits on honeybee availability. As one of the nation's leading advocates for native bees as an agricultural asset, Danforth is among 11 faculty members who rely upon Cornell Orchards for research support. Since 2008, he and members of his lab have been surveying bee activity at 20 upstate orchards, including Cornell's Ithaca and Lansing sites. His team has found more than 100 wild bee species at these orchards, far more than previously thought, with often surprising levels of diversity and abundance. Danforth's group has detected a total of 26 wild bee species at Cornell's Ithaca orchard alone. "That's why we conceived this whole crazy idea," Danforth said. That idea took flight during a walk through the Ithaca orchards in May 2014. Danforth and farm manager Eric Shatt were checking bee activity when, in addition to the honeybees from six rented hives, they noticed countless wild bees elbowing in for a meal – from mud-building mason bees and honeybee lookalike *Colletes inaequalis* to solitary carpenter bees and social halictids. They also spotted many species of *Andrena*, a mild-mannered ground nesting bee that "scrabbles" deep into flowers, a technique former Danforth Lab researcher Mia Park, M.S. '06, Ph.D. '14, demonstrated is four times more effective at pollinating than "side working" honeybees.

"I think it is obvious that Bryan's assumption that we have a strong enough wild bee population to adequately pollinate our crop is correct," Shatt said. "The key now will be to keep our wild bees happy and support them."

WHO KNEW? Cont.

Which, according to Danforth, is where his work is going next.

While he's quick to concede wild bees will never replace honeybees in massive agricultural settings, Danforth said research and fieldwork is proving wild bees can play a critical role in saving growers money, easing pressure on vulnerable honeybee hives, increasing sustainability and, most importantly, enhancing food security. His current work, such as the new study he co-authored with Park on the impact of pesticides on wild bee populations (see related story at the link), will focus on exploring what keeps wild bee populations high. That will let Cornell promote best practices and develop assessment tools so growers know when they, too, can afford to take the leap. "If you're an apple grower and you want to make sure you can produce apples for the next 50 years, having the insurance that you have a diverse wild pollinator fauna in and around your orchard will be important," Danforth said. "Making this industry more profitable and at the same time demonstrating the economic benefits of conserving wild pollinator diversity is a win-win situation for New York agriculture. (John Carberry is managing editor of the College of Agriculture and Life Science)

ANSWER TO WHAT AM I

By Jane Kuhn

I am candytuft. Order: Capparales. Family: Brassicaceae – Mustard family. Genus: *Iberis* L. – candytuft. Species: *Iberis sempervirens* L. – evergreen candytuft. My genus name comes from the Greek word *iberis*, indicating a plant from Iberia. In my species name, *semper* means always in reference to the evergreen plant foliage. Candytuft was an herb used in Colonial times for rheumatism, gastrointestinal complaints, bronchial problems and asthma symptoms. The whole plant is edible, but it is very bitter and therefore has no uses in the modern kitchen.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

THE LATEST DIRT

The Education committee is working on WESD details and in doing so, looked at samples of table decorations. This is where help is needed from the MG members:

If you have any Spring/Summer silk flowers, stems, bouquets, etc. that you would be willing to donate to the February WESD table decorations, please bring them to the January Business Meeting. We will be using them for table decorations/centerpieces. Contact Valerie Stabenow at Hlub34a@att.net.

Home and Garden Show

Save the Date for the Home and Garden show
The dates are **January 20, 21, 22, 2017**. Cindy Meszaros and Joni Pagel
We will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting.

Winnebago Master Gardeners Awards Dinner

December 6- LaSures Oshkosh

Winter Escape Summer Dreams

February 18- LaSures

Most know weeds by common names. Can you match the genus to each?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. bedstraw | a. Arctium |
| 2. burdock | b. Galium |
| 3. lambsquarters..... | c. Glechoma |
| 4. ground ivy | d. Chenopodium |
| 5. dock | e. Stellaria |
| 6. dandelion | f. Rumex |
| 7. Japanese knotweed | g. Taraxacum |
| 8. Chickweed..... | h. Polygonum |
| 9. purslane | i. Plantago |
| 10. plantin..... | j. Portulaca |



December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 WCMG Awards Banquet- LaSure's	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29	30	31  New Years Eve

This is the time of year when we reflect on the past gardening seasons and think ahead to next year's gardens. But what lies in between.

This is a great time to start to do research for the gardens for the next year ... and to visit garden centers or other places of interest and gather ideas.

The one place I visit every year at this time is in Green Bay. I know it is an odd time to think of gardening, but this place has great gardening supplies.

This short trip took me to Taylor Creek in Green Bay on Mason Street. Not only does it have an extensive supply of Christmas decorations, but what a great place to find gardening hardscape.

Our flowers and vegetables are great, but what about a wonderful place to sit, maybe hear a wind chime and watch the birds in their houses. This is what helps to make our garden complete.



The Wreath Factory in Menasha is another place to visit for the season. It has a variety of gardening items and wreaths.



Answers for WEED NAMES

1. B 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. F 6. G 7. H 8. E 9. J 10. I