

# WHAT'S GROWING ON?

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

February 2017-Issue 27



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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Maria Talin

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Board Meeting – Feb. 7
- Business Meeting – Feb. 14
- Madison Garden Expo – February 11
- Winter Escapes- Summer Dreams – Feb 18
- Project Lead Meeting – March 21
- Fond du Lac Master Gardeners Conference – April 1
- Outagamie Master Gardeners Conference – April 1
- Marinette Master Gardeners Conference – April 1

## *The President's Pen*

*Kathy Schultz and Linda Loker*



Well our typical Wisconsin winters sure did not disappoint in January - our January business meeting was cancelled due to some snow.... some rain..... some ice!

We had many things we wanted to discuss but did get it out to you in an email that hopefully all of you were able to look over.

The Madison Expo bus trip is coming up quickly and we hope many of you have a chance to go. It is a great day with lots of "green" talk. It always gets one excited about spring!

Winter Escape - Summer Dreams seminar is set for February 18, 2017, with a great line-up of speakers. Plan on joining your fellow members at this conference and obtain 4.5 hours of your education for MG certification.

Our speaker for our February business meeting will be Bryan Ernst from Ernessi Organics in Ripon WI. This is an organic farm that began in a local store's basement and has turned into a very successful operation, producing over 3000 packages of fresh and wholesome greens to local businesses weekly. He is as excited to speak with us, as we are to learn from him!

Budget time is here also - make sure you have turned in your applications to Eric and Nancy for your projects.... the project summary report for last year, the 2017 project application and, if requesting funds, a budget request.

We have a new project - Morgan House, historical museum in Oshkosh - and we have several people interested. An email went out to everyone on this, and a meeting will be scheduled for all interested. The city of Oshkosh is anxious and excited to get this in the works!

Speaking of the projects, there will be a project lead meeting in March. Our Vice presidents, Eric Kropp and Nancy Karuhn, have scheduled this meeting on March 21 at the Coughlin Center. Look for more information in this newsletter.

Keep warm with your plethora of garden books and magazines close at hand!

Kathy and Linda

# **SHARING YOUR TIME**

*By Kathy Gore*

*Park View Health Center has a special place in my heart. My father worked at Park View and Pleasant Acres, the mental hospital that is no longer there, as a maintenance worker for twenty some years. I got to visit him at work sometimes and he would take me through the old Park View and also the tunnels that connected the two buildings and shops. I asked Bill Weber to explain the history of the Park View gardens and what the Master Gardeners do for the gardens and residents. Kathy Gore*

## **The Master Gardener Project at Park View Health Center**

By Bill Weber

Park View Health Center (PVHC) cutting gardens were started in 1997 by six Master Gardeners. The only active member remaining of that group is Audrey Ruedinger. Tom Weber and I became involved in 1997 at the insistence of another member of the group, John Procknow. He remained active in the gardens until his death in 2012 at the age of 95.

When the current PVHC long term care facility was open in 2008 and the two old resident buildings came down it paved the way for expanding the gardens. Eventually, they probably tripled in size, close to one half acre. Also the separate vegetable gardens with leads Al and Judy Harms were incorporated into the flower cutting garden area.

The flowers we grow are for the enjoyment of the visitors who come to the gardens daily. Several years ago we started a prickly pear cactus bed. It is beautiful when it is bloom in early summer. Many people are not aware that Wisconsin has native cacti. We also have a raised rose bed. This is near the walkway where residents in wheel chairs can get up close to it.

The vegetable gardens are a big hit with the residents. We grow some plant material on a large and tall double-sided trellis. This is so people from the walkways can see the plants grow. On the trellis we grow two plantings of snap peas, trombone squash, cherry tomatoes, gourds, and small pumpkins. In the same garden where the trellis is located are staked tomatoes that grow eight feet tall. We have two raised beds built with 4 x 4's. They are near the sidewalk so residents can easily view the vegetables and herbs.

Recently we have been doing some straw bale gardening, tomatoes, potatoes, pumpkins that are near the walk ways. Harvesting potatoes are great. You open the bale and they are clean. We have many containers growing cherry tomatoes near the walkways that residents and visitors can easily.

About three or four years ago we started a dwarf orchard with six trees. We had some fruit the last several years but it never ripened. PVHC is in the country side. The deer visit.

The Master Gardeners always try to be available in the gardens on Tuesdays. The residents from PVHC always come out in the afternoons on that day. We often have as many as fifty residents plus volunteers and activity staff. When available, we make flower bouquets for them and supply them with vegetables. Tuesdays are also great times to learn from the residents and visitors, answer their questions and just share memories of gardener's past.

We usually have about ten very active Master Gardeners working the gardens. We can use a lot more. Everyone brings their own expertise. The gardens are large enough that everyone can have their own special area. I, for one, have learned a lot working with the Master Gardeners involved with PVHC. I used to plant the same plant material my father planted. Not anymore.

# ***SHARING YOUR TIME – Park View cont.***

*By Kathy Gore*



*Tom and Bill Weber*



## WHAT AM I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an herbaceous perennial which grows in zones 3-8 with full sun recommended in the North and partial shade in the South. I grow in normal, sandy or clay soil which can be normal to moist. My most prominent feature is my size and shape. I can obtain a height of 8 feet or more and a width up to two feet. I have handsome, deeply lobed, powdery green leaves, topped in summer by large cream-colored plumes. I am best known for my foliage and some prefer to remove the plumes to avoid seed production.

With my intricate leaf shape, course texture and architectural quality, I am used as a border or specimen plant, in containers and for cuttings. Deer and rabbit resistance as well as attraction to bees are welcome features. Some object to my plant because it spreads too aggressively via rhizomes and in some cases by seed. It can be invasive in warm regions and is found on the State Noxious Weeds List in Hawaii. In cooler regions the spread can be controlled by removing unwanted shoots in the spring and cutting the plumes before seeds are formed. Planting in a large pot or tub, either above ground or sunken to the rim, will also prevent spreading.



## TRIVIA

Source: The Short History of The Seed & Nursery Catalogue in Europe & the US-library.oregonstae.edu

The oldest surviving European plant catalogue is the 1612 *Florilegium* by Emanuel Sweerts, a Dutch merchant of bulbs, plants and other novelties from distant lands. Produced just over 20 years before the height of Tulipomania, it contains many tulips, as well as other bulbs and herbaceous flowering plants. Rather than being an album of Sweert's collection, it was an actual catalogue of plants he could supply for sale. A second florilegium, the *Hortus Floridus* published by Crispijn van de Passe in 1614, was designed as a tool that salesmen could use to show what the plants would look like in bloom. Several engravings from these florilegia convey the wonder with which seventeenth century Europeans regarded exotic flowering plants. In 1621, Renee Morin of Paris issued the first French printed plant catalog. (To see lots of plant drawings ... see Google results for "[Florilegium](#)" or [Florilegium by Emanuel Sweerts](#) )

# It's A Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery

*We have featured a lot of our newer members and a few of our longer time members in our "Gardener's Life" segments. We hope that you have enjoyed getting to know each other. We thought that it might be interesting, especially for newer members, to feature our longest standing members. Their memberships and memories are invaluable to our organization and help us appreciate what we have today. The following two articles are from two of the original members of Winnebago County Master Gardeners. - Ginny*

## Early Master Gardener Memories Lawanda Jungwirth



I took my first Master Gardener training at the UW-Fox campus in Menasha on Tuesday evenings in autumn of 1994. I can't remember anything about the classes, instructors or the other students at all!

In 1995, I took continuing education MG training at UW-Fond du Lac. There were at least 100 students, from Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Calumet and Winnebago Counties. The daylong classes were on Thursdays for seven weeks. The classes were on a four-year rotation; one year the focus was Fruits and Vegetables, the next it was Trees and Shrubs, then Landscaping and finally Flowers. The presenters were all live, and for the most part were professors from UW-Madison, many of whom were and are quite well-known. It was always a lot of fun to travel to Fond du Lac for the classes, and I did so for five or six years.

I believe there were only four of us from Winnebago County in that first Fond du Lac class. I was the youngest and the other three were more "mature" ladies who sat near the front of the room and totally intimidated me! I never spoke to any of them during the entire seven weeks. The three ladies turned out to be Audrey Ruedinger, Marlene Miller and Joan Rogers, and years later, of course I learned that they were all sweethearts.

Right away I started writing articles for the monthly newsletter. For a while, I did an "Herb of the Month" column, but then progressed to writing articles similar to those that I now write for the *Northwestern*. The newsletter always had educational material from several sources, one of which was *Horticulture* magazine. The articles had to be completely re-typed since at the time there were no scanners or digital format. Although I could type the articles on my home computer, email was not available, so I typed, formatted and printed them and mailed them to the Extension office.

Back in the 90s, when the *Northwestern* was still an actual local paper with some substance, there was a section called "Club Notes." Every month I would submit (by mail) a notice of our scheduled business meetings, listing the time, place, and speaker.

It has only been recently that Master Gardener volunteers have been prohibited from entering private property to advise homeowners, and that volunteer hours are only to be counted when performed on approved projects. Some of the entries on my early volunteer time sheets include "help neighbor plant shrubs," "plan landscaping for sister's yard," "recommend landscape books for neighbor," and even "help Mom weed!"

# It's a Gardener's Life

By Virginia Slattery

## Memories from Stan Meyer

*I have heard it said several times that if you need to check on any facts about Master Gardeners from the past, just ask Stan. He is from the class of 1994 and has been active within the group all these years. I asked Stan to share some of his recollections and this is what he remembers. – Ginny*



Stan was in the first basic training course offered in Oshkosh. This was before the Coughlin Center existed. He took an early flower course, a landscaping course in 2000, a fruits and vegetable course in 2001, and a Master Composter course held in Stevens Point. Meetings were then held in several different locations including places of business, fire stations, and an old sanitarium building used by the extension. Stan was on the committee that wrote the first by-laws and was on the Organizational Advisory Committee that later gave way to the first board.

Stan remembers two of the early officers as president Carolyn Davis and treasurer Joan Rogers. He was vice president for both Luan Hendershot and Linda Tobey. The first extension advisor was Rosemary Eiden. Among the many faces Stan remembers working with over the years are Don Reinhardt, Marlene Miller, and John Procknow.

Two social events that have been in place as long as he remembers are the annual picnic and the Christmas/Awards banquet. Early on the picnic was held at the County Park and was a potluck. The Christmas banquet was held at various places including the Pioneer Inn, Butch's Anchor Inn, Robbins, Ridgeway Country Club, and the Garden View Restaurant. There used to be a member gift exchange.

Stan remembers working at the Home and Garden Show, a project still going on today. He also worked at the Morgan House gardens, which was taken over by the Morgan House after three years. He worked on a garden at the north entrance of the Winnebago County Park which was removed for signage later on. Stan was very involved in a giant demonstration compost site at the Sunnyview gardens. Unfortunately, this site was taken over for fairground expansion just a year later. The group did some of the plantings at the current Safety Building on Jackson Street and participated in some early pruning demonstrations. Two of the project failures he remembers were the Menasha Heckrodt Center and the UW Fox Valley greenhouse project.

Stan has been an invaluable member of the Winnebago County Master Gardeners all these years. He has served our group as an officer, a member at large, project lead, and the list goes on... Just as Bob Hope used to say—Thanks for the memories, Stan!

“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.” Claude Monet

## ANSWER TO 'WHAT AM I?'

BY JANE KUHN

I am plume poppy. Order: Papaverales. Family: Papaveraceae – Poppy family. Genus: *Macleaya* R. BR. – *macleaya*. Species: *Macleaya cordata* (Wild) R. Br. Common names: plume poppy, tree celandine. Genus name honors Alexander Macleay (1767-1848), Colonial Secretary for New South Wales. The Latin *cordata* means “heart shaped” referring to the leaves. The FDA lists plume poppy as a poisonous plant, specifically the juice it exudes is toxic. Wearing gloves while working with this plant is recommended. As is often true of poisonous plants, it has long been used medicinally by trained herbalists in China.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*By Renee Donner*

### Cranberry Meatballs

- 1 can (14 oz.) jellied cranberry sauce
- 1 bottle (12 oz.) chili sauce
- 1 tablespoon dry minced onion
- 1/4 cup red wine or water---I use water
- 2 pounds frozen, meatballs---I used Johnsonville meatballs.

Whisk together first 4 ingredients. Place frozen meatballs in a slow cooker. Pour sauce over the top. Cook on low for 3-4 hours.

This recipe is so simple and good! Used many times, fun to serve as an appetizer or add noodles for a complete meal.

Created by: The Cooking Mom, Amy Hanten



## Rusty-Patched Bumblebee Declared Endangered

By Stephanie Pappas, Live Science Contributor | January 11, 2017 03:05pm ET  
Source- Live Science.com

The rusty-patched bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) is now the first bumblebee species to receive protections under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

The listing of the bee species was finalized today (Jan. 11) after a five-year campaign by environmental groups. The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation first petitioned for the listing in 2013 and, in 2014, joined with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for failing to act on the petition. The FWS subsequently issued a decision to list the bee as endangered in September 2016. Full protections for the bee go into effect Feb. 10.

"We know there are many species of native bumblebee that are threatened with extinction in North America," said Sarina Jepsen, director of the endangered-species program at the Xerces Society. "The rusty patched bumblebee's decline has been well documented, and that enabled us to develop a petition for this species."

Rusty-patched bumblebees are social insects that live in colonies led by a queen. Workers and males have a reddish splotch on their backs, lending the species its common name.

The rusty-patched bumblebee is a North American native that was once found in grasslands across the eastern and midwestern United States, with a habitat covering 28 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, according to the FWS. Since 2000, however, habitat loss due to agriculture has restricted the bee to 13 states and one Canadian province. Overall, abundance of the bees has dropped by 87 percent since the late 1990s, according to a FWS statement accompanying the listing. A 2016 report by the agency found that the bees populate only 8 percent of their former habitat, and that many of the populations that are left are under threat by at least one stressor, such as continuing habitat loss or declining genetic diversity because the populations are so small.

Farming threatens bees both by limiting the amount of vegetation available and exposing bees to pesticides that may affect their health or mortality, according to the FWS. Climate change and pathogens also threaten rusty-patched bumblebees. [Gallery: 'Insects Unlocked' Collection Shares Free Bug Photos] Information is lacking on parasites and pathogens in North American bees, according to the FWS, but the relevant studies have raised alarms. A 2014 research report in the *Journal of Invertebrate Pathology* found that in northern Arizona, up to 63 percent of the bumblebee species *Bombus huntii*, and 66.5 percent of the species *Bombus centralis*, showed signs of infection with the pathogen *Nosema bombi*.

### Conservation strategy

Under the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies need to consider the bee's well-being when approving development or activities that might affect its habitat. For example, Jepsen told Live Science, the Environmental Protection Agency would need to consider the impact on the rusty-patched bumblebee when approving a new pesticide.

"The two most concerning threats to this species are disease and pesticides," she said. Diseases are often spread from managed bee populations into the wild, Jepsen said. Under the Endangered Species Act, any activity that could harm or kill rusty-patched bumblebees becomes illegal, including releasing disease-carrying domestic bees into their range. Under the act, the Fish & Wildlife Service must make a recovery plan for the species that might include actions such as mitigating pesticide use in the bees' habitats or altering land use, Jepsen said. Even actions as simple as mowing roadsides can affect the ground-nesting rusty-patched bumblebee, so agencies might need to consider when and how they conduct mowing activities.

"The Endangered Species Act is actually incredibly effective at recovering of endangered species, and our agency tasked with the recovery of endangered species now has the authority to act on this species," Jepsen said. Inclusion on the endangered-species list also bumps the bees up in priority for federal conservation grants.

In a statement, FWS Midwest Regional Director Tom Melius said the public can contribute to saving North America's native bees by planting native flowers and avoiding pesticide use as much as possible. Leaving plants uncut during winter can provide habitat for rusty-patched bumblebees, as these insects nest in the ground, according to the FWS. Members of the public can also sign on to Bumble Bee Watch, a citizen science project that allows anyone to submit photos and sightings of bees in order to track their ranges.

"A lot of data from Bumble Bee Watch was already used in the decision to list the species," Jepsen said. With animals like bees that are so small and widely distributed, she said, "having an army of citizen scientists out there on the ground reporting where they occur is really essential."

## ***SHOW US YOUR BLOOMERS!***

Submitted by the members



*Submitted by Lawanda*

"Barred owl that was in the tree in the woods across from our house"

# THE LATEST DIRT

## Madison WPT Garden Expo

February 11 – See registration info on next page.

## Winter Escape - Summer Dreams

February 18- LaSure's – Find registration form at:

<http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.org/Documents/TrainingTripsFormsDocuments/2017WESDProgram.pdf>

- **Silent Auction Donations:** If you have items for the silent auction, you can bring them to Diana Dougherty's house or she will pick up items. Please call 920.420.0431. Items needed ASAP.

## Project Lead Meeting

March 21- 6:00 – Coughlin Center

## Level 2 Training: Compost and Soils

Completely online training through UW Extension: Click [here](#) to register.

## Gardening Conferences

Marinette, Fond du Lac, Outagamie – April 1

### 2017 Schedule Flower Arranging at Parkview Health Center

Master Gardeners meet on Mondays at 1:30 in the Great Room

February 20th	flowers from Pick N Save
March	no flower arranging
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Pick N Save
May	cancelled by Park View
June	cancelled by Park View
July 24 <sup>th</sup> Park View's fair	flowers from our gardens supplements from Pick N Save
August 21 <sup>st</sup>	flowers from our garden and supplements from Pick N Save
September	cancelled by Park View
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	flowers from Pick N Save
November	cancelled
December	cancelled

### The News Crew

Editors: Kathy Gore, Virginia Slattery, Eric Kropp, Mary Jo Maher, Anne Murphy

Contributors: Lawanda Jungwirth, Jane Kuhn, Marge Bolding, Lynne Slat, Renee Donnor,

Photographer: Maria Talin

**Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association**  
**Saturday, February 11, 2017**  
**7:00 am– 6:30 pm**

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual WPT Madison Garden Expo, on Saturday February 11, 2017 at the Madison Alliant Center. Garden Expo is presented by Wisconsin Public Television and the UW-Extension and is a midwinter oasis for people ready to venture out and dig their hands into the dirt! Join gardening enthusiasts to share ideas, gain inspiration and create something new.” From 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, you can choose to sit in on 8-9 seminars or demonstrations. Lead presenters include Joe Lamp’l from Growing a Greener World; Gretchen Mead on growing a Victory Garden; Joan Ziegler on the Joy of Gardening; and Larry Meiller hosting a discussion and answer session of Garden Talk. Go to [www.wigardenexpo.com](http://www.wigardenexpo.com) for more information. Usually you must preregister for the ‘make and take seminars’. Spend some time strolling among the hundreds of vendors offering everything from seeds to garden art to tools and even outdoor living spaces! Food is available at vendors or brings your own lunch. Enjoy an exciting day of learning and getting ready for a brand new year of gardening at Garden Expo!

**Departure Sites and Times:**

**Oshkosh at the Coughlin Center, Cty Rd Y. at 7:00 am**

**Oshkosh at the Penney’s parking lot on 2175 Koeller just off Hwy 44 at 7:15 am**

**Fond du Lac at the old Home Depot, Johnson St. at 7:30 am (across Hwy 23 from Forest Mall)**

**Meet back at the bus at 5:00 and depart Madison Expo at 5:15 arriving back in Oshkosh at about 6:30 pm**

**Cost is \$35.00 through January 27, \$40 thereafter. This includes bus transportation and ticket for Garden Expo. The trip is non-refundable, so if you can’t attend, please find someone else to take your place. Bring your own lunch, drinks and snacks or purchase your own food from vendors.**

**Please direct any questions to Marge Menacher at [marmen4105@charter.net](mailto:marmen4105@charter.net) or call 920-233-3467.**

**Send your checks payable to WCMGA c/o Marge Menacher 4105 Westview Lane Oshkosh, WI 54904.**

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2017 Madison Garden Expo Trip Registration Form (copy as needed)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ (confirm reply)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

- Pick Up Location:
- Coughlin Center leaving at 7:00 am
- Penney’s parking lot in Oshkosh at 7:15 am
- Fond du Lac (Old Home Depot) 7:30 am

# FEBRUARY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Ground Hog Day	3	4
5	6	7 Board Mtg.	8	9	10	11 Madison Expo
12	13	14 Valentine's Day Business Mtg.	15	16	17	18 Winter Escape – Summer Dreams
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

The deadline for submitting newsletter articles is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.