

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

February 2019

Mission Statement

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

“No *winter* wind shall
chill my gardening
heart.”



Oleander Tree - Photo by Donna Kudlas

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a bulbous, perennial, flowering plant, one of the first blooming plants to appear in spring and I sometimes can be seen peeking through the snow. My most common color is blue although there are cultivars of white and pink. My star-shaped flowers, violet-blue with a white center, are ½ to ¾ inches wide with six petals/sepals that spread nearly flat. Each bulb produces a raceme of 5 to 10 flowers with brownish stems and clumps of mid-green, strap-like leaves that die back in summer. I grow about 6 inches tall and am hardy in zones 3-8.

My plant is best established by planting bulbs in fall in part to full sun, in well-drained soil. Once established I can be propagated by dividing my bulbs and replanting or by allowing my plants to self-seed. Seeds can also be collected after allowing pods to dry on the plant and sowing seeds in the garden in fall. I can be grown in perennial beds with other small spring-flowering bulbs as well as naturalized in rock gardens, woodlands or lawns. Because I am unaffected by black walnut toxicity, I am particularly useful around walnut trees.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Co-Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

Vice President: Britton Dake

Secretary: Susan Raasch

Treasurer: Joni Pagel

Advisor: Kimberly Miller

Newsletter Compilation: Anne Murphy



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing in a future newsletter by writing an article or submitting a photo, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing pakster0605@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Letter from your Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz



Happy Garden Catalog Season!

We are now into our winter season and this is the dreaming phase of gardening...what will we change, what plants will be relocated, what new plants will find a home in our yards?! And while we are dreaming, we can actually experience gardening coming to life at the Garden Expo in Madison on February 9, and at our very own seminar on February 16 at LaSures Banquet Hall. Both are sure to inspire your desires for the coming garden season. We hope that you choose to attend one or both of these events. Hours for education are gained at both. The Education Committee also has

workshops in future months too so watch the newsletter, or come to our business meetings to hear more about them.

The Paine is very busy planning their upcoming season as well and is looking for our members to volunteer to help them have another successful year. **Ginny Slattery** is our lead on this project and keeps us abreast of all the activities. She works closely with Sheila Glaske at the Paine and is our contact person. We hear that there are education hours opportunities that Sheila offers at the Paine, as well as volunteer hours. If you are pondering a new project, check it out!

Our Vice President, **Britton Dake**, is in need of project applications now so make sure you get your forms in with funds requests, if needed. It is also budget time so this information is very much needed by Britton and our treasurer, **Joni Pagel**. Thanks, Joni, for the great job that you continually do!

Britton will also be hosting a meeting for project leads in March. More information to come on this meeting. It is an important meeting with project updates, but also a meeting to bring any of your concerns to discuss. Many of you have already met with Britton and Kimberly to talk over what is working and what might work to keep our projects the best they can be to show our beneficiaries our impressive volunteer work! **Nancy Karuhn** is also on hand to help with this initiative. Thanks Nancy!

One more reminder - if you are needing money for your project, please consider applying for a grant. There is over \$6000 awarded to the MG programs for this purpose. The request must be submitted in October so plenty of time to get it in.

Guest speaker for our February meeting will our own **Roy Anne Moulton** and she will present information and give us a better understanding of GMOs.

Well, it is time for cocoa, a blanket on the couch and the garden magazines that await!

Happy Valentine's Day...and we are wishing each other Happy President's Day (do we count?!).

Kathy and Linda

Golden Trowel Award Winner - Mary Shepard



Mary Shepard was presented with the 2018 Winnebago County Master Gardener's Golden Trowel award at the January member meeting. **Bob Kosanke**, a member of the selection team, presented the award to Mary.

Jane Kuhn was also selected and received her award at the December award dinner.

WCMGA Scholarship

By Jane Kuhn

The WCMGA is offering a \$1000 scholarship to a current high school senior who resides in Winnebago County. The applicant must be planning to attend a post-secondary educational institution to pursue a program related to the following areas of study: Horticulture, Landscaping, Agriculture, Forestry, Agronomy, Arborist, Conservation, Natural Resources, or other areas approved by the Scholarship Committee and the Board. The scholarship recipient will be based on a completed application including a typed essay and letters of recommendation.

Applications are available from counselors at high schools where Winnebago County students attend, at the Extension Office (Kimberly and Ashley), and from members of the Scholarship Committee (Vicki Daniels, Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn). The deadline for applying is March 1, 2019. The scholarship will be awarded to the recipient at the May membership meeting of WCMGA.

**Mark your calendars for these exciting Master Gardener
training and trip opportunities!**

WCMGA Trip to the WPT Garden Expo, Feb. 9

The Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association is sponsoring a bus trip to the annual WPT Madison Garden Expo, on Saturday February 9, 2019 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 a.m. until 5 p.m., you can choose to sit in on 8-9 seminars or demonstrations by UW educators, UW-Ext. educators and gardening experts. Go to www.wigardenexpo.com for a complete schedule. Usually you must pre-register for the "make and take seminars." Also, save time to stroll among hundreds of vendors. Enjoy an exciting day of learning and getting ready for a

brand-new year of gardening at Garden Expo! \$35 before Jan. 31 and \$40 after (Bus transportation and Expo ticket) All seminars count as MG continuing education. Registration information is on our MG website at:
[Registration Form](#)

WCMGA Winter Escape~Summer Dreams Conference, Feb.16

If you haven't signed up already for our annual 'garden day' of excellent presentations on Saturday, February 16 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at LaSure's, now is the time to do it! Speakers Jeff Epping, Marilyn Cech and Cindy Lindstedt and Amanda Thomson will share their expertise on sustainable garden design, lifelong gardening, winter garden interest and how to get creative in your own garden. \$45 before Feb. 11 and \$50 after. The fee includes breakfast and lunch and there will be a raffle. (4.5 hours of continuing education) Here is the link for the registration information and more details about the speakers and topics:
[Information and Registration](#)

WCMGA Morning Workshop Program, March 9

Join us at the Coughlin Center Saturday, March 9, from 9am to noon, to hear Mark Konlock from the Green Bay Botanical Garden present on "Holistic Landscape Design: Considering Nature When Choosing Plants" and Max Martin from the USDA Potato Gene Bank in Sturgeon Bay who will discuss "Potatoes: From the USDA Potato Genebank to the Dinner Table." \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. (2.5 hours of continuing education) Full details, registration at:
[Registration](#)

WCMGA 6-day Trip to the Great Gardens of Philadelphia, May 5-10

This trip has a deposit/reservation deadline of March 1 so review the details and make a decision soon! Only 30 seats are available.

Gardens included are: Philadelphia City Center, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, the gardens of Winterthur and Mt. Cuba, the Morris Arboretum and Chanticleer.
[Information and Registration](#)

For more information: All of these programs are on the [WCMGA website](#) with links, under "Classes, Seminars, Trips"

2019 [International Master Gardener Conference](#)

There's something exciting that's been added to the International Master Gardener Conference website! So many have been asking when Search for Excellence (SFE) would be posted... the answer is NOW! Use the links below to read all about SFE and how your group project can qualify. Share the news with your fellow Master Gardeners and start working on those applications!

Search for Excellence, IMGC 2019

Search for Excellence (SFE) is the recognition program of the Extension Master Gardener (EMG) Program. The awards acknowledge exemplary volunteer work throughout the United States, Canada and South Korea. SFE has seven categories in which EMGs can demonstrate outstanding contributions to their communities.

1. Community Service
2. Demonstration Garden(s)
3. Innovative Project(s)
4. Research (applied scientific methodology)
5. Special Needs Audiences (senior, disabled audiences or horticultural therapy)
6. Workshop(s) or Presentation(s)
7. Youth

All Extension Master Gardener volunteer projects are significant to their communities, but not all are SFE projects. SFE is designed to recognize outstanding group projects and not an individual who does outstanding work.

New this year, the application process for the 2019 Search for Excellence Awards is on-line; this includes the application, a form to upload images, and a form for verification of eligibility.

To apply for [SFE](#), the Master Gardener(s) will:

1. Read through the information about SFE on the website
2. Gather the information needed for the application
3. Complete the application and electronically submit it
4. Upload up to 6 images to support your project
5. Forward the emails sent by the system (copy of the application and images) to the MG Advisor/Coordinator and request that, within 7 days, they complete the verification form. Go to Website

The application is not complete until the verification form has been submitted by the MG Advisor/Coordinator. The verification letter must be received within 7 days of the application submission. The applicant will be notified once the application, images, and verification form are received.

If issues with the online submission process are encountered, the applicant should contact Diane Nolan using the on-line contact form or email her directly at dnolan2@unl.edu for assistance.

Member Business Meeting Minutes - Jan. 8, 2019

Kathy Schultz, co-president, called the meeting to order.

Speaker: **Barb Harrison** presented a slideshow and talked about Japanese Gardens that she has toured on the West Coast.

Treasurer Report: Joni Pagel reviewed the Cash reconciliation report for Period of December 2018. Two Fraudulent activities occurred in our Associated Bank account. \$30.00 check was cashed and \$135.50 withdrawal. Associated Bank offered "Positive pay" (\$20/mo) service to safeguard checks written on our checking account and (\$5/mo) block, not filter, on ACH (electronic funds transferring system). More banks/credit unions will be contacted about services that they offer and Joni will report to the Board members at the February meeting. Yearly financial audit will take place with **Mary Shepard** and **Patty Schmitz** doing the audit.

Secretary's report: Minutes of the November members meeting will be included in the February newsletter. The Board meeting minutes will be posted to the website soon.

Project Update: Britton Dake thanked the Project leads that have submitted their project paperwork. Leads can contact Britton by email or phone. Britton hopes to do 1-on-1 meetings with the project leads before the large project lead meeting.

UW Extension update: Kimberly Miller is handing out MG name tags to the newly certified members. Update on hours system, there are snafus. Kimberly hopes new hours system will be on-line in June. For now keep track of hours on paper.

Education Committee Update: Linda Werner updated the members on: the. Trip to WPT garden in Madison February 9TH \$35.00 fee. Trip counts toward continuing education credit. The Winterscape /Summer dreams Conference \$45.00 fee give to **Linda Baeten**. Conference counts for 4.5 hours continuing education. Registration forms on the website. Speakers: Jeff Epping and Amanda Thomsen. On March 9th, Mark Kunloch from Green Bay Botanical and Max Martin, the potato guy, will be speakers at Coughlin Center, Cost \$5.00. **Mary Moosemiller** and **Melissa Weyland** are working on a 4-H fun day the 1st Saturday in February.

Roy Anne Moulton updated the Philadelphia trip, May 5th – May 10th. Trip includes: Chanticleer, Winterthur, Longwood gardens. Cost \$738.15 plus air fare. 30 max.

State Representative: Deby Voyles asked if the members received the electronic handout "Sustainable Vegetable Gardening" from the Autumn on the River Conference. Excellent presentation.

Wild Ones Update: Susan Forbes talked about the January 19th Annual Wild Ones Conference. Cost \$35.00 Members, \$40.00 Non-Members. \$13.50/lunch. Keynote speaker Dave Cordray, his topic is "The Value of Ecological Restoration". There will be a total of nine speakers.

New Business: Kathy Schultz wants the members to check the table in the hall for their member envelopes. There are 2 corrections in the basket. Check that your information in the booklet is correct.

Door prizes winners: **Karen Morton, Arlene Kosanke, Debbie Quandt, Nancy Russo, and Mary Haave.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting by **Cindy Meszaros**; second by **Debbie Quandt**.

Upcoming Events - See Calendar for February Events

March 9: WCMGA Morning Workshop

March 19: Education Committee, Benvenuto's 5:30 PM

March 19: Lead Training Session, 6 PM

April 16: Education Committee, Benvenuto's 5:30 PM

May 5-10: Philadelphia Trip

May 21: Education Committee, Benvenuto's 5:30 PM

June 8: Willow Creek Iris trip - leaf casting class

June 17-21, 2019: International Master Gardener Conference, Valley Forge, PA

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am glory of the snow. Order: Liliales. Family: Liliaceae – Lily family. Genus: Chionodoxa Boiss – chionodoxa. Species: Chionodoxa forbesii Baker – glory of the snow. The name is derived from the Greek words chion meaning snow and doxa meaning glory. The name indicates their occasional habit of peeking out through a carpet of late season snow. While glory of the snow will produce beautiful blooms over many seasons, care must be taken as it may become aggressive and spread.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.



Snow-covered Autumn Joy Sedum

Photo by Jane Kuhn

Ask a Plant Health Advisor _____

Submitted by Mary Shepard

The Plant Health Team will be providing articles on questions and answers from our work, but first let's refresh everyone's skills at evaluating problems with unhappy plants. Here is a list of 20 questions from Ohio State University Extension PP401.02

"Diagnosing Sick Plants" <http://ohioline.osu.edu> that provide guidance in defining, analyzing and focusing, diagnosing, and recommending solutions for the problem. Happy detective work!

1. What is the plant?
2. What does a healthy plant look like?
3. What are common problems for the plant? (Example: What diseases is the plant known to get. Does it always need a lot of sun or shade?)
4. What do you see that looks abnormal? (Example: Is the plant wilting? Is the soil dry?)
5. What is the overall health of the plant? (Example: Is it only part of the plant that is sick or the entire plant?)
6. What exactly do you see? Example: What are the signs and symptoms?)
7. What do you see on the other plants surrounding it? (Example: Are the other plants sick too?)
8. What is the site? (Example: What does the environment around the plant look like?)
9. Who knows about the plants? (Example: Who has access to the plants? Does someone specific watch over the care of the plants?)
10. When did the symptoms first appear? (Example: How long have the symptoms been there?)
11. What is the horticulture history? (Example: When was it first planted there?)
12. What is the environmental history? (Example: Is the site known to be really wet or dry?)
13. What does the client think the problem is? (Example: Did the client apply too much fertilizer or water the plant too much?)
14. What diagnostic tools are useful?
15. What additional resources are available?
16. How do you take samples?
17. What other information do you need to help you find the problem?
18. What is your diagnosis?
19. What is the significance of the problem?
20. What are your recommendations? (Management strategies or control measures?)

Continuing Education Opportunity

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is proud to announce its 2019 plant identification and sampling workshop series dates. These workshops are taught by field experts and are designed to provide the skills and experience necessary for advanced, habitat-specific plant identification.

https://www.uwsp.edu/conted/ConfWrkShp/Pages/plant_series.aspx



Woodland Plant Identification and Sampling Workshop

May 17, 2019
Amherst Junction, Wis.
Instructor: Sophie Demchik



Grasses and Sedges Identification and Sampling Workshop

June 13-14, 2019
Stevens Point, Wis.
Instructor: Stephanie Lyon, Ph.D.



Wetland Plant Identification and Sampling Workshop

July 11-12, 2019
Stevens Point Wis.
Instructor: Sophie Demchik



Prairie Plant Identification and Sampling Workshop

July 25-26, 2019
Stevens Point, Wis.
Instructor: Sophie Demchik

WCMGA Projects <i>Check your Member Guide for contact information.</i>	
Project	Project Lead(s)
Butterfly Garden Miravida Living Oshkosh	Jane Kuhn
Carter Memorial Library, Omro	Pat Behm/Linda Petek
Octagon House, Neenah	Jerry Robak
Invasive Species	Sue Egner/Valerie Stabenow
Morgan House	Kathy Schultz
Neenah Public Library	Tamara Erickson
Oshkosh Area Humane Society	Julie Miller/Matt Miller
Paine Gardens & Arboretum	Virginia Slattery
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber
Park View Prairie Garden	Eric Kropp
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/ Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Diane Iott
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker

Project Leads: If you'd like your meetings listed on the calendar, please email information to Anne Murphy pakster0605@yahoo.com.

February 2019						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting 6:00	6	7	8	9 Bus trip to Garden Expo
10	11	12 Business Meeting 6:00	13	14 ♥HAPPY Valentine's DAY♥	15	16 WESD
17	18	19 Education Committee, Benvenuto's 5:30 PM	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

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