



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER JANUARY 2012 - NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Dear Members,

Mary Shepard and I are very excited about starting out the new year as co-presidents of WCMGA. We have a tough act to follow in Mary and Kathy. They have done a marvelous job over the last four years. We look forward to working with them as they take positions on the board.

Mary and Kathy did a "fantastic" job planning our annual awards dinner at Bridgewood Resort Hotel in Neenah. There was a marvelous turnout, great food and fun. We want to congratulate Ruth Freye on receiving the Golden Trowel Award for 2011.

We also want to recognize our new members who became certified and welcome them to our group.

Our first Board meeting of the new year is January 2 at 6p.m. and the next Business Meeting is Tuesday, January 10.

We are looking forward to an exciting new year, kicking off with, "Winter Escape Summer Dreams" on February 4, 2012. DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER.

We wish everyone a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Mary & Linda

Congratulations to Ruth Frye!

Ruth is the 2011 winner of the Golden Trowel Award. She was presented the award at the annual dinner on Monday, December 5, 2011. Please congratulate Ruth when you see her on her well deserved award.

Where is it?

Save the Dates –pg 2
What am I – pg 2 & 3
Lawanda's Articles – pg 2 & 3

Nick's Note:

The UW-Extension office just received the full Annual Accomplishment Report of the University of Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program. The full report is available online at: <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=AccomplishmentsArchives> or you can stop in the Master Gardener room at the office and take a look. It provides a great amount of detail about county and statewide projects.

In the state there are 3025 volunteers that certified or recertified for 2012. There are approximately 775 MGVs trained in 2011 through counties around the state that are now working towards completing their initial volunteerism. All total, 199,500 hours of volunteer service was performed by MGVs around the state. 11,589 hours were in Youth Education, 35,979 hours were in Community Education, and 151,932 hours were in Support Services.

The average volunteer gives 62 hours of service annually. Some of you may be wondering how Winnebago County compares. You can be proud to know you contributed to the 4th highest local association volunteer hours in Wisconsin. Only Milwaukee, Dane, and Outagamie Counties had more.

Once again, your youth and community education volunteerism is much more than typical. Thank you again for another year of helping the people of Winnebago County become better educated in horticulture and making our communities more beautiful one project at a time.

Also, thank you to Mary and Kathy for four years of hard work as co-Presidents. I agree with Sue Bohn's comments that this is one of the most professional, organized local associations in the state.

Cheers to a New Year!

Nick

REGISTER NOW FOR WE~SD 2012!

The brochure and registration form for Winter Escape~Summer Dreams is now available on the WCMGA website www.winnebagomastergardeners.org. Download it today to get all of the details for this great event and make your reservation before the holiday rush. Better yet, put it on your Christmas list! February 4, 2012 will come around a lot quicker than we think

The sign-up form for the bus trip to the Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo in Madison on February 11 will also go up on the website soon. And, more information about the other educational opportunities being planned by the Education Committee will be posted as they are finalized. They include:

- A pruning workshop in mid-March.
- A multi-day trip to the Philadelphia area to visit some of the great gardens of the east during first week in May.
- A bus trip to the Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference to be held July 19-21 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Save the Dates!

Feb. 4 – Winter Escape – Summer Dreams

Flower Arranging Dates:

(All are Mondays, 1:30@ PV)

January 30 --Wine bottle and roses arrangements

March 26 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

April 23 -- Spring artificial bouquets

May 21 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

June 18 -- Flowers from the cutting garden, our gardens

July 16 -- Flowers from the cutting gardens, our gardens

July 30 -- Flowers for their fair -- making many bouquets

August 13 -- Flowers from the cutting gardens, our gardens

September 24 -- Flowers from the cutting gardens, our gardens

October 8 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

November 19 -- Flowers from Garden Gate

December 3 -- Christmas arrangements



Buckthorn removal at the Oshkosh North High Conservancy Park

The park is located directly behind North High School. It has lovely walking paths; through out the 13 acres of park.

The park was totally loaded with buckthorn. We met on Oct. 15 and 29 and Nov. 12 and 19. We made real progress cleaning the buckthorn from the area.

Master Gardeners who participated were Colleen Kutchin, Linda Peteck (2 times), Debbie Drake (3 times), Alicia Espiritu (new class), Kathy Kossel (new class), Donna Kudlas, Bette Hoytink, Mary Wiedenmeier, Jennifer Footit Tank (2 times), Dorothy Bonnin, Audrey Ruedinger, Mark Mueller (new class), Carole Dorsch, Mary Rebman and Sue Egner. They worked a total of 75 hours. Also, non master gardeners who helped, their hours totaled 41 hours. WOW! Great participation

The park also has a prairie land in the woods. It is in sad shape. We have been given permission from the city forestry dept to do whatever we want with it. It could be so beautiful. Anyone interested?

My yard is located right alongside the park. While eating lunch together on Nov 19, we saw 26 turkeys walking thru my yard and along the path in the woods. 26 Turkeys!! What a sight that was!

Come and join us next year!

Sue Egner

Membership area. www.winnebagomastergardeners.org.

Our Favorites

By Jean Reed

I was reading an article in the Post Crescent about 2 months ago written by Rob Zimmer. The article was about local nurseries and garden centers. I thought it would be a wonderful idea to add a page to our web site with the Winnebago County Master Gardeners' favorite places to shop. We could also list the favorites in the newsletter and then add them to the web site.

Send garden centers, nurseries, catalogs, etc. Please send the name, address, and if you have it, phone number. Also, list what you like best about this place (i.e., crappy for roses but good for hostas).

Please send your suggestions to Jean Reed at jmrvan617@tds.net.

Plant some different vegetables next year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Just as Black Friday began ahead of time on Thanksgiving Day this year, the seed catalogs began arriving in my mailbox in November instead of late December when they normally do. I'm not sure this will spur people to order earlier or more than usual, but in my case, it did allow time for a more leisurely look-through.

In my perusal through the vegetable seed section, I realized that I am stuck in a vegetable rut. I plant the same varieties year after year. In my defense, I plant them because they are successful and we like the vegetables they produce.

But I am limiting myself and my palate by not being more adventurous. Here are just a few of the different vegetables that caught my eye in the first catalog to arrive. Some are newly developed; others are just new to me.

Beans: 'Rattlesnake Pole' is an heirloom climbing green bean with purple streaks. The catalog says the streaks fade when they are cooked. Vines can reach up to 10' tall with 7-10" pods.



Beets: 'Cylindra' is an heirloom carrot-shaped beet that grows up to 6" long. It has an especially sweet flavor and is a favorite of chefs for its ease of peeling and uniform slices.

Broccoli: 'Sante F1Hybrid' is also known as broccolini for its appearance if small, deep purple heads above leafy stalks. When I first glanced at it, I wondered what 'Autumn Joy' sedum was doing in the vegetable section of the catalog! This broccoli is easier to grow than some others because it does not require cold treatment to induce sprouting.

Carrots: 'Cosmic Purple.' The deep purple color drew my eye, but the description of "crunchy roots and sweet flavor with a slight hint of spice" sold me on it. With 70 days from planting to harvest, the roots average a nice 7" long.

Cucumber: 'Lemon' looks just like a lemon – round and yellow! The 3" fruits have a delicate flavor and crunchy bite. 'Lemon' grows well in cool conditions and is a good choice for container planting.

Onions: 'Yellow Cipollini' onions are just cute. They are flattened, saucer-shaped yellow onions measuring 3-4" across, great for grilling and roasting. 'Cipollini' has a pungent, sharp flavor that mellows with cooking.

Potatoes: 'All Blue' might be hard to get used to on the plate. They have deep blue skins and flesh with a soft, moist texture. 'All Red' has cranberry colored skin with a pinkish tie-dyed look inside. Combine these two with a white potato for a patriotic potato salad!

Zucchini: 'Costata Romanesco' is nothing like the 'Black Beauty' zucchini I've been growing. It looks like little candles with huge flames when the flower is still attached. This Italian heirloom zucchini has a slightly nutty flavor, tender gray-green skin and prominent ribbing. The catalog recommends picking when just 6" long or less and frying them whole with the flower still attached.

The garden is going to look a lot different next year!

What Am I ?

By Jane Kuhn

I am an herbaceous perennial known as one of the most popular on the market today and can add winter interest in the garden. I am noted for my succulent foliage and flowers massed together in heads that are 3" or more across. My flowers can be yellow, orange, red or pink and appear in late summer to early fall. I begin to produce green broccoli-like buds which gradually open into enormous flower heads. My leaves, which grow in whorls, are sometimes variegated and range in color from bluish-green to reddish-pink or almost off-white. I can be grown in full sun to partial shade and in well-drained soil. I am drought-tolerant once established. My height and widths are about two feet and I am known to be very dependable and adaptable in your garden.

I attract bees and butterflies and am rabbit resistant. I am used in borders, containers, rock gardens and in cut and dried arrangements. Propagation occurs by taking softwood cuttings or rooting leaves in early summer. Seeds can be started in fall and my plants can be divided in spring.

Give your Christmas tree one more chance to shine

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Before you brought your Christmas tree home, it lived 8–12 years in the field, depending on its size and species. Someone put a lot of time and effort into planting, watering, fertilizing and pruning that tree. And let's face it – when that tree was cut, it was killed. It will be prettily decorated for a few weeks in your living room, but is that all there is?

Why not put it to one or more good uses after its performance as a decoration is finished? Here are some ideas.

- Lean the tree against your bird feeder to provide shelter for the birds that come to eat there.
- Set it outside in a snow bank and stick homemade or purchased bird treats in the branches. This can be as simple as peanut butter smeared onto pine cones, or as complicated as small baked cookies.
- Locate the tree away from the bird feeder and stock it with dried corn cobs, sunflower seeds, peanuts or pieces of fresh or dried fruit to lure squirrels away from the bird seed. Stale Christmas cookies or that fruit cake that no one will eat can be broken into small pieces and put on either the bird tree or the squirrel tree. If you have a hard time getting the treats to stay in the branches, use a small bit of peanut butter to stick them on.
- The branches can be cut off the tree and the boughs placed around and over the base of perennial plants to protect the soil around them from freezing and thawing throughout the winter. Alternate freezing and thawing damages roots and can kill plants. Constant shade from the boughs will keep the ground frozen.
- Use the branches to stake tall indoor plants in containers, or save them to stake peas or other tall or vining plants in next year's garden.
- Cut the trunk into two-inch disks and set them on their sides into the soil to edge a flowerbed.
- Cut the trunk into various lengths that can be set in a grouping as flowerpot risers for a nice display. If you're going to use them indoors or on your deck, place something under them to protect the surface from sap.

- The trunk can be cut into 3/8" to 1/2" slabs, sanded, and given a coat of polyurethane for use as coasters or trivets.
- Chip the entire tree and use the chips as a nice looking mulch that will also suppress weeds, retain moisture and keep soil temperature more consistent.
- Have a bonfire! Be careful though – the pitch in pine, spruce and fir is extremely flammable and if the tree has dried out some it will burn even faster. Never burn pine or spruce wood indoors as it will cause creosote to build up in the chimney.

Park View 2012 Bouquet Making Schedule:

Gratitude is seen across their faces!

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The residents were delighted with the wonderful arrangements they created from a variety of floral materials. The friendly and warm-hearted conversations between the Master Gardener volunteers and each person brought smiles to all! It's a great experience to see these people carry (in their wheelchair) -- a lovely bouquet back to their room!!

Special thanks and appreciation goes out to all those MG's who have spent their time, efforts, and flowers from their personal gardens to make these events so positive! Bless you and have a wonderful new year!

Pat Behm

Email: tbehm1@new.rr.com



Answer to What Am I

I am autumn joy sedum. Family: Crassulaceae. Genus: sedum. Common name: sedum autumn joy. "Stonecrop" doubles as the name of the family to which the genus, Sedum, belongs. "Sedum" itself derives from the same observation of where stonecrop plants tend to grow. It comes from the Latin, sedere, meaning "sit" as in "sitting atop the stones."



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

Dear Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Thank you so much for the generous gift. It was certainly appreciated, and very unexpected.

We had a wonderful season as the Oshkosh community embraced the market at its new location. The market has boosted downtown's economy. It is now a destination for people to not only buy fresh fruits and vegetables, but to have coffee and breakfast. The market has shined a spotlight on downtown and the merchants are reaping the rewards. It has become a weekly event as Oshkosh's "Event City" continues to grow.

In 2012 we plan to continue bringing the community another top quality farmers market.

Once again, thank you for your gift and support.

Dennis & Karlene

*Dennis & Karlene Leatherman
Market Managers*

The item above is a thank you card from Dennis & Karlene Leatherman for the gift certificate given to them from us. They are the heads of the Oshkosh Farmers Market.



Think Snow!

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 Shepard (PRES)	235-9242
Linda Petek (PRES)	233-5730
Ivan Placko (CO-VP)	721-9394
Jane Kuhn (CO-VP)	231-3993
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Sue Egnor (TRES)	231-1729
Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Carole Dorsch	589-5936
Ann Murphy	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Diana Dougherty	233-3349
Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Kathy Daniels	233-0410

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 – Jan. 2
BUSINESS – Jan. 10

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

“Happy New Year”

From Us to You

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	2 Board Meeting 6:00 pm	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Business Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				