



WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER JANUARY 2011 - NEWSLETTER

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

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

January is named after the Roman god Janus, who presided over the gate to the new year and was shown as having two heads. He looked back to the last year and forward to the new one. As we look back to 2010, we can be proud of our accomplishments and the many hours of service we provided to our community. The shortest day of the year has passed and we look forward to the days gradually getting longer while planning our projects and gardens for the coming year.

We had a great turn out for our Awards Banquet with 83 Master Gardeners and guests attending. Congratulations to all who received hours awards and especially to Linda Werner who received this year's Golden Trowel Award. Special recognition was given to Bob Kosanke for his many years of service as our State Representative and to Synda Jones for designing our new brochure.

We want to extend a big thank you to Jean Reed for her many hours of work redesigning our website. Be sure to check it out at www.winnebagomastergardeners.org.

We hope to see all of you at our next business meeting on January 11, 2011.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Mary & Kathy

WHERE IS IT?

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Nick's Notes:

A couple of issues back and at the annual awards dinner, the exceptional increase in volunteerism was shared. This week I received the state annual report and found, compared to other counties, Winnebago County Master Gardeners have the third most youth education and community education and the sixth highest total volunteerism. So much has been accomplished to be proud of. Regarding the entire state-wide Master Gardener Program, there are 4,395 total members of local associations. 2,942 members completed at least 24 hours of volunteer service in 2010.

Approximately 883 MGVs were trained in 2010 through the University of Wisconsin-Extension Master Gardener Program and are now working to complete their initial volunteer service. Master Gardener Volunteers in Wisconsin contributed 209,509 total hours to their communities in 2010. Based on the estimate of the value of volunteer time established by Independent Sector, this dollar value of volunteer service is more than \$4.37 million. Between the volunteer categories, 10,873 hours were in youth education, 37,851 hours were in Community education, and 160,784 were in support services of community projects. The average state member volunteers over 71 hours annually. In addition to the volunteer service, Master Gardener Volunteers also participated in over 74,872 hours of continuing education. Two new local Master Gardener Associations joined the Wisconsin State MGVs bringing the total to 53 affiliated associations.

The Annual Accomplishment Report of the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program has much more than numbers. Each local association provides a one-page summary of their annual activities including major projects accomplished and a highlighted project. If you would like to read about the types of projects our friends around the state are involved in, you can stop in the Master Gardener room at the Extension office to read the hard copy or read it online, downloaded from: <http://wimastergardener.org/?q=AccomplishmentsArchives>

Thank you again for all of your efforts,
Nick Schneider

Organic Gardening Tip of the Month

From Lawanda Jungwirth



Make a strong tea to perk up plants that aren't quite as healthy as you'd like them to be by soaking the herbs comfrey or stinging nettle in five gallon buckets of water for a week or so. Strain out the herbs and use the water to water your plants or dilute it by half and use it as a foliar feed. Put the used herbs on your compost pile to give it a nutritious boost as well.

Master Gardeners Attack Buckthorn

In November a great article came out in the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern about our group's war on Buckthorn. The article is too long for our newsletter, however, the entire article is posted on our website on the Information Sheets page. Check it out.

It should be mentioned here that the Master Gardener's who helped at the three workdays with the buckthorn were Neil and Sherry Wilson, Dorothy Bonnin, Mary Rebman, Joan Zentner, Kim Scharpf, Pat Behm, the Egners and Audery Ruedinger.

Annual Wild Ones Conference

Our Annual Conference **Toward Harmony with Nature** is **Saturday January 29, 2011**.

Conference brochures were sent out to all members this past week. You may register by sending in the form on the brochure or by going online.

Try out our new website designed specifically for the conference:

www.towardharmonywithnature.info

Conference information is also accessible through the Chapter website (above).

Thanks
Wild Ones

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN JANUARY



David Bultman, Ann Gratton,
Stan Meyer, Ivan Placko,
William Weber

GOOD NEWS



We would like to introduce everyone to our newest MG in training. This is Emily. She is the new granddaughter of Marlene Miller.

Marlene for those of you that don't know was one of the original MG's that started our association in 1991 and a former President, Board Member, Golden Trowel Winner and more.

Congratulations
Marlene

A Year of Good News

We think that we hear too much bad news all of the time. It seems that bad news carries fast leaving our lives surrounded in darkness. Let's let some light into our lives by focusing on the good news. We invite any and all of you with good news to send it into the newsletter so we can share all of our Good News with the rest of the group. Let us know about that new grandbaby of yours as well as weddings in your family. Let us know as well when that military person comes back home from being deployed overseas. Let's begin to focus on the Positive. We want this year to be a year of GOOD NEWS. Let's hear yours.

Project pictures needed

We need updated pictures of projects or trips for our display boards. Please bring them to the January and February meetings. We will use them for our February Seminar and the Home and Garden Show in March. We want to display all of our current activities. Please contact: Cindy Meszaros or Joni Pagel.

Thank you

Why landscape with native plants?

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Native plants are those that were growing in a particular area prior to European settlement. Wisconsin has a wide variety of native plants because of our diverse landscape of prairies, woodlands and savannas.

Native plants aren't just for people that have acreage to devote to restoring prairies! There are many reasons to consider using native plants in your home landscape. Since native plants have been here for so long, they are adapted to our Wisconsin climate – the temperature extremes, the rainy periods and the occasional droughts. They are also comfortable growing in our soils. This means that they don't need a lot of coddling in the form of extra water, fertilizer or soil additives.

Many native plants have deep roots that soak up rainfall and reduce runoff of nutrients and chemicals that pollute our lakes and groundwater. Native plants support many more species of insects than do introduced or alien plants. You may not think this is important, but it is. Yes, there are some insects that sting, bite or otherwise irritate us humans. But 99% of them provide food either directly or indirectly for most other animals. This includes humans. If insects were to disappear, the human race would soon follow.

In contrast, alien plants support very few species of insects. Have you seen “pest free” in a plant description? That is not always a good thing. Yes, insects will leave the plants alone, but that plant is not making any contribution to the ecosystem in which it lives, other than to sit there and look pretty. Not that looking pretty is a bad thing, but there is certainly a native plant that will look just as pretty and do some good as well.

Here is an example. Phragmites is an ornamental grass that came to this county from Australia, *over three hundred years ago*. In its native Australia, it supports 170 species of insects, while even after three centuries; it supports only five in North America. Phragmites is just recently becoming an extremely invasive plant in wetlands throughout the eastern U.S. and in the Pacific Northwest, another hazard of alien plants. You never know when conditions will become favorable for their populations to explode and crowd out native plants.

Even if you can't bring yourself to care about the millions of insect species, what about birds, something many gardeners enjoy watching? Baby

birds do not eat seeds and berries. They need insect larvae to survive. If the landscape is a sterile one comprised of alien plants that don't support insects, those baby birds will not live.

The book *Landscaping With Native Plants of Wisconsin* by Lynn M. Steiner is an excellent resource for those looking to make their landscapes more than just a pretty picture.

If you'd like to learn more, attend the 15th annual Toward Harmony With Nature landscaping conference sponsored by the Fox Valley Area Chapter of Wild Ones on Saturday, January 29 at Oshkosh Convention Center. See www.towardharmonywithnature.info or call Judy at 920-525-2236 for more information.

What Am I by Jane Kuhn

I am a medium to tall deciduous shrub which is well known for the interest created in the winter garden due to my fiery red branches. I am a native throughout northern and western North America and in the wild am commonly found in areas of damp soil such as wetlands. I grow 3 to 6 feet tall with smooth stems, and my 1 to 5 inch long leaves are opposite, ovate to lance-like, and are dark green above and whitish below. My blossoms appear in May-June and are white, four-parted, inflorescence a 1-2 inch flat, branched cluster (cyme) with berries appearing in fall.

I grow in a variety of conditions including full sun, partial sun and shade as well as soil ranging from moist, well drained to wet. I am an excellent plant for massing in large areas, and because of my interesting stem color I am suitable for a shrub border in residential landscapes. I can be an effective bank cover because I hold soil quite well. Since I spread readily by underground stolons to form dense thickets, I am potentially invasive.

Organic Gardening Tip of the Month

From Lawanda Jungwirth



Continue to add kitchen scraps to your compost pile throughout the winter. They will freeze and when the weather warms up in spring they will begin to decompose. Tip for next year: in fall, fill the pile to the top with leaves. Kitchen scraps taken out in winter can be buried in the leaves each time you add them to the pile.

Wanted: Facebook Co-Administrator

Lawanda Jungwirth is co-administrator for our Winnebago County Master Gardener Facebook page. We had two administrators, but the other one has decided not to continue as a Master Gardener. There isn't really much to do as administrator, but it is a good idea to have at least two people have access to the account. Responsibilities include posting Master Gardener events to the page. That's it! If you are interested in being co-administrator, contact Lawanda at ljungwirth@new.rr.com or 836-2878.



Thank You Buckthorn Warriors

Thank you Master Gardeners who so willingly offered their help in spite of nasty wet weather in cutting, dragging and treating buckthorn in the Conservancy Park (jointly owned by the City of Oshkosh and the Public School System) the 3 work days of Oct 1st, Oct 30th and Nov. 13th. George and Sue Egner hosted the event using their home as entry to the park. Their enthusiasm and graciousness made it a fun working day for all including several neighbors who joined in the project. Hopefully this neighborhood will take charge after seeing the incredible benefit and clearing that has been done to date. Thank you...Neil and Sherry Wilson, Dorothy Bonnin, Joan Zentner, Kim Scharpf, Pat Behm, Mary Rebman....George and Sue Egner. Thank you Sue for the wonderful lunch you always provided. Note of interest: Discovered a small healthy patch of "GARLIC MUSTARD" while walking the park with the reporter. This coming spring will be perfect for pulling that unwelcomed guest. This is an ongoing attack on buckthorn. You are always welcomed to work in this park...just contact Sue or George Egner. Invasive Crusader: Audrey Ruedinger

Flower Arranging Updates

Nine Master Gardeners made adorable artificial bouquets on December 6th. Out of artificial poinsettias, picks, ribbon, berries, greens, many other silver and gold items, including some red dogwood twigs, we designed 40 or more exquisite gift bag size arrangements and 3 large swag/table centerpieces to decorate the residents' rooms and community areas.

Thanks to all the talents and charm of Dorothy Bonnin, Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz, Sandra Gollhofer, Lil Hansche, Arlene and Bob Kosanke, Donna Kudlas,

and Janet Priebe. It made for a very pleasant afternoon!

The next project is the 'wine and artificial roses' with modge podge and floral pictures on wine bottles. We'll add some red twigs and valentines. What a fun and heart-filled day it'll be!

Future dates are:

- March 28---Spring artificial bouquets
- April 11---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
- May 23---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
- June 20---Flowers from our gardens, cutting garden
- July 18---Live flowers
- August 1---Live flowers
- August 15---Live flowers
- Sept. 12---Live flowers
- Sept. 26---Live flowers
- Oct. 10---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
- Nov. 21---Floral flowers from Garden Gate
- Dec. 5---Christmas gift bag arrangements

All are on Mondays at 1:30 in the Grand Room at Park View Health Center.

Save the Dates!

The Education and Trip Committee have lots of fun and educational opportunities planned for 2011. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us to get a jump start on those continuing education hours. Further details will be shared as they are developed.



- February 12 – Bus trip to Garden Expo in Madison
- February 26 – Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams
- March 5 – Bus trip to Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier
- March 12 – Hands-on pruning workshop
- Plant buying trip to Madison area

Answer to What Am I?



I am red twig dogwood. Family: Cornaceae. Genus: Cornus. Other common names are red-osier dogwood, red-rod, American dogwood, and creek dogwood. I am an ornamental shrub that is stunning in the landscape in the dead of wintertime. Cut

branches can add color and interest to your holiday greens or can add a festive touch by filling a tall vase.

Resources: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Rushford Town Hall

We were finally given the go-ahead to complete The Rushford Town Hall foundation plantings in early July of this year. We gathered at Stuart's Landscaping & Garden Center for our meeting to discuss and select nursery stock for consideration for the two remaining sides of the Town Hall. The plantings were completed July 19th, with the help of many from our committee. This was not the optimum time for these plantings due to the drier conditions, but we had volunteers faithfully watering them on a regular basis. By the end of the season they were looking a bit weary but much alive and we are anxious to see them come up in the spring all settled in.

Marshland Aquatics, who is heading up the rain garden portion of this project, had done more of the weed control and grading that was needed for the retention pond where buffer plantings will be added. It was an extremely wet spring which set all of the rain garden efforts back a few paces. We continue to look forward to coordinating our efforts with Marshland on the rain gardens.

At this point and time, we are much at a standstill as we as Master Gardener's have completed as much as the town had asked us to do, with the exception of the rain gardens. Audrey and I have considered this project to be nearly completed. We would like to see some refinements as far as mulching, edging and re-positioning of some of the native plantings in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Ruedinger
Carole Dorsch

And the Winner of the 2010 Golden Trowel Award Is...

Since 2003 the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association has presented the Golden Trowel Award to one or two members at our December Awards Banquet. The recipients must have been members for at least five years and have provided exemplary service to the Association.

The 2010 Golden Trowel winner joined the WCMGA in 1999, served as Treasurer from 2007 through 2009 and has been a member of the Education Committee since 2004. She has contributed significantly to the success of our seminars, trips and events by writing and distributing news releases, flyers and brochures to a long list of newspapers, newsletters and other publications. She anticipates the needs of the group and is quick to volunteer for resolving those needs. Her quiet and efficient demeanor is greatly appreciated. Please congratulate Linda Werner on receiving the 2010 Golden Trowel Award.

And while you're passing out congratulations, please congratulate Mary and Kathy on hosting such a lovely Awards Banquet. It was inspiring to see the highlights of our projects and events through the year, to welcome our new members and to honor those receiving awards for their volunteer hours. It was a lovely evening of good friends, good food and good fun.

Thank you, Mary and Kathy

SANCTIONED 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	
Karen Wedde	231-9696
Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	
Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	
Bob Potter	233-3349
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	
Barbara Kuhn	426-2920
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

OFFICERS / BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Wiedenmeier (PRES)	426-0991
Kathy Daniels (PRES)	233-0410
Ivan Placko (CO-VP)	721-9394
Jane Kuhn (CO-VP)	231-3993
Linda Baeten (SEC)	232-1224
Alice Graf (TRES)	203-8252

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Bohn	685-0427
Marge Menacher	233-3467
Carole Dorsch	589-5936
Ken Hawk	426-1691
Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Bob Potter	233-3349

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	
Dawn Kent	410-8866
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	
Bob Kosanke	231-1873
SOP & Bylaw Committee	
Stan Meyer	725-6486
Sunshine	
Liz Ginke	722-8140
Hours	
Home & Garden Shows	
Joni Pagel	233-6619
Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website, Computer and Projector	
Jean Reed	729-9012

BOARD MEETING - January 4
BUSINESS MEETING - January 11

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.





Winnebago County Master Gardener Association

Horticulture Education • Environmental Stewardship • Community Service • Fun!



- Home
- About Us—How to Become a Member
- Classes, Seminars and Trips
- Current Community Projects
- Newsletters
- FAQs
- Resources
- Calendar of Events and Meetings
- Wonderful Wormiculture!
- Member Area

Welcome to the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association

We are an organization made up of individuals who are passionate about horticulture AND want to give back to their community. We don't know everything about gardening but are eager for opportunities to learn more and to help others in the community better understand horticulture and their environment.

Our mission is to provide research based horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship to our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin-Cooperative Extension which provides the 36 hours of initial general horticultural training required for certification as a Master Gardener. Twenty-four (24) hours of community service is also required annually.

The Winnebago County Master Gardener Association meets monthly September through May on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. at the Coughlin Center, 625 E. County Road Y, Oshkosh. There is also an annual picnic in June and garden walks at member's homes in the summer months.



Webster Stanley School Garden

Upcoming Trips/Training—Public Welcome!

February 12, 2011 - Bus trip to Wisconsin Public Television Garden Expo, Depart Coughlin Center, Oshkosh, at 6:45 a.m.

February 26, 2011 - Winter Escape ~ Summer Dreams Speakers: Jeff Epping, Director of Horticulture, Olbrich Botanical Gardens; Kathy and Michael Rock, Gardening and Landscaping to Attract Hummingbirds

March 5, 2011 - Bus trip to Chicago Flower & Garden Show, Navy Pier

March 12, 2011 - Why, When and How to Prune Ornamental Shrubs, Coughlin Center, Oshkosh



Find Winnebago County Master Gardeners on Facebook.

Contacts

Kathy Daniels, Co-President, (920) 233-0410 • Mary Wiedenmeier, Co-President, (920) 426-0991 • Nick Schneider, WCMGA Advisor, (920) 232-1971

Stop in and visit our newly redesigned website.

<http://www.winnebagomastergardeners.com>

Winnebago County Master Gardeners 2010 Accomplishments

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) has 111 members including 4 emeritus members, 68 recertified for 2011 and 10 who became certified this year.

In 2010, we volunteered 979 hours in youth education
2,366 hours in community education
5024 hours in support service
and participated in 2,219 hours in continuing education

In January 2010, our Board of Directors and Advisor held a strategic planning and visioning meeting. As a result, we focused on the recruitment of new and retention of current members by developing a new brochure and formed a new communications committee. The co-chairs of our Education and Control of Invasive Species Project were selected as 2010 Invasive Crusaders by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species and were invited to the State Capital for a special recognition ceremony.

Major Accomplishments or Projects:

1. This year we received two grants from the WIMGA. The \$250 grant enabled 4 first-time Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity homeowners to receive help with a landscape plan, to purchase and plant a tree and receive educational resources for care of their lawn and garden by WCMGA. The \$400 grant was used to help with costs of a featured speaker, Melinda Myers, at our day long educational seminar *Winter Escapes, Summer Dreams* in February. It was attended by 235 people and was a mix of MGVs and the general public. We plan to offering a day-long educational event each year.
2. We awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a Fox Valley Technical College horticulture student in May
3. The Oshkosh Area Humane Society Memory/Tribute Garden was a new project this year. The goal was to improve the space and create a welcoming meditative garden. The entire space was redesigned utilizing the existing memorial statues as focal points and creating intimate garden rooms with the existing concrete benches. Many new perennials and shrubs were added as well as a rock garden. Gutter was added to an existing shed roof and two rain barrels were installed for use in watering the garden. The Director and Board of the Humane Society were so thrilled with the outcome, they hosted a party and contest to rename the garden. The new name will be revealed in January.
4. Several WCMGA members received training in the *Got Dirt?* Program. This was valuable training and very useful with our two elementary school after school enrichment programs.
5. We hosted bus trips to the Garden Expo in Madison, a buying trip to several Amish greenhouses, and a trip to Ball Horticulture Gardens and Cantigny Gardens in Chicago. A small group toured two CSAs and visited a beekeeping operation in the Sheboygan area.

Highlighted Project: The Octagon House, Neenah, WI

The Octagon House, built in the 1850's, is owned and operated by the Neenah Historical Society (NHS). It is open to the public for educational tours. The NHS asked for our help in restoring the landscape to be typical of the late 19th century. Over the past 3 years 10 MGVs have researched and designed an overall plan; built, planted and maintained the kitchen and perennial gardens; planted a shrub border and a rose border; and added many trees. The MGV team also erected a split rail fence for the rose border and began to build a brick raised bed edging the kitchen garden. MGVs participated in the NHS's "Country Fair" held at the Octagon house each October with a booth to showcase the developing gardens and provide education. This year MGVs were asked to judge the Pie Contest. This project has provided a visible presence for WCMGA in the Neenah area and is very much appreciated by the Neenah Historical Society as well as the general public.



Spring 2011

Community Education Opportunities
Sponsored by

**Winnebago County Master
Gardener Volunteer Association**

Bus trip to WPT Garden Expo, Madison. Saturday, February 12, 6 a.m., Oshkosh (Coughlin Center); 6:30 a.m., Fond du Lac (JC Penny parking lot). Leave Alliant Energy Center at 5:15 p.m. \$39 includes WPT Expo ticket.

Bus Trip to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show. Saturday, March 5, 6:30 a.m., Oshkosh (Coughlin Center); 7 a.m., Fond du Lac (JC Penny parking lot). Leave Navy Pier at 5 p.m. \$55 includes show ticket.

How to Prune Your Ornamental Trees & Shrubs. A half-day, hands-on workshop on Saturday, March 12. Presented by Roy Anne Moulton and Audrey Ruedinger. Start time and location TBD. \$5

Registration Form (copy as needed)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Please check the trips/workshop you wish to attend & enter the fee:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WPT Garden Expo | \$39 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chicago Flower Show | \$55 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Pruning Workshop | \$ 5 | _____ |
| | Total | \$ | _____ |

Make checks payable to:
WCMGA

Mail to: Linda Baeten
1112 Merritt Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901


For more information:

Audrey Ruedinger (920) 231-5745 or aruedinger2@new.rr.com



2011

In winter the garden sleeps awaiting the rebirth

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1  HAPPY NEW YEAR
2	3	4 BOARD MEETING	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 BUSINESS MEETING	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Master Gardener Brown Bag Program @ 12 noon	29 Toward Harmony with Nature Landscaping Conference
30	31 Wine Bottle Arranging @ 1:30 ParkView					