



# Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

July 2018



## 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.

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**"Gardening:** The fine art of soil to soul."

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**Farmer's Market:** Dorothy Kunz, Janet Priebe, Synda Jones, Patty Schmitz

*Photo by Synda Jones*

## What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am an upright, herbaceous perennial which is native throughout North America along shores, in swamps and other wet areas in zones 3 to 8. I grow from one to three feet tall and prefer part shade to sun and moist to wet soil. From June to September my blue to purple, one inch blooms appear with five petals which are fused into a cup or tube. My leaves are simple and opposite with teeth on the edges. Both my flowers and foliage are quite attractive.

Propagation is by dividing the rootball, from softwood cuttings or from seed. I naturalize in optimal conditions by both self-seeding and creeping rhizomes. I attract bumble bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. I am best naturalized in moist to wet soils, bog gardens, wet meadows and rain gardens. I am a showy, low maintenance plant which tolerates deer and wet soils and I have no serious insect or disease problems.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

**Co-Presidents:** Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Nancy Karuhn & Eric Kropp

**Secretary:** Ann Abraham

**Treasurer:** Joni Pagel

**Advisor:** Kimberly Miller

**Newsletter Compilation:** Anne Murphy



**Farmer's Market:** Ruth Retzlaff, Deby Voyles, Lori Berndt, Jeanne Callan, Bob Potter  
*Photo by Synda Jones*

## Letter from your Presidents: Linda Loker & Kathy Schultz

*Happy Birthday to our beautiful and independent nation!*

*Not only did George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and many more of our founding fathers fight for our freedom, they were very instrumental in building and promoting our American horticulture history. They were very eager to create our country's landscape with mostly our own native trees, shrubs and plants. Thank you "fathers" for your foresight and devotion to this great land we live in!*

*Our gardens are now doing well after the slow start this spring! Some of us lost hardy perennials that we thought would never succumb to Mother Nature, however she proved us wrong with the delightful mid April snow and ice storm! But, much like the busy little ants in our yards, we just go about re-building and re-creating!*

*Our projects are underway as well, and we hope that our newest members have found their niche and are enjoying working with one or more of the projects. Remember, the Farmers Market is in full swing again and if you have not signed up to share garden information with the public, you can just stop down and do so, or talk to one of the leads if you have any questions. It is a fun day seeing all the people. One of our focuses at the Farmers Market is making sure that the community is aware of the jumping worms that we have in our county. We have information from the DNR to now share with everyone.*

*We want to thank all of our leads in the projects for all that you do, and to all of our volunteer members for helping make this a better community - both by teaching and doing!*

*Thank you to all of our members who attended our June 12 picnic. It seemed everyone enjoyed the great food and camaraderie with our fellow master gardeners....and everyone wondered where we got our lovely blue booties! We did explain that these booties are available to any members wishing to use them in a project that may be at risk for jumping worms. Just ask your lead for them if interested. Thank you to **Diana** and her team of members who helped make this picnic another great success!*

*We presented a memorial bench at the picnic that is now at home at the entrance to the James Coughlin building, overlooking the rain garden. This will now be our tribute to members who have gone to our heavenly gardens. You will be able to see the bench at the Coughlin Center.*

*Many thanks to **Mary Shepard** and **Jane Kuhn** for their presentation of the rain garden project.*

*Lastly, we have the summer off now! There will be no board or business meeting in July, and no business meeting in August (sorry, board members we have to report for a meeting in August). Take this time to enjoy your summer...and remember to stop and smell the roses...and all the lovely flowers of the season!*

*See you in September!      Kathy and Linda*

## Ask a Plant Health Advisor



*“Homeowner says this was found on a Japanese lilac. Homeowner noticed this after a heavy rain.”*

Find the answer later in the newsletter.

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## Master Gardener Picnic - Pictures by Kim Willman









## Don't Waste Your Weeds

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Weeds. You either love them – no sarcasm here, that would be me – or hate them. I'll start off by saying that if you take care of your garden weeds in June, you'll have a much better time of it in July and August.

Just like flowers, weeds can be annuals, perennial or biennials. Annual weeds generally have a fibrous root system which spreads just beneath the soil surface, unlike the fleshy taproots of the perennial types. No matter the type of weed, it is important to remove them before they go to seed. Most annual weeds can be easily pulled or sliced off just below the soil surface with a hoe. Do not chop at the soil with your hoe or you will bring more weed seeds to the surface that will germinate.

There is no reason to hate weeds. For starters, they are chock full of nutrition. Many of them have long roots that are able to mine nutrients from deep in the soil where typical garden plant roots do not reach. These nutrients are then embodied in the above ground parts of the plant as well as the roots.

That nutrition shouldn't go to waste. Many weeds from your lawn and garden are edible, including dandelion, chickweed, burdock, stinging nettle, violets, lamb's quarters and purslane. Make sure to positively identify any wild plant, before you consume it. Do not eat plants that have been treated with any kind of chemical pesticide or are near an area that has been treated. If you don't intend to eat the weeds, all you really have to know for sure before tackling a weeding job is "weed" or "not-weed."

If you choose not to eat your weeds, the nutrition they hold can still be of benefit to you. Composting the weeds, either in a compost bin, a hole dug in the garden or just by laying them atop the soil to decompose in place ensures that the nutrition will return to the soil it was taken from.

Except for weeds that should be removed from garden beds because they have gone to seed or others that will re-root if left atop the soil, purslane for example, they will decompose in short order. Weeds should be turned root side up if laid atop the soil because any weed can be crafty and re-root if given the right conditions.

If you've let the weeding chore go undone for too long and have a large number of weeds, you are in luck because now you've got free mulch. Pull the weeds, making sure to get the roots, and lay them on the garden soil between plants or along a fence line to shade the soil and prevent other weeds from germinating. The layer of pulled weeds also gives you a clean place to walk between plants. Again, don't do this with weeds that have gone to seed or you'll inadvertently plant more weeds.



## There's a New Worm In Town

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Most gardeners know that earthworms in a garden are an indicator of healthy soil. In fact, worm castings (a/k/a poop) are one of the best fertilizers for a garden. You can buy bags of the stuff and it isn't disgusting or smelly. It looks like coffee grounds.

But there's a new worm in town and it's a bad guy. This one has the potential to decimate home landscapes, parks, farm fields and forests. It goes by several names: jumping worm, Alabama jumper, crazy worm, and snake worm.

The problem with jumping worms is that they are extremely voracious in eating soil organic matter that plants, fungi and bacteria need for nutrients, and then pooping it out, turning the soil into grainy, dry worm castings. Although some worm castings are good in soils, castings alone won't support healthy plants. Jumping worms also damage roots of plants. In wooded areas, understory plants die off, damaging the entire forest ecosystem. In residential areas, jumping worms harm ornamental plantings, food plants and turf.

Jumping worms are native to Japan and the Korean peninsula and were first discovered in Wisconsin in 2013. They probably arrived in mulch, soil, plants, or the root balls of trees shipped to a nursery.

There is no mistaking this worm when you see it. Or touch it anyway. They thrash and jump around vigorously when touched, even jumping into the air. To make the nightmare worse, they sometimes shed their tails in defense.

Jumping worms are about the same size as any other earthworm, one to five inches, sometimes as long as eight inches. But they look a bit different from other earthworms found in Wisconsin. The narrow band around the jumping worm's body, called the clitellum, is cloudy white and smooth and completely circles the body. On other worms the clitellum is raised and doesn't go all the way around. So you could remember that, or if you see one you could just touch it to see if it jumps.

What you won't see is just one jumping worm. There are always a bunch of them writhing around. You also won't find them when digging deep underground. They stay near the soil surface to do their dastardly deeds.

Jumping worms reproduce quickly. They don't need a partner; they can reproduce on their own without mating. So one worm inadvertently transported in a potted plant can begin a whole new population when it finds itself in a new location. Although the worms don't survive our Wisconsin winters, they lay plenty of eggs in protective cocoons too small to see with the naked eye and those cocoons do survive the cold.

Worms reach maturity within 60 days of hatching, and you'll begin to see them in late June. Sixty days later, they in turn can lay new eggs.

It is important to only use, sell, plant, purchase or trade landscape and gardening materials and plants that appear to be free of jumping worms. But if you do spot jumping worms, please report them to the DNR by emailing [invasive.species@wi.gov](mailto:invasive.species@wi.gov) or to Wisconsin First Detector Network by uploading a photo to [fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn/get-involved/report-invasive-species](http://fyi.uwex.edu/wifdn/get-involved/report-invasive-species).

## Rain Garden Presentation Well-Attended!

Mary Shepard and Jane Kuhn held a rain garden presentation on Thursday, June 21 for the public and master gardeners. Starting outside by the rain garden at the Coughlin Center and then presenting inside, both Mary and Jane shared interesting aspects of the rain gardening process. If you'd like more information about rain gardening, please go to:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/shorelandzoning/documents/rgmanual.pdf> for a printable "How-To Manual."







## Master Gardener Memorial Bench



## Member Meeting Minutes - No June meeting

### Events

July 23: 1:30 Flower Arranging - Park View  
July 30-July 31: Door County Trip - sign up now!  
Sept. 10: 1:30 Flower Arranging - Park View  
Nov. 12: 1:30 Flower Arranging - Park View





## Answer to Ask a Plant Health Advisor:

This looks like one of the jelly fungi. It could be *Auricularia auricula*, commonly called the tree-ear or wood-ear. The look is right and the time of year is right for when this fungus typical fruits (May-June). This fungus is not a pathogen. Is there a lot of branch dieback in this tree? If so, there are likely other issues (the first that comes to mind is *Verticillium* wilt).

*Dr. Brian Hudelson, Diagnostics Services, UW Madison*

## Answer to What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am monkey flower. Order: Scrophulariales. Family: Scrophulariaceae. Genus: *Mimulus* L. – monkeyflower. Species: *Mimulus ringens* L. – Allegheny monkeyflower. Other names: Blue monkey flower and square-stemmed monkey flower. The genus name comes from the Latin *mimus* meaning a mimic as they look like a monkey face. . This plant can be seen in the rain garden located at the entrance to the Coughlin Center.

*References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.*



## Join the Winnebago County Master Gardeners for a 2-day motor coach trip to Gardens of Door County on Monday, July 30 and Tuesday, July 31

- **Cost is \$225.** (Includes motorcoach, travel expenses and tips, admissions to tours, and hotel - double occupancy. Meals are your expense.)
- **Cost is non-refundable.** (If you cannot attend you can find someone else to take your place.)

The bus will be at the Coughlin Center at 6:35 am, depart at 7:00 am and arrive in Sturgeon Bay at the Garden Door gardens and Wisconsin Extension Agricultural Station in Sturgeon Bay at about 9:00 am. We will divide into 2 groups: first group will have guided tour of the research station while the second group will have a tour with Door County Master Gardeners of the gardens they have developed there. Then groups will switch locations. After these tours, we will board the bus for our trip to Gill's Rock to take the ferry to Washington Island. Please bring your own lunch and snacks for the day as we won't have time to stop for lunch. I will provide bottled water, but if you want something else, please provide that. We will drive onto the Washington Island Ferry and take a leisurely ride over to the island and then drive to Fragrant Isle Lavender Farm to have a guided tour of the gardens and shop in their store. Then we will get back on the bus to tour Seaquist Orchard and Farm. We will have a 30-minute tour and some time for sampling their jams, fudge, and salsas along with an opportunity to shop. Next, we will travel to our hotel, Stone Harbor Resort in Sturgeon Bay. Dinner will be on your own either at the hotel or at one of the many restaurants within walking distance. A list and distances will be provided.

Breakfast will also be on your own at Stone Harbor or nearby bakeries. Tuesday will be spent touring homes and gardens on the Door County House and Garden Walk which will take us throughout Door County. I have a number of little places I would love to travel to as we wind around this area as time permits, like The Edgewood Orchard Gallery and Sculpture Garden and the Door Landscape and Nursery in Egg Harbor. The tour goes from 9:00 until 5:00, so it will be a full day. You will be able to purchase lunch at The Log Den in Egg Harbor. Return time to Oshkosh will probably be after 7 pm and I am still working on a dinner stop on the drive home.

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Make checks out to **WCMG (Winnebago County Master Gardeners)** and mail form to **Marge Menacher, 4105 Westview Lane, Oshkosh, WI 54904**. Questions contact Marge at [marmen4105@charter.net](mailto:marmen4105@charter.net) or call 920-420-8472. We need all **registrations completed and paid for before June 29<sup>th</sup> to secure hotel rooms**.

Name\_\_\_\_\_Cell phone\_\_\_\_\_Home phone\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_


Email address to receive more information \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person I would like to room with  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_I would prefer a room alone at an additional cost of \$70.00.

<b>WCMGA Projects</b> <i>Check your Member Guide for contact information.</i>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Project Lead</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>
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	Sally Lindo	
Park View Flower Arranging	Lil Hansche	July 23
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	
Farmer's Market	Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz/Janet Priebe/Synda Jones/Patty Schmitz	July 2018
Plant Health Advisors	Patty Schmitz/Mary Shepard	
Shattuck Park, Neenah	Julie Gutsmedl	
Sullivan's Woods	Linda Loker	

**Project Leads: If you'd like your meeting times listed here, please email information to Anne Murphy. Thank you!**

July 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Park View Flower Arranging 1:30	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Door County Trip	31 Door County Trip				

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