



Winnebago County Master Gardener

October 2013

Volunteer Newsletter

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.

Presidents' Letter

Presidents' Letter

A huge thank you to all the members who made 2012-2013 a fantastic year for WCMGA!! We will have a full report on your many accomplishments at the December awards dinner.

October and November are the time for nomination and election of new officers for Winnebago County Master Gardeners. President, Treasurer, and 1 Board Member will be the positions open at the end of 2013. Nominations can be made by e-mail or phone call to Jane Kuhn or Diana Dougherty, or be made during the October business meeting. You can nominate yourself or someone else—just make sure they have agreed to accept the position if elected.

The MG Board meets the first Tuesday of the month, 6:00 pm at Coughlin. Visitors are always welcome!! The October and November Business Meetings will begin at 6:00 pm. There is no Business Meeting in December—but please plan on attending the Awards dinner December 3 at the Bridgewood Center in Neenah.

Membership dues for the upcoming year were due on September 1. The form that should accompany your payment is located on the Member Area of the Winnebago County Master Gardener website. While Linda Baeten is no longer Secretary, she is serving as Membership Chair and her correct mailing address is on the form. You can also pay your dues to Treasurer Sue Egner at the business meeting. Dues are \$30--\$25 goes to our organization, \$5 to the state MG org.

We will be ordering MG badges for the newly certified members—if current members need a replacement please request one from Sue Egner with the fee of \$6.50. It is also possible to order replacement badges individually during the year—the fee is then \$8.50 to cover shipping.

Hope your gardening season has been terrific. There's always something different—for me this year it has been lots of slug damage to tomatoes. Interestingly, they like all the full size toms but love the heirlooms!

Mary and Linda



from our Advisor.....

It is shaping up to be a good year for apples. After last year's mediocre output, this is a welcome change to many. Although fruit trees are currently a common site across our landscape, that was not always the case. Wisconsin's apple history stretches back nearly 150 years.

When European settlers first came to the state in the 1840's, they tried planting seedlings. The crops often failed due to our harsh winter climate. Then in 1853 the first horticultural endeavors in apple growing started by concerned growers who organized the Wisconsin Fruit Growers' Association. Their primary objective was to, "develop and discover hardier, more resilient apple varieties that could flourish in Wisconsin."

Around this time the University of Wisconsin had also started experimenting with apple horticulture. It was not until the late 1870's that fruit growers became aware of the merits of progressive horticulture, or a scientific understanding of horticulture. As time progressed, the apple industry continued to improve and grow. By the turn of the 20th century there was a commercial demand for apples in the state. In 1900, Wisconsin possessed 40,905 acres of apple orchards with 1,338,917 bearing trees. The primary commercial growing areas in the state were the Gays Mills district in Crawford County, the Bayfield locale in Bayfield County, and the Sturgeon Bay area in Door County.

Today, commercial orchards are found in 46 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. They comprise about 7,400 acres and produce about 56 million pounds of fruit worth over \$9 million per year.

Research by the University of Wisconsin has not only helped commercial growers over the years, it has had also helped residents across the state successfully grow their own apple trees. Whether it is selecting the best varieties to plant, how to control insects and disease, determining when your apples are ripe, or how to preserve your harvest; with UW-Extension everyone has the latest research and information at their fingertips. So the next time you are faced with an apple question, make sure you check out the information on the UW-Extension Learning Store. In the meantime, make sure to take time to enjoy an apple pie or some hot apple cider this fall.

Kimberly

What Am I?

by Jane Kuhn

I am an herbaceous perennial, native to North America, known for my long-lasting, prolific flowering from midsummer through the fall. My plant forms a bushy, upright clump, which grows 2 to 3 feet tall. I feature large, daisy-like flowers (3-4" across) with deep yellow rays and a dark brownish-black center cone. Flowers appear singly on stiff, branching stems with oblong to lanceolate, dark green foliage. I prefer full sun to light shade and well-drained soil. I am relatively drought-tolerant and disease-resistant. My seedheads have good winter interest.

My plants can be divided every four years in spring. Allowing seeds to fall will assure permanence in the garden. However you may want to cut some spent flower heads back to prevent too many "volunteers". Pinching back my plants early in the season will produce more compact plants. I am attractive to butterflies and my ripe seed is a favorite food of finches in winter. I am used in the perennial border, cottage garden, prairie, meadow or naturalized area.

OSHKOSH SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET



A big THANK YOU to all who helped at the Farmers Market this season.

We planted flowers and made clothespin butterflies with over 200 children on Kid's Day at the market in June. We ended up with a Saturday with three rain storms. Our new co-chairs, Patty Schmitz and Synda Jones alternated with Janet Priebe and Dorothy Kunz which worked out very well. We are finished for the season along with 'Pie on the Porch'.

Thanks to Marge Bolding, Debbie Quant, Jeanne Callen, Bob Potter, Dorothy Bonnin, Pat Behm, Mary Weidenmeier, Sandra Golliger, Kris Martin, Becky Tiles, Ken Hawk, Kathy Gore, Mary Haave, Linda Christensen, Barb Harrison, Sue Egner, Barb Spellman, Judy Lucas, Doug Michie. Sorry if I missed anyone. We can't do the Market without our wonderful supporters!

Don't Spray – Plants Can Defend Themselves!

By Lawanda Jungwirth

What happens when you see an insect chewing on your beans? Do you immediately reach for some kind of spray? You really don't need to do that – as soon as the chewer landed on the plant and began snacking, the bean called for help. It did this by releasing a complex of chemicals called “herbivore induced plant volatiles” or HIPVs.

HIPVs are released from leaves, flowers and fruits into the atmosphere or into the soil from roots and announce to predators of whichever insect is attacking the bean that they are welcome to come and get it. The bean is so smart that if another type of insect comes and begins chewing, it will send out a different HIPV to call predators of that particular insect. It is so exact an ability that the bean can determine the size and age of the attacker and call an appropriate predator to deal with it. For example, when a small caterpillar is attacking, the plant calls out for a small insect predator. If a big, fat caterpillar is ravaging the plant, a bird is called. Some plants are so sensitive to attack that they will begin emitting HIPVs as soon as an egg is laid upon it.

Not only that, but all parts of the bean plant go on alert and begin emitting HIPVs. And there's more - the bean also alerts nearby bean plants and they begin calling for help as well. That bean chewer doesn't have a chance.

That is, it doesn't have a chance unless you or your neighbors have used insecticides that have killed off all the good guys that might have come and rescued your plant. In that case, you'll have to step in and rescue the poor bean again, but it's a downhill cycle filled with repeated use of dangerous chemical sprays.

When a plant calls for an insect to come and eat the insect doing the chewing, it is called an indirect defense. Some plants take a more direct route. As soon as they are attacked by a chewer, they make themselves inhospitable to their attacker. They do this by changing themselves physically or chemically to repel or even kill their assailant.

Sadly, some varieties of hybrid plants have lost the ability to emit HIPVs when the capability to do so was inadvertently bred out while breeders were going for size, taste, high yield or shipping capacity. Now that scientists have become more aware of HIPVs, they will likely take care not to lose the HIPV ability in their development of new cultivars. Still, the loss of HIPV ability is one more good reason to choose to grow open-pollinated heirloom plants.

HIPV emission isn't limited to vegetables – trees, flowers, and shrubs also have the facility. The effectiveness of HIPVs depends on how close the helpers are to the emitting plant, the proximity of other plants, the weather conditions, air pollution and the plant's general health.

An Endive By Any Other Name . . .

By Lawanda Jungwirth

I was so confused. What was it that I actually planted? You've heard Shakespeare's line "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet"? That may be true of roses, but I planted endive and it sure didn't look like the stuff in the grocery store.

I meant to plant Belgian endive, a leafy vegetable with white or very light green leaves held tightly in small, oblong heads. What came up were large heads of greens, each the size of a dinner plate.

Going back to look at the seed packet, I found "ENDIVE" and below that, the words "Broadleaved Batavian Escarole." Some research (which should have been done before planting) was in order.

What I learned is that everyone else is confused about endive too! But here goes with the explanation.

The Belgian endive I intended to plant is actually witloof chicory, a cultivated variety of the common, blue-flowered chicory that decorates the edges of country roads this time of year. Witloof is a Dutch word meaning "white leaf." Seeds are sown in spring and the plant is allowed to grow throughout the season. In fall, plant tops are cut off and the roots are covered with mounds of soil or thick straw so the plant regrows entirely in darkness to produce its white color. Only the extreme tips of the leaves are allowed light exposure. This produces tender white heads that can be grilled, steamed, boiled or eaten raw.

This second stage of growth can be done indoors by digging the roots in fall, cutting off the tops and setting the roots upright in a deep box or flowerpot. Fill the container with potting soil to the tops of the roots and add 6-8 inches of sand above that. Keep moist and at 60-70 degrees. Harvest when the growing tips peek through the sand.

The endive I planted was really escarole, a salad green with wide, bowl-shaped heads. The seed packet says that when the heads get big enough that the plants touch each other, the outer leaves can be tied together with twine to shade the inner leaves, thus keeping the inner leaves whiter in color and milder in flavor. Harvest two or three weeks later. The mix of white and green leaves is pretty on the salad plate, but the white leaves contain less Vitamin C.

Honestly, I looked at the plants when the leaves began touching their neighbors and couldn't see how I could gather the outer leaves to tie them. Too late, I learned that upending flower pots over them would do the trick. Escarole needs about an inch of water a week so the pots would have to be lifted to make sure they get it.

I also learned that in this case when the seed packet says "Thin to 12-18 inches" they really mean it. Wherever the plants touched, they became slimy and rotten.

Careful reading of the seed packet and some timely research would have produced better results!



Paine Art Center

The Paine has been very busy with the Chihuly Glass Exhibit. Many people have been going through it and also the gardens. They've also seen the herb garden which is looking much better than earlier. The calendulas add a spark of orange color to the greens and purples. The woodchuck enjoyed some of the parsley. Thanks to many MG's for their help throughout the gardens.

Sheila would like us to help plant tulip bulbs on October 16 and 17 if it isn't raining. Before that on the 14th and 15th, Sheila would like help pulling up all the annuals. She said everyone is welcome to take the basil, leeks, Swiss chard, and others from those beds at that time.

So join us between 8:00 and 2:00 Mon.-Thurs. for a 'digging good time'. A good way to acquire hours for next September!

Pat and Dara

Check It Out! New Publications.

Making and Using Compost in the Garden (A4021)

Making your own compost is an easy, practical, and satisfying way to make use of yard waste and table scraps. With this publication, designed for the home gardener, you'll be composting like a pro in no time (4 pages; 2013).

Do-It-Yourself Compost Bin series (G4020)

Home composting is an easy and inexpensive way to create a valuable soil amendment from yard and household waste such as leaves, grass clippings, and kitchen scraps. Composting means less waste going into the landfill and less need for chemical fertilizers.

Compost bins vary in size, use, and cost—whether you purchase a commercial product or build one yourself. This series of seven easy-to-use, do-it-yourself plans walk you through the steps to build your very own compost bin (2 to 4 pages each; 2013).

Barrel Composter (G4020-01)

Can Composter (G4020-02)

Concrete Block Composter (G4020-03)

Wire Mesh Composter (G4020-04)

Wood & Wire Composter (G4020-05)

Wood Pallet Composter (G4020-06)

Wood 3-Bin Composter (G4020-07)

Newsletter Contributions

To contribute an article or more to the Newsletter contact Diana Dougherty at 233-7137 or email to dldoug5@charter.net

Please send me a picture and short paragraph about how your projects did this summer.

Flower Arranging

2013 dates are:
October 21
November 18
December 2

December Awards Dinner

I am in need of baskets or unique containers to use for the gift baskets at our awards dinner in December. If you have some that you were going to get rid of please bring them to one of the next meetings.

Diana Dougherty

Answer to What Am I ?

I am rudbeckia. Order: Asterales. Family: Asteraceae. Genus: Rudbeckia. Species: R. fulgida. The name was given by Carolus Linnaeus in honor of his teacher at Uppsala University, Professor Olof Rudbeck the Younger (1660-1740), and his father, Professor Olof Rudbeck the Elder (1630-1702), both of whom were botanists. Rudbeckia is one of at least four genera within the flowering plant family Asteraceae whose members are commonly know as coneflowers; the others are Echinacea, Dracopis and Ratibida. Rudbeckia was Perennial Plant of the Year in 1999.



References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Master Gardeners Business Meeting September 10, 2013

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Treasures Report: Sue Egner:

Handouts were supplied for August

Secretary's Report: Mary Jo Maher:

No corrections were noted

Old Business

20 new signs for the projects will be available soon

Membership dues are to be turned in at the beginning of September

Please submit changes of your contact information so the membership book can stay up to date

Nametags can be ordered. If they are ordered individually, they will be \$8.50. If they are ordered with a group order, they will be \$6.50

Newsletter articles are due by the 20th of the month

State Report

Sue will be resigning her position as State representative. This will require attending the meetings several times a year.

Projects

Project summery reports are due

All funding reports should be submitted

Any Individual Projects request must be submitted every year.

Forms are available on the website

Core projects request are submitted to the board. An application does not need to be submitted yearly for a core project. A core project should be able to educate the community. The funding request must be submitted yearly.

Education Committee Report:

Possible new trip ideas would be to Savannah and Charleston area in the third week of March

Winter Escapes will be February 1 at Reed Union as it was last year

UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller

There was a good turn out in August for the workshops

Level 1 training has 21 new students

Next year there will be a new manual

Other items:

We have three open board positions, president, treasure and member at large. Jane and Diana explained the job descriptions of these positions. Please submit your nominations. These are two-year terms, starting in January and ending in December

Presentation: Kim Miller

Kim gave a presentation on the Elmer Ash Borer

The first sign of the disease was in China. In the America, the disease was first reported in Michigan in 2008. It was been reported as far down as Georgia. There are now reports in 21 states, and in Wisconsin in 2008. The most recent report was in Black Wolf. They attack the top of the trees first. They can live in dead wood for two years.

The life cycle for the adults is from June thru August. They feed on leaves but are rare to see.

Some signs are; smaller than normal leaves, canopy will die back, "D" shaped holes, bark cracks, and heavy woodpecker damage.

The options for the infestation is to remove ash trees, or remove after they die, or treat trees with insecticides. Once the treatment starts, it will continue for the rest of the trees life.

New Business:

October meeting will cover budget items

Buckthorn removal will be Oct. 12, 19 and Nov. 2, 9, 23 from 9-12. They will also start the removal on Thursdays from 9-12 starting Oct 10th thru Thanksgiving.

Seeds were offered from one of the garden walks

Diana Dougherty is looking for baskets or cute containers to be used for the gift baskets

If anyone has pictures from their projects they would like in the newsletter, please submit them to Diana

Next Meeting, October 8 @ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Maher, Secretary

Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Board of Directors

Co-Presidents

Mary Shepard	235-9242
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Linda Petek	233-5730
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Co-Vice Presidents

Ivan Placko	721-9394
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Jane Kuhn	231-3993
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Secretary	Mary Jo Maher	915-2506
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Treasurer	Sue Egner	231-1729
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Members

Linda Baeten	232-1224
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Pat Behm	410-3290
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Carole Dorsch	589-5936
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Diana Dougherty	233-7137
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Marge Menacher	233-3467
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Roy Anne Moulton	915-9731
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Anne Murphy	379-7132
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Dara Sitter	420-0620
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COMMITTEES

Education and Trips	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283
Education – Meetings	Linda Petek	233-5730
June Picnic	Kathy Daniels	233-0410
	Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991
Membership	Dawn Kent	410-8866
Newsletter	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
	Anne Murphy	379-7132
	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
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993
	Alice Graf	203-8252
Sunshine	Diana Dougherty	233-7137
Hours	Patty Schmitz	420-1676
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Website	Jean Reed	729-9012

CORE PROJECTS

Community Gardens	Ruth Freye	734-5978
Education and Control of Invasive Species		
	Lawanda Jungwirth	836-2878
	Audrey Ruedinger	231-5745
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel	233-6619
	Cindy Meszaros	233-3550
Humane Society Reflection Garden	Dara Sitter	582-4405
Lincoln School	Linda Christensen	233-0044
	Mary Haave	231-2542
Octagon House	Jerry Robak	722-3311
Paine Gardens	Pat Behm	410-3290
	Dara Sitter	420-0620
Park View Cutting Garden	Bill Weber	231-2936
Park View Vegetable Garden	Tom Weber	233-3729
Park View Prairie Garden	Ken Hawk	426-1691
Park View Flower Arranging	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
ThedaCare	Diane Iott	379-4176
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467

October 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 MG Board Mtg 6:00	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 MG Business Mtg 6:00 !!!	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Parkview Flower Arranging	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween 		

November 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 MG Brd Mtg 6:00	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 MG Bus Mtg	13	14	15	16
17	18 Parkview Flower Arranging	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving 	29	30