

Winnebago County Master Gardener

April 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

"Spring is when the crocuses, then daffodils bloom. Spring is when the forsythia buds, the trees begin to leaf, the birds set up a chatter, and the grass begins, sluggishly, to grow. Spring comes when the earth – not the calendar – says"(by Becky Rupp). I got this from an article in Green Prints "The Weeder's Digest". It is a humorous and entertaining magazine with short garden story articles by contributors that comes out quarterly. Spring may seem like a long ways off this year-but soon it will arrive!

A big thank-you to Sheila Glaske, Horticulturist at the Paine Art Center and Gardens, for taking time out from her busy schedule to give a presentation at our March business meeting.

At our April meeting, Audrey Ruedinger and Lawanda Jungwirth will be giving a presentation on invasive species and how we as master gardeners can help in educating the public about these plants. It will be that time of year again for our annual garlic mustard pull on the Wiouwash Trail! Another sure sign of spring!

The annual "Festival of Spring" at the Paine will be coming up on Saturday, May 18th. We will have a sign-up sheet at our April meeting for those who want to volunteer. This is a great opportunity to provide the community horticultural information and answer questions along with selling worm castings and Lawanda's gardening collection of writings. There will be plenty of time for volunteers to purchase plants and visit the vendor booths.

The education committee has planned a wonderful day trip visiting Solaris Farms, West of the Lake, Restoration Gardens and Pondside Gardens on Saturday, July 27, 2013. For further information, contact Linda Loker or Marge Menacher. We are looking for local gardens to visit also in the early evening this summer. If any members have friends or relatives who won't mind us walking through their gardens or if any member has a garden we could visit – please let Linda Petek know. These garden tours always prove to be a great learning experience.



Happy Easter,

Mary and Linda

From the Advisor.....

As I write this article it is the first day of spring, but you couldn't tell that by looking out the window. Currently, we are about 30° below normal for this time of year. This time last year we were experiencing temperatures 60° warmer. What a difference a year makes. Since there is still so much snow on the ground, people are not thinking of gardening right now. Therefore, the Plant Health Advisor calls have been on the light side. However, once we are released from this arctic air and the snow starts melting, the calls will start coming in.

In the year that I have been here, I have come to realize that people value this service we provide them. In the past, we have tried to clear up the questions on Tuesday and again by Friday. This is always a very interesting project with a range of simple to challenging questions. Answering these community questions is extremely important to the mission of UW-Extension. Without the help of the Plant Health Advisors, the UWEX office would be overrun with calls.

We are having a Plant Health Advisors kick-off and planning session scheduled from 6-8 pm on Tuesday, April 16th at the Coughlin Center. We will review how to access questions over the phone or email, even at your own home. That's right! This is an avenue to contribute volunteer service from home. We will explore the most valuable horticulture resources and have a hot topics discussion. In addition, the office has a new digital microscope. We will have training on how to use it and how it can help with answering questions.

Please contact Ann Gratton if you would like to volunteer to be a Plant Health Advisor in 2013. And if you haven't already, please let Ann or me know if you plan to attend the training. We can always use a few more helping hands.

Kimberly Miller



Do not top trees!



By Lawanda Jungwirth

A few years ago, a guy in a pickup truck filled with ladders and chainsaws came through my neighborhood looking for tree-pruning work. Unfortunately, several of my neighbors hired him. Four homes in a row that each had stately 50-year-old maples in their backyards now have big, fat tree trunks with a bunch of spindly waterspouts waving from the tops.

Tree topping is the most harmful thing you can do to a tree.

Tree topping is cutting off the top of a tree, usually to shorten it or reduce its spread.

Topping can remove from 50-100% of the leaf-bearing tree crown. Trees need to their leaves to produce food and severe topping can temporarily starve a tree. The tree immediately goes into survival mode and activates latent buds just below the cuts, forcing rapid growth of multiple shoots below each cut, as it tries to put out a new crop of leaves as fast as possible. Shoots can grow as much as 20 feet a year, defeating the goal of shortening the tree. If the tree has been stressed for any other reason (such as last year's drought) and doesn't have the stored energy reserves to put out that new growth, it will be severely weakened and may die.

If the tree does survive, the new sprouts that grow below the cuts will eventually get big and take on considerable weight. They've developed in the outermost layers of old branches rather than deep inside a "socket" of overlapping wood tissues and are susceptible to breakage, even years later when they get really heavy. This is ironic, since one of the reasons people have their trees topped is to make them safer.

Tree topping invites decay. When branches are properly pruned, just beyond the branch collar at a branch's point of attachment, the tree produces chemicals to seal and protect the cut. But a tree is not biologically equipped to do that anywhere else in its structure, so large upper cuts or stub cuts are wide open to decay, insects and disease.

A large shade tree's lower leaves and branches are protected from harsh sun by the upper branches. Cutting off those upper branches can cause the newly exposed lower leaves and bark to be scalded by the sun, causing the tree to die.

And topped trees are just really ugly. The natural form of the tree is destroyed and its grace and beauty is gone forever. In winter, the tree is especially unsightly as large branches end abruptly in a spray of sprouts. In summer, dense balls of foliage are unattractive and unnatural.

There are ways to properly reduce the size of a tree if it must be done. A certified arborist is the person who can help. To find one, visit the Wisconsin Arborist Association website: <http://www.waa-isa.org/arborists/search.asp>. Whether you decide to hire a certified arborist or someone else, make sure to ask for proof of insurance or you could have worse trouble on your hands than just an ugly tree.

Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association

Saturday, July 27, 2013 * 6:45 am– 5:00 pm

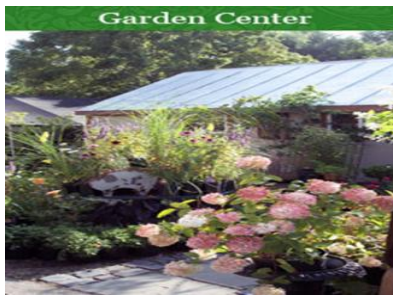
The Winnebago County Master Gardeners will be having a bus trip to Solaris Farms, West of the Lake, Restoration Gardens and Pondside Gardens, on Saturday July 27, 2013.



West of the Lake - This former street car right of way was purchased by John and Ruth West in early 1934. Subsequently, Mrs. West and her gardener hand spaded all 6 acres, removing weeds and establishing lawn and gardens. July will offer a variety of annuals, perennials, and roses along with a beautiful view of the lake.



Solaris Farms sells wide variety Lilium plants at the farm during summer bloom season. This group of plants has some of the showiest flowers of any plant genera and should be included in every northern garden.



Welcome to Restoration Gardens, located on 7 beautiful acres of an old farmstead, our Gift Shop & Garden Center take a unique and natural approach to business. Beautiful flowers can be found everywhere on our grounds. We offer a wide variety of perennials and shrubs along with heirloom vegetables & annual flowers. Stylish giftware, garden art, statuary and pottery can be found in our gift shop year round. Dining is available at The Blind Horse Cafe or at picnic areas on the grounds.



Pondside Gardens offers a large variety of hostas – mini to giant in a cozy hillside woodland. The owners, Dennis and Diane Lenz have also created a wonderful “pondside” area to view.

Departure Site and leaving time: Oshkosh at the Coughlin Center, Cty Rd Y. Load at 6:45 am Leave at 7:00 am. Arrive back in Oshkosh at about 5:00 pm. Cost is \$30.00. Bring your own lunch, drinks and snacks or purchase your lunch at The Blind Horse Cafe. Please direct any questions to Linda Loker at lloker@att.net or call 426-1435 or Marge Menacher at marmen4105@sbcglobal.net or call 920-233-3467.

Send your checks payable to WCMGA c/o Marge Menacher 4105 Westview Lane Oshkosh, WI 54904.

2013 West of the Lake Trip Registration Form

(copy as needed)

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____



Paine Opportunity !

The Paine Art Center and Gardens, in Oshkosh, is accepting applications for a Seasonal Garden Assistant. This position may require some evening and weekend work.

Responsibilities include but not limited to: performing general outdoor landscaping and maintenance tasks within the gardens; planting shrubs, flower beds and containers; watering and fertilizing plants; weeding flower beds; pruning; cutting grass; raking leaves; removing weeds and brush; operating a variety of landscaping equipment such as lawn mower, weed whacker, shovels and other gardening tools and performing other gardening tasks as required. In addition, this position also is involved in the installation of the holiday decorations.

The position reports to the horticulturist and requires an individual who is creative and hardworking; able to work in a team environment and will to take direction.

For more information, please contact Sheila at

Sheila@thepaine.org or 920-235-6903 ext. 39

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

MEMORIAL

Carlene Meyer passed away peacefully on Sat., March 16 and her son, Master Gardener Stanley Meyer, would like to thank all the Master Gardener's for their kind thoughts and prayers.



Flower Arranging

2013 dates are:

April 22

May 20

June 17

July 15

July 29 (the county fair bouquets)

August 12

September 23

October 7

November 18

December 2



At the Home and Garden Show – Joni and Cindy put together a wonderful display area and many people came by, asked questions and signed up for the next training. Another way to get your hours and have fun with other Master Gardeners!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
PLEASE HELP PULL GARLIC MUSTARD
on the WIOUWASH TRAIL !

Saturday, May 4

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

We will also be pulling garlic mustard on weekdays before and after this date weather permitting.

Meet at Brooks Road parking area.

From Oshkosh, take Hwy. 45 (Algoma Blvd.) north to the Ryf Road exit. Turn right on Cty. T at the top of the exit ramp. Go just over 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Brooks Road. Turn left and go about 1 mile to the trail.

Or from Oshkosh, take Hwy. 76 (Jackson St.) Go under Hwy. 41 and turn left at the frontage road - Green Valley Road. Turn right on Brooks Rd. just before Stuart's Landscaping. Go 3 miles to the trail.

From the Fox Valley, take Cty. II, Larsen Rd, Oakridge Rd., Cty JJ or Breezewood Rd. west to Hwy. 76. Turn left and go south to Green Valley Road (Hwy. 41 frontage road). Turn right on Green Valley and then right again on Brooks Rd. just before Stuart's Landscaping. Go 3 miles to the trail.

To find the Brooks Road parking area by GPS, use address 4151 Brooks Road, Oshkosh.

Your help is welcome even if you can come for only an hour or two!

You do not have to get there at 9:00 a.m. Come anytime!

Bring gloves, kneeling cushion or knee pads and a dandelion digger. A five gallon bucket is handy also. Garlic mustard pulls easily but a dandelion digger makes it even easier and helps ensure that the roots don't break off.

This is a rather pleasant pastime on a nice spring day. You'll enjoy yourself and perform an important environmental service by helping to remove an extremely invasive plant.

Master Gardeners Business Meeting

March 12, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Mary Shepard

Presentation: Shelia from the Paine

The goals for designing the new garden were as follows;

- Grand formal garden

- Sunken garden

- Large annual beds

- Complement to the property

- Focal point

- Showcase attraction

- Three season garden with winter interest

- Nestle the new building in the setting

- Social area outside of the building

- Internal view

The Paine hired a landscape architect from Chicago to create the plans. The firm came up with three different plans. The Paine decided on the plan that best incorporated all the items on their want list. The date is not set for the gardens as it is dependent on funding. This year the gardens will be planted in grass.

Other news at the Paine;

The new building will be used for weddings and meetings.

There were tulips planted last fall for the spring.

The Paine is currently looking for a Seasonal Garden Assistant. If interested, please contact 920-235-6903 ext 39 or Sheila@thepaine.org

Treasures Report: Sue Egner

All accounts as of 2/28 were \$15,951.17

Secretary's Report: Mary Jo Maher

Minutes for the board meeting are listed on the web site. All minutes for the business meetings have been submitted for the newsletter

State Report:

Projects funded by grants were discussed. Royanne Moulton can assist in writing grants for us.

Education Committee: Roy Anne Moulton

Roy Anne Moulton presented the future trip to "The Gardens of the Canadian Northwest"

This trip be on June 22, flying from Outagamie airport to Vancouver, British Columbia. Gardens to be visited are; Van Dusen Botanical Garden, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden and the gardens of the University of British Columbia.

There will be a ferry ride to Vancouver Island, Victoria city. Butchart Gardens, Hatley Gardens and Abkhazi Gardens will be visited.

The trip will return on June 29. Cost will be \$2,350. If you are interested, please email royanne@new.rr.com.

A day trip is planned for July 27, 2013. We will be visiting Solaris Farms, West of the Lake, Restoration Gardens and Pondside Gardens.

The cost will be \$30.00. If you are interested, please contact Linda Loker 426-1435 or lloker@att.net or Marge Menacher 233-3467 or marmen4105@sbcglobal.com

New Business

Grow bags were shown by Mary Sheppard.

Sue Egner presented plastic plant stakes.

Home and Garden show will be March 22-24 at Tri-County Arena.

Potential new projects are: Winchester Museum, Neenah Animal Shelter plant sale, Future Neenah Shattock Park entry garden

Oshkosh Rotary presented us with an award for our contribution in the area

UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller

City of Menasha is looking for volunteers for planting 30 trees for their 30th anniversary of tree appointment.

Kim is also looking for volunteers to help the Boys and Girls Club with the youth garden. If interested. Please contact Kimberly.

Presentation: Octagon House presented by Jerry Roback

The gardens of the Octagon House is a replica of gardens from 1850-1900. The Neenah Historical Society also helps with this project. The kitchen gardens are one of the main features, which consist of 6 raised garden beds of vegetables. There is also a rose garden, parlor garden, shrub borders and a possible new project garden..

A signup sheet was sent around for volunteers. If interested, please contact Jerry

Presentation: Theda Clark Gardens by Diane Iott

These gardens consist of two courtyard gardens. These gardens are 15 years old. Pots were bought for the gardens last year. Volunteers from the hospital help with the gardens.

Presentation: Lincoln School by Linda Christensen and Mary Haave

Objectives of the garden are; Promote community education opportunities; Continue to enhance and maintain community awareness of Master Gardeners Beautify prominent garden by Lincoln Park.

The future plan is to create eye-popping displays and replace the sign which was stolen last year.

Presentation: Farmers Market by Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz

They now have 3 spots on Church St.

Sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers.

Presentation: Plant Health Advisory by Ann Gratton

Ann explained that the main function of this project is to take calls, answer emails and help a few walk-in questions with the help on publications or from the university. The main questions are on trees, insects, plant identifications, and gardening practices.

Last year over 200 calls and emails were addressed. A volunteer signup sheet was passed around.

Other News:

The times for the meetings were wrong in the newsletter.

Next Meeting April 9, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m.

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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Susan Bohn	685-0427
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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	886-1283
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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 Education	Marge Menacher	233-3467
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
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	Betty Kuen	558-9586
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	Pat Behm	410-3290
Plant Health Advisors @ UWEX	Ann Gratton	231-3015
Shared Harvest	Ken Friedman	235-6766
Washington & Webster Schools	Marge Menacher	233-3467
The Wild Center	Mary Wiedenmeier	426-0991

<i>April 2013</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 MG Board meeting 6:00	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 MG Business meeting 6:00	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Plant Advisor Mtg. 6:00 PM	17	18	19	20
21	22 Flower Arranging Parkview 1:30	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

<i>May 2013</i>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Garlic Mustard Pull 9-12
5	6	7 MG Board meeting 6:00	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 MG Business meeting 6:00	15	16	17	18 Festival of Spring - at the Paine
19	20 Flower Arranging Parkview 1:30	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	