



# Winnebago County Master Gardeners

## Newsletter

April 2022

### 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.

*"April is a promise that May is bound to keep."*



Cuban Petticoat Palm  
Submitted by Anne Murphy

## What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a compact, symmetrical, deciduous, evergreen shrub which is native to Eastern China, Taiwan and Japan and is widely cultivated in gardens in the United States. Hardy in zones 5-8, I grow to a height of 3 to 4 feet and width of 4 feet. I prefer full shade to part sun, average water, and acidic soil. I bloom from late winter to late spring with bell-like ruby colored flowers with hundreds of flowers dangling delicately from fine stems against a gorgeous evergreen backdrop. My flowers persist for a long time (two months or more) and I am an easy to maintain plant.

My plants can be propagated by tip cuttings taken in early spring or from semi-hardwood cuttings taken in the summer. Layering is also an easy way to propagate my plants. Pin a growing tip of the plant to the ground and wait for the roots to develop before severing the new plant from the mother. I can be used as a specimen or focal point, border plant, landscape or mass plantings. I am resistant to deer and attract bees.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

### **President (Nominations Accepted)**

Ed Dombrowski (4.30.22)

### **Vice President**

Kathy Procknow/Deb Butch (12.31.22)

### **Secretary**

Jean Reed

### **Treasurer**

Deby Voyles

### **Board Representatives (3 positions Nominations Accepted)**

Ruth Retzlaff (12.31.22)

Sue Egner

Linda Werner

### **WIMGA Representative**

Kathy Procknow

### **Advisor**

Open

### **Newsletter Team**

Anne Murphy

Kim Willman

Jane Kuhn

Lawanda Jungwirth



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing to a future newsletter by writing an article, submitting a photo, or sharing a story, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing

[pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com). Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook  at [WCMGVA](https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA).

<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>

## President's Message

### OH SAY CAN YOU SEE

This opening line that all of us know has been the start of our National Anthem. The lyrics by Francis Scott Key reference the "Defense of Fort Henry" as it was being bombarded by the British in the Battle of Baltimore during the war of 1812.

During today's difficult times, gardening carries a special meaning for therapeutic value. As Monty Don states, "I always see gardening as an escape, as peace really. If you are angry or troubled. Nothing provides the same solace as nurturing the soul". OH SAY... CAN YOU SEE THIS?

Bias is a troublesome concept. Simply put, we should not judge a book by its cover. We need to read the pages inside before we judge too soon. A.A. Milne cited "Weeds are flowers too; once you get to know them". Yes, we can stereotype in our gardens. Sometimes you will be surprised when the flower blooms in front of you that you thought was a weed. OH SAY... CAN YOU SEE THIS?

As spring approaches, we have to believe that if we are going to put plants in the ground; there will be a tomorrow. Gardens are a promise to ourselves that we will give those plants the care and nurturing they need to grow and flourish into a reflection of ourselves. Audrey Hepburn said "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." OH SAY... CAN YOU SEE IT?

My gardening prowess often escapes me. It is better suited for my spouse as she continues to find ways to turn our garden into a classroom so that I can learn. Gardening is a healthy activity for any age. It is also a place to learn new skills or put into practice skills we already possess. Helen Mirren said it best, "Gardening is learning, learning, learning. You are always learning."

OH SAY... CAN YOU SEE IT?

*Ed Dombrowski*

## *What to Consider When Planting a Tree*

*By Lawanda Jungwirth*

Is it time to add a new tree to your landscape? There are many more considerations than “I’ve always wanted a maple tree.” Not to discourage you from planting a tree – it is a noble undertaking – but below is a list of items to consider before you start. Putting the right tree in the right place will ensure success.

- Soil conditions: Is it dry, wet or does it vary by time of year? Choose a tree that will thrive in your soil.
- Light conditions: Will the tree be in full sun or will it be shaded by other trees or buildings? Again, match your tree choice to your light conditions.
- Climate: In Winnebago County we are in USDA Hardiness Zone 5a, which means our winter low temperatures generally don’t get below -20°F. We can safely plant trees recommended for Zones 5a or lower. If you are going to go to the work and expense of planting a tree, don’t try to take a chance on one that is hardy to a zone above 5a, hoping you’ll get lucky. You probably won’t.
- Height and width: Research how big the tree will get and believe it. Consider future generations and property owners as well. Just because the tree won’t get big enough for its branches to hang over your roof or for its roots to buckle your sidewalk in your lifetime isn’t sufficient.
  - Look up! Trees that grow more than 20 feet tall shouldn’t be planted under or within 15 feet of power lines. Power utilities send crews out every few years to trim branches away from powerlines and the results are never pretty. Perhaps a tall shrub would be better in this location.
  - Look down! Make sure you know where underground utilities are buried. Before you dig, contact Diggers Hotline at 1-800-242-8511 or [www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com) to have someone come, free of charge, to mark underground utility locations.
  - Look down again! Do not plant a tree over a septic system. The roots will break through the pipes in their search for warmth and water and you’ll have a real mess.
  - Look sideways! Large trees should be planted at least 35’ away from your home (and your neighbor’s home) to make certain that branches don’t brush the house or hang over your roof, and that roots do not damage your foundation.
- Consider your current view. Don’t accidentally plant your new tree where it will interfere with what is now a beautiful view. You might think about how your new tree will affect your neighbor’s view as well.
- Think about what you want the tree to do? Provide shade? Put on a fantastic fall color display? Block a bad view? Provide a windbreak? Provide food or shelter for wildlife? You can find long lists of trees that satisfy each of these categories on the internet or in books.
- How much maintenance will the tree need and are you capable of doing it? Some trees drop some kind of “mess” all year long in the form of flowers, seeds, tiny twigs, etc. Others are relatively clean, dropping only leaves in fall. Some need pruning when they are young to direct their growth. All trees will need supplemental water for at least the first two years.



## Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am Japanese pieris, Lily of the valley shrub. Order:Ericales. Family: Ericaceae – Heath family. Genus: Pieris D. Don – fetterbush. Species: Pieris japonica (Thunb) D. Don ex G. Don – Japanese pieris. Other common names: Andromeda, Japanese Andromeda, lily of the valley shrub. Its scientific name, Pieris, derives from the collective name of the muses of Greek mythology.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

By Linda Werner

### UW-Arboretum Winter Enrichment Virtual Seminars

- Additional information and registration for all programs is at:
- <https://arboretum.wisc.edu/learn/adult-education/winter-enrichment/winter-enrichment-registration/>
- Cost: \$10 each
- **April 7 Anticipating the Hydrologic Consequences of Emerald Ash Borer Invasion in Tribal Forested Wetlands through a Sapflux Network.** Angela Waupochick, PhD student, UW–Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology. Tribal communities maintain significant landholdings, including black ash–dominated forested wetlands. These systems have not been a priority for management, but anticipated mortality induced by emerald ash borer has prompted tribal managers to seek strategies and prioritize areas for mitigation. Register by April 3

### Invasive Plant Management Workshop,

- June 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Retzer Nature Center, S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha
- Hosted by the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium and presented by Dr. James Reinartz
- \$60
- Limited class size. Registration opens May 9 at:  
[https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop?utm\\_source=newsletter\\_25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=sewisc-quarterly-newsletter-spring-2022](https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop?utm_source=newsletter_25&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sewisc-quarterly-newsletter-spring-2022)

# PLANT DISEASE POINTERS

## March 2022: To Reuse Pots or Not Reuse Pots – That is the Question

MARCH 25, 2022, by Brian HUDELSON

I have recently seen comments and discussions on social media about reusing pots from greenhouse or nursery-purchased plants. In some instances, there has been discussion of returning pots to nurseries and greenhouses for businesses to reuse.

I'm definitely all for reusing pots whenever possible. It's an environmentally sound thing to do. However, keep in mind that you need to be cautious when reusing pots as they potentially can be sources of disease-causing organisms. These pathogens may be carryovers from plants that you originally purchased in the pots, or they may be pathogens that the pots picked up later as the pots have been stored in your garden or elsewhere on your property. In particular, damping-off and root rot pathogens can be found in many garden soils, so anytime pots come in contact with garden soil (and it doesn't have to be a lot), they can potentially become contaminated. And, it's not just pathogens that can be an issue. Insect pests and (gulp!) jumping worms could also potentially be carried via contaminated soil on recycled pots.

So, if you have a collection of old pots and want to reuse them (or even more importantly want to give them to your local nursery or greenhouse), take some precautions prior to reuse or donation.

Clean your pots thoroughly with soapy water to remove any bits of soil clinging to the surfaces of the pots that might be harboring pathogens. An added bonus of using an initial cleaning with soapy water is that this should help deactivate plant viruses that might be hanging out on your pots.

Soak your pots in a 1.0-1.5% sodium hypochlorite solution for 20-30 minutes. Sodium hypochlorite is the active ingredient in disinfecting bleach. This treatment will help kill pathogens that remain on the surfaces of the pots. Be cautious when using bleach to avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing.

Thoroughly rinse the pots to remove bleach residues that can be toxic to the new plants that you are trying to grow in the pots.

Note that the treatment outlined above may not be successful in all situations. Bleach treatments tend to work better on clay or ceramic pots but tend to be less successful for plastic pots. Be that as it may, seriously consider decontaminating your pots prior to reuse or donation to local businesses. This will help limit, as much as possible, plant pathogen carryover and spread.

For more information on plant diseases and their management, check out the UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic website (<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>) or contact PDDC staff at [pddc@wisc.edu](mailto:pddc@wisc.edu) or (608) 262-2863.

## Please be aware of these Program Changes:

If you have problems accessing Canvas or with your Net ID, or if you have questions, please contact Valerie Stabenow, 920.582.4292 or email her at [hlib34a@att.net](mailto:hlib34a@att.net)

### Announcements

2022 Onboarding-lite is now available in our Canvas Classroom!

Due to significant updates to the program, you are required to complete 2022 Onboarding-lite before you start volunteering.

It will be a requirement of the terms and conditions in 2022. You will acknowledge acceptance of these when you log into the Online Reporting System (open mid-January, 2022).

You can claim 5 hours of continuing education. We estimate that it may take you less time than this.

You can now access the 2022 Onboarding Lite in our Canvas Classroom (netID required).

Once logged in, scroll down and look for the six Onboarding-Lite modules.

👉 Start Here! [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 1]

👤 Overview of Master Gardener Program [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 2]

🛠 Digging Deeper into the Master Gardener Program [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 3]

📊 What Counts [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 4]

👤 What is the Online Reporting System? [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 5]

⚖ Legal Stuff [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 6]

After you complete these modules you will be able to view the last section.

🎉 You Did It! [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Conclusion]



## Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities \*\* (as of 3/22/2022)

Organization	WCMGA Liaison(s)
<p><b>Carter Memorial Library</b>  405 East Huron Street, Omro, WI 54963-1045  <b>Volunteer Information:</b>  <a href="https://omrolibrary.org/aboutus/friends">https://omrolibrary.org/aboutus/friends</a>  920-685-7016  omplstaff@omrolibrary.org  <b>Volunteer application:</b>  <a href="https://omrolibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Volunteer%20Application.pdf">https://omrolibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Volunteer%20Application.pdf</a>  <b>Liability protection:</b> Waiver of liability in application process</p>	Jenny Breining
<p><b>Neenah Historical Society—Octagon House</b>  343 Smith Street, Neenah, WI 54956  <b>Volunteer Information:</b>  <a href="http://www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com/">http://www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com/</a>  (920) 729-0244  Neenahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com  <b>Liability protection:</b> Organization's insurance coverage  Background check performed by Neenah Historical Society</p>	Jerry Robak
<p><b>Neenah Public Library</b>  240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956  <b>Volunteer Information:</b>  <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer">https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer</a>  920-886-6315  library@neenahlibrary.org  <b>Volunteer policy:</b>  <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf">https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf</a>  <b>Volunteer application:</b>  <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf">https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf</a>  Background check performed by Neenah Public Library  <b>Volunteer orientation</b>—30 minutes  <b>Liability protection:</b> Waiver of liability in application process</p>	Sue Forbes  Bette Hoytink

<b>Paine Art Center and Gardens</b> 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> <b>Volunteer contact:</b> Annika Holland, aholland@thepaine.org, 920-235-6903 <a href="https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/">https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/</a> <b>Volunteer application:</b> <a href="https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Applcation-2020.pdf">https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Applcation-2020.pdf</a> <b>Liability protection:</b> Information to follow	Ginny Slattery  Kathy Gore
<b>St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church</b> 830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> Contact Cindy Meszaros <b>Liability protection:</b> Organization's insurance coverage	Cindy Meszaros
<b>Winnebago County Historical &amp; Archeological Society—Morgan House</b> 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 920-267-8007 <b>Liability protection:</b> Information to follow	Kathy Schultz
<b>Winnebago County Master Gardener Association</b> 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> <b>Liability protection:</b> Organization's insurance coverage	Deb Butch  Kathy Procknow
<b>Winnebago County—Park View Health Center</b> 725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> <b>Volunteer contact:</b> Tim Laurin, tlaurin@co.winnebago.wi.us, 920-237-6931 <b>Liability protection:</b> Organization's insurance coverage	Donna Kudlas
<b>YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA **NEW**</b> 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956 <b>Volunteer Information:</b> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities</a> <b>Volunteer application:</b> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013_.pdf">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013_.pdf</a> <b>Liability protection:</b> Organization's insurance coverage <b>YMCA contact:</b> Kate Yates, Active Older Adult Program Director, 920-886-2105	OPEN   For more information: Contact Kathy Procknow

# A trip to the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden

By Anne Murphy



I was fortunate to take a trip to Key West in March. When the snow was flying in Wisconsin, I was enjoying the 80+ degrees in Key West. I found the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden by chance while taking a scooter ride. Here are some of the pics from my walk through the grounds. I found some amusing tree descriptions - Any idea what they are?



Three Sisters (Blolly, Gumbo Limbo, Saffron Plum)



Wax Palm, Cuba's most magnificent palm is now critically endangered.





Sign on tree on left says:

"Not a clue."

Sign on tree below says:

"Your guess is as good as mine."

**What do you think?**







The epiphytes were neat to see. Loved the colors!





April 2022						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Mtg. 6 PM	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Business Mtg In Person! Coughlin Ctr. 6 PM	13	14	15	16
17  Happy Easter!	18	19	20	21	22  Earth Day	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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