



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

January 2024

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.

“Welcome, winter. Your late dawns and chilled breath make me lazy, but I love you nonetheless.”

— Terri Guillemets



Christmas Cactus bloom by Kim Willman

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a perennial, herbaceous plant which grows from bulbs, one of the earliest flowers to bloom, even pushing through the snow in the coldest regions. Most of my species flower before the vernal equinox (March 20 or 21 in the Northern Hemisphere), aided by hardened leaf tips that can push through the frozen soil. Each bulb produces two or three linear leaves on an erect flowering stalk. My bell-shaped flower has no petals but consists of six tepals, the outer three being larger and more convex than the inner. I grow to four inches tall and wide and my flowers are white and nodding. My leaves die back a few weeks after my flowers have faded.

The downside to flowering in winter is that pollinating insects are scarce so I spread mainly through bulb division. My clumps can be lifted and divided just after flowering, replanted and allowed to die back naturally. Or, my bulbs can be divided when my plants are dormant. I prefer full sun to partial shade and well-drained soil in hardiness zones 3 to 8.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Advisory Team: Kathy Daniels & Sandy Dennis

Secretary: Anne Murphy

Treasurer: Sue Egner

Communications Team

Website: Jean Reed

Newsletter: Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Jane Kuhn

Partner Liaison: Deb Butch

WIMGA Rep: Kathy Procknow

Education Team

Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner

Meeting Teams

DECEMBER: Sandy Dennis, Linda Loker, Ruth Retzlaff, Kathy Schultz, Deby Voyles

MARCH: Deb Butch

JUNE Picnic: Sue Egner and Parkview Picnickers

SEPTEMBER: Linda Werner, Linda Baeten

Advisor: Madisen Potratz



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 us know by the 15th of each month

by emailing 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>

From your Advisory Team

Happy 2024! Now that the holiday season is past, we can all take a break. The new seed catalogs are arriving - time to start planning, but maybe it's time to pause and reflect, too.

Franklin Road Academy offers these suggestions in its [Lessons of Winter](#): *Lesson from the Fresh Snowfall: Make Your Mark*. Look back every now and then at your footprints behind you and the path you've created, and consider how you are making a difference. *Lesson from the Trees: Be Vulnerable and Stay True*. It is when the branches are bare that we are able to look past them and see the landscape. *Lesson from the Snowflakes: Be Gentle and Resilient*. Take the quiet, peaceful season of winter as time to self-reflect. *Lesson from Hibernation: Be Prepared*. Understand that change is constant. *Lesson from Icicles: Trust in Your Process*. A combination of conditions accompanied by a process goes into a beautiful creation. *Lesson from the Short Days: Work Hard, Rest Harder*. Just like our gardens, winter encourages us to slow down and make time for other things. It all applies to our lives as gardeners. Our fingernails may be clean at this time of year, but our minds are busy thinking, planning, dreaming!

If you haven't gotten your 2024 dues in to treasurer Sue Egner, please do! The UW extended the deadline for reporting 2023 hours to January 8th, so please be sure to get your time logged. And finally, don't forget about our Winter Social at Father Carr's Place 2B on January 16th - more info included in this newsletter. It's a great chance to reconnect with friends and fellow Master Gardeners.

Cheers!

Kathy Daniels and Sandy Dennis



POTLUCK DINNER

**Mark your calendar for
Jan. 16, 2024!**

Our first meeting in 2024 will be a Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, January 16, 2024. It will be held in the Saint Teresa Center at Father Carr's Place 2B, located at 1062 North Koeller Street in Oshkosh. We will gather at 5:30 pm, with dinner at 6:00 pm. WCMGA members and a guest are invited.

Bring your favorite dish to pass. There will be a place to plug in crock pots. Cups, plates, napkins, utensils, coffee, tea, and water will be provided...or bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

We will be having an optional garden-related wrapped white elephant gift exchange. All gifts should be clean and in usable condition.

From Your Education Team:

UW-Extension

Plant Diagnostics: The Step-by-Step Approach to Identifying Plant Problems, self-paced online course from Thursday, Feb. 1 through Tuesday, April 30, 2024. Cost: \$49 for Master Gardeners. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/events/?trumbaEmbed=eventid%3D170732860%26seotitle%3DPlant-Diagnostics-The-Step-by-Step-Approach-to-Identifying-Plant-Problems-online-course%26view%3Devent%26-childview%3D>

North Central Wisconsin Master Gardeners

Garden Visions Education Day, Saturday, January 27, 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.. Full Day in-person cost: \$49 or \$59. Morning only virtual sessions cost: \$25. Refer to the email from Valerie Stabenow about qualified speakers for CE. For more information and to register, go to: [Garden Visions 2024](#)

Wild Ones Fox Valley Chapter

Toward Harmony with Nature Fair, Saturday, January 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., UW-Oshkosh Culver Family Welcome Center or virtual option. Cost: \$35-\$50. All speakers/topics do not qualify for MG CE. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://foxvalleyarea.wildones.org/thwn-fair-2/>

University of Illinois Extension Horticulture

New Invaders: Spotted Lanternfly, Thursday, January 11, 1-2 p.m. Free. Register at:

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/new-invaders-spotted-lanternfly>

PBS Wisconsin Garden and Landscape Expo, Friday, February 9 through Sunday, February 11, 2024. The deadline for registering for the February 10th WCMGA bus trip to this event is December 31st. The cost is \$60 which includes the entrance fee and the bus. The registration form is on the WCMGA website under classes. <http://winnebagoasterngardeners.org/>

Reorganization Plan Proposal for October 1, 2023- December 31, 2024

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>All committees uphold and support the WCMGA mission: "Our purpose is to provide horticulture education, community service and environmental stewardship within our community."</i></p>	
<p>Number of member meetings per year: 4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September & March: Business Meeting • December: Holiday Social & June: Spring Social
<p>Member meeting format:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December and June meetings social only • September and March are business meetings with social and/or CE components (TBD by Meeting Committee)
<p>Advisory Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of 4 members including treasurer and secretary plus at least 2 directors from membership (Initial Advisory Team to include some previous leader(s) for continuity) • Meets at least twice per year prior to the September and March business meetings • 1-year terms starting October 1, but stay on through Dec. 31 to advise/support next team members. Renewable terms. • Decisions can be made via email in-between meetings 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve expenditures over \$500 2. Secure adequate liability insurance 3. Keep meeting minutes (Secretary) 4. Review new procedures, policies, SOPS, by-laws and make recommendations to the membership as needed/proposed 5. Maintain non-stock status 6. Set membership business meeting agenda 7. Coordinate with other teams 8. At-large members coordinate membership emails from committees 6. Encourage member initiative in proposing ideas 7. Zoom or live pop-ups for special topics as suggested/available
<p>Communications Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No meetings • Individual tasks 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain Facebook page 2. Maintain Website 3. Maintain newsletter 4. Email communications to members/teams 5. Extension liaison 6. WIMGA representative 7. Contact/coordinator for partner organizations
<p>Strategic Planning Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form in spring of 2023? • 3-4 members • Meets as needed 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review implementation of reorganization plan 2. Make recommendations for changes 3. Member recruitment plan 4. Develop 2-year plan of goals and objectives 5. Develops budget for the plan
<p>Meeting Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 general meeting per year of everyone interested (minimum 12) • 4 (minimum) persons assigned to each of the 4 meetings (can meet or work on tasks individually) • Creativity is encouraged to make meetings more lively/interesting • Drawing on member expertise for programs, presentations, etc. is encouraged 	<p>Responsibilities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build on format ideas from the roundtable group 2. Work with the Education Team on CE ideas 3. Work with Advisory Team on any business needed 4. Set time, place, cost 5. Reserve venue/arrange set-up and take-down 6. Plan and carryout social component 7. Alert treasurer of any expenses and incoming payments 8. All expenses pay as you go

Education Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 members • Meet as needed 	Responsibilities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CE for membership meetings or stand-alone CE for members 2. Monitor CE opportunities for posting on Facebook and in newsletter 3. Coordinate with Meeting and Advisory Teams 4. Develop ideas for community education 5. All expenses pay as you go
Officers	
Secretary <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Takes minutes at all meetings of the Advisory Committee and general membership business meetings 2. Posts Advisory Team minutes on the website and business meeting minutes in the newsletter 	Treasurer <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintains financial records in Excel 2. Pays expenses via check 3. Reports to the Advisory Team and membership at business meetings 4. Manages cash flow with approval of the Advisory Team (can be done via email) 5. Prepares simple budget of known expenses
Goals of Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize social functions • Spread the work • Simplify • Fewer meetings • Encourage/individual initiative • Make MG fun again 	<p>Notes: Roundtable Meeting/CE/Social Suggestions Presentation from WIMGA on its purpose/plans/offerings</p> <p>Apply for WIMGA grants for programs as needed</p> <p>Hands-on learning (park or garden tours, weed ID walk, partner organizations present or offer tours of facilities gardens, members offer programs/presentations)</p>

Answer to What am I?

By Jane Kuhn



I am a common snowdrop. Order: Liliales. Family: Liliaceae – Lily family. Genus: Galanthus L – snowdrop. Common name: common snowdrop, milkflower. The name Galanthus comes from the Greek gala (milk) and anthos (flower), referring to the color of the flowers and providing the rarely used common name of milkflower. Snowdrops were used as a folk remedy for arthritis and digestive problems. Snowdrops are sometimes confused with their relatives, snowflakes (Leucojum and Acis species) which are much larger and bloom in spring or early summer.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities

Organization	WCMGA Liaison(s)
Carter Memorial Library 405 East Huron Street, Omro, WI 54963-1045 Volunteer Information: https://omrolibrary.org/aboutus/friends 920-685-7016 omplstaff@omrolibrary.org Volunteer Contact: Anna Ludwig, 920.685.7016 Volunteer application: https://omrolibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Volunteer%20Application.pdf Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process	Sandy Dennis
Miravida Living 225 N. Eagle St., Oshkosh, WI 54902 Volunteer Information: https://www.miravidaliving.com/volunteer/ Volunteer Contact: Joan Keltesch, jkeldes@miravidaliving.com Volunteer application: https://hipaa.jotform.com/220336497425155 Volunteer training sessions Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jane Kuhn
Neenah Historical Society—Octagon House 343 Smith Street, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: http://www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com/ (920) 729-0244 Neenahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage Background check performed by Neenah Historical Society	Jerry Robak

<p>Neenah Public Library 240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer 920-886-6315 library@neenahlibrary.org Volunteer policy: https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf Volunteer application: https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf Background check performed by Neenah Public Library Volunteer orientation—30 minutes Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process</p>	<p>Sue Forbes</p> <p>Bette Hoytink</p>
<p>Oshkosh Area Humane Society 1925 Shelter Court, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html Volunteer coordinator: Sarah Stoffregen, 920.424.2128, ext. 116, sarah@oahs.org Liability protection: Contact OAHS</p>	<p>OPEN</p> <p>If interested, contact Deb Butch</p>
<p>Paine Art Center and Gardens 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: Volunteer contact: Annika Holland, aholland@thepaine.org, 920-235-6903 https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/ Volunteer application: https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf Volunteer handbook available Background check performed by The Paine Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage</p>	<p>Ginny Slattery</p> <p>Kathy Gore</p>
<p>UW Madison, Extension Winnebago County 625 E Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh Horticulture Plant Health Advising and other opportunities TBD Volunteer contact: Madisen Potratz, Horticulture Educator, madisen.potratz@wisc.edu, 920.232.1976</p>	<p>Madisen Potratz</p>


Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society—Morgan House 234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 920-267-8007 Volunteer Contact: Greg Bellmer, 920.267.8007 Liability protection: Liability protection is not provided	Kathy Schultz
Winnebago County—Department of Facilities and Property Management (Coughlin Rain Garden) 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: No volunteer process Volunteer Contact: Bob Stephenson, 920.420.6405 Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Jill Dombrowski Ed Dombrowski
Winnebago County Master Gardener Association 625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information: Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Deb Butch
Winnebago County—Park View Health Center (Health Center gardens and Park View Prairie Garden) 725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: Volunteer contact: Missy Grundman, mgrundman@co.winnebago.wi.us, 920-237-6931 liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Health Center Gardens: Donna Kudlas Jane Kuhn Park View Prairie Garden: Carol Swannell Jerry Schaefer
YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956 Volunteer Information: https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities Volunteer application: https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	For more information: Contact Deb Butch

Houses of Worship	
First Presbyterian Church 110 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901 Volunteer Information Contact Sue Egner	Sue Egner
St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church 830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904 Volunteer Information: Contact Cindy Meszaros Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage	Cindy Meszaros



Upcoming Dates:

- **January 16, Winter Social, Father Carr's Place**
- **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**
 - **MG end of year celebration/picnic**
 - **Coughlin Center, Details to follow**

January 2024						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Winter Social Fr. Carr's Place 5:30 PM	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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