Winnebago County Master Gardener May 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

I have given up on spring and am now looking forward to a long and lovely summer! Besides raking the yard in rain/snow/sleet/hail, I have enjoyed the kickoff of the "outdoor" Master Gardening season. I was at Shattuck Park in Neenah with Mary Jo Maher and Virginia Slattery—it was snowing, of course—for their launch of the new flower bed project there. The Neenah Park people were very receptive and look like they will be a joy to work with on the project. Mary Jo and her team have some neat ideas so I am looking forward to seeing the flower beds throughout the summer.

Bill and Tom Weber held the initial meeting of the Parkview cutting garden and vegetable garden group and it was terrific to see some of our newest MG's joining those teams. Both areas will see some new features that look very intriguing. Battling rabbits and deer looks like it should add some extra excitement to the projects! Again, it was very rewarding to see the warm relationship that our MG's have built with Parkview and how appreciative they are of the groups' efforts.

Speaking of Parkview, the Winnebago County Master Gardeners' annual potluck will be at Parkview (indoors, so snow should not be an issue) at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, June 11. Hosts extraordinaire Mary Weidenmeier and Kathy Daniels are again in charge—please plan on attending.

May 18 will be a busy Saturday for everyone. We will have a booth at the Paine Festival of Spring and also, new this year, a booth at the Neenah Animal Shelter's Garden Day. If you are interested in helping please contact Pat Behm or Dara Sitter for the Paine event. Pat and Dara are the new leads for the Paine project. Bob Potter is the lead person for the Neenah Animal Shelter event.

There are two new requests for help that you may find interesting. There are two entry gardens at the **Sunnyview Exposition Hall in Oshkosh** and our help has been requested to help design some very low maintenance, robust plantings for that location. Great opportunity for creative use of natives? Second, the **Town of Menasha** established some Community Gardens west of 41. They have asked us if we could provide a few educational programs for adults and/or kids to be offered throughout the summer. The instructor from last year is ill and can't teach this year. A small group could each take one hands-on type presentation and help them out. Please contact Mary Shepard if you are interested in either of these neat opportunities.

Annual MG Picnic
6:00
Tuesday, June 11
Parkview

Happy Gardening. Think Summer!

Stay well. Mary and Linda

From the Advisor.....

As we move into May, I am starting to see a few signs of life in our plants, but not many. Although many of us are looking forward to the warmer temperatures and working outdoors, I don't think we are looking forward to the different pests that can affect our plants. Knowing that the season is getting off to a slow start, I was curious about how long I had before I needed to start monitoring for pests. Which lead me to check on how many, if any, growing degree days (GDD) we had accumulated. At the time of this article we had a whopping .44 GDD. You may be asking why this is important?

It is important because understanding phenology can be a tool to having an effective integrated pest management (IPM) program. Phenology is the study of the life cycle phases of plants and animals as related to weather conditions, particularly temperature. This understanding helps to properly time controls to target the most susceptible life stage of the pest. Insects are particularly well suited to predictions based on phenology because, as cold-blooded animals, their growth and development is directly correlated to the accumulation of degree days. A degree day (DD) is a unit of measure that occurs for each degree above a base temperature during a 24-hour period. Growing degree days (GDD) are cumulative total of DD's above a base temperature. The most common base temperature used is 50°F. It is possible to track GDD's on your own, but a much easier way is to go to http://www.soils.wisc.edu/uwex_agwx/thermal_models/degree_days and enter the required information.

In addition, because both insect and plant development require degree day accumulations, certain indicator plants can be used as indicators of insect events. In many cases indicator plants, are typically not associated with the pest insect whose life stage they predict. An example of this is Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Adult emergence of EAB starts at 450-500 degree days (base 50), that is also the same time that Black Locust trees bloom. Another example, it has been shown that eastern tent caterpillar is most vulnerable to control measures about the same time that saucer magnolia, *Magnolia x soulangiana*, is in pink bud to early bloom.

Plant phenological indicators are only guidelines. You will still have to monitor pest life stages to pinpoint what is happening at each site. Likewise, specific events in insect development occur within GDD ranges, not by a specific number. Tracking GDD and phenological indicators gives a useful way of knowing when to look for a particular pest and manage it in its most vulnerable stage. Following signals in nature will help you make effective pest management decisions and minimizes the impact of their pest control applications on the environment.

Kimberly

Tips for the Beginning of Gardening Season

By Lawanda Jungwirth

Here are some things to remember as this year's growing season begins:

- Gently stretch every muscle and body part you can think of before you go out for a day of lifting, bending, digging and planting.
- Get a tetanus booster shot if it's been more than ten years since your last one. Tetanus bacteria can enter the body through a puncture wound or even a little scratch. Tetanus bacteria are found everywhere in the environment in soil, street dust and animal feces. Immunization is very important. Tetanus is an extremely painful and often fatal disease.
- When growing food in plastic containers, choose those labeled 1, 2, 4 or 5. Avoid 3, 6, and 7 which can break down and leach chemicals into your food. Better yet, use clay, ceramic or metal pots for food crops.
- Similarly, don't use treated lumber for edging or raised beds in which food crops are grown. Instead, edge beds with untreated lumber, rocks, cinder blocks or logs.
- Don't walk on the soil while it is soggy. You will compact it, squeezing out air and water spaces between soil particles, permanently destroying its structure.
- Wait to plant until the soil dries out and warms up or your seeds will rot instead of germinating.
- If you can't immediately plant live plants that you bring home from the nursery, place them in a sheltered but bright location. Keep well watered and plant as soon as possible.
- Dormant woody plants awaiting planting should be kept in a cool, dark spot with damp newspaper covering the roots.
- Open bags of bulbs of plants like lilies and caladiums and store them in a shaded, cool, well-ventilated area if planting is delayed.
- Gradually introduce seedlings grown indoors to sun and wind by placing them outdoors in a sheltered spot. Slowly introduce them to bright light and breezes over at least a two week period by extending the amount of time they spend in the sun and wind by a few minutes each day.
- Plant something new this year. It's always exciting to learn about and grow at least one new flower, herb or vegetable.
- Mulch, mulch, mulch. If the summer is dry, mulch will prevent much needed moisture from evaporating from the soil. If it is wet, mulch will keep soil from splashing up onto plants, which can cause disease. Either way, mulch will prevent soil temperatures from extreme fluctuations.
- If you mulch around trees, remember "bagel," not "volcano." Mulch should not touch tree trunks, but should be placed in a ring several inches from the trunk to prevent rotting of bark and to thwart mice and other chewers who could hide in the mulch while they snack on the tree trunk.
- Spend some time outdoors every day, no matter what the weather. Studies show that people who experience nature regularly are happier, healthier, more creative and respond better to stress than those who spend all their time indoors.



Menomonee River Chapter North Chapter & Southwest/Wehr Chapter

5th Annual

Native Plant Sale

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 • 9am to 5pm

It's time for the 5th Annual Native Plant sale to benefit local Wild Ones® Chapters. Hundreds of different Wisconsin native trees, shrubs, conifers, vines and perennials are available with special pricing for one day only! As always, the sale is held at Johnson's Nursery in Menomonee Falls.

Guided tours by Johnson's Nursery native experts throughout the day.

Concessions available for purchase through the Wild Ones®, plus extra incentives for Wild Ones® members. Not a member? No problem! Become a member or find out more information during the sale!

Tour Schedule:

10am: Incorporating Natives into the Landscape with Jillian Zetting

11am: Native Plants for

Wildlife

with Carrie Hennessy

1pm: Native Plant

Production with Mike Yanny

Questions?

Call Johnson's Nursery at 262-252-4988, Carolyn Larkin from Wild Ones® at 414-881-4017 or go to www.johnsonsnursery.com or www.for-wild.org



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:

Interested in a new project?

The Winchester Area Historical Society is looking for horticultural and Master Gardener expertise for their grounds in Winchester, WI. The MG project team would help develop and maintain new gardens. There are already existing gardens that were developed and are being maintained by Winchester Area Historical Society members. This is an opportunity to provide horticultural education; design, select proper plants, plant gardens and provide care; keep shrubs and small trees properly pruned; and promote the Winnebago Master Gardeners Volunteer Association in the Winchester Community. If you are interested please contact Ivan Placko at (920) 721-9394 or

ANNUAL PICNIC/POTLUCK

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our annual indoor picnic on Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 pm in Parkview Health Center's Great Room. Again this year, Jerry Robak and his band, The Foggy Valley Boyz, have graciously agreed to provide music. Please bring a guest and a dish to pass. Also, plan to stay after the festivities to tour our Parkview Projects – the Prairie, Vegetable and Cutting Gardens.

See the invitation in this Newsletter for further details. Please contact Kathy Daniels or Mary Wiedenmeier if you can come early to help set up.

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

Flower Arranging

2013 dates are:

May 20

June 17

July 15

July 29 (the county fair bouquets)

August 12

September 23

October 7

November 18

December 2

Activities at The Paine

New as well as current members, we have some activities available for you to acquire hours.

First, we'll have a booth at the Festival of Spring on May 18-selling worm castings and Lawanda's book. Please sign up at the May business meeting or call Dara Sitter 420-0620 or Pat Behm 410-3290.

Next, Sheila Glaske will meet with us on Tuesday, May 21 at 6:00 to show areas we can help beautify. Join us and find out what's happening!

Perennial Plant of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

The Perennial Plant Association has chosen Variegated Solomon's Seal as its Perennial Plant of the Year for 2013. It's a plant for shady woodland gardens or for a border in part to full shade. Morning sun is better than afternoon sun for this plant.

Variegated Solomon's Seal grows 18-24 inches tall and has long oval leaves carried on upright, arching stems. Spring foliage is purple-tinged and is followed by light green leaves framed with white tips and margins. The white leaf edges and stems of varying heights result in an eye-pleasing, cascading, tiered effect. In May and June, pairs of fragrant, tubular white flowers with green tips hang below the arching stems.

In fall, the leaves turn a pretty yellow and the flowers are replaced by bluish-black berries.

Variegated Solomon's Seal prefers moist, but well-drained soil. The white rhizomes (roots) should be planted just below the surface of the soil. It can be divided in spring or fall. Each plant covers a width of about 18-20 inches, but it will spread slowly on its own to form colonies. No serious disease or insect pests plague this year's winner.

Variegated Solomon's Seal looks nice growing among other shade-loving plants like hostas, astilbes and ferns. The variegated foliage adds a bit of light and sparkle to shady areas and also is lovely in flower arrangements.

You might find Variegated Solomon's Seal sold under these names as well: Striped Solomon's Seal, Fragrant Solomon's Seal and Variegated Fragrant Solomon's Seal. To be sure you are getting the right plant, check that the Latin name is *Polygonatu odoratum 'Variegatum.'* A search of mail order nurseries showed the cost for one plant to range from \$8 to \$18.

Solomon's Seal is an unusual plant name. It gets its name from its jointed rootstalk or rhizome. When the leaf stalk breaks away from the rhizome, it leaves a scar said to resemble the official seal of King Solomon.

Have you been wondering how a plant gets elected Perennial Plant of the Year? Perennial Plant Association members vote each summer on the following year's plant. At that time, each member is allowed to nominate two plants for future consideration. Then a committee reviews the nominated plants, which may number 400, and narrows the field to three or four perennials to be placed on the ballot.

Plant nominees need to satisfy the following criteria: suitable for a wide range of climates, low-maintenance, relatively pest-free and disease resistant, multiple seasons of ornamental interest, and it must be readily available at garden centers the year it is elected.

It looks like the PPA members have chosen another winner this year!



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.

<u>From Oshkosh</u>, 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.

<u>From the Fox Valley</u>, 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.

Call Lawanda Jungwirth at 836-2878 or e-mail ljungwirth@new.rr.com for more information or JUST SHOW UP!

Two Books Worth Reading

These two books were mentioned at the April Master Gardener meeting in the talk on invasive plants. They are important books and well worth reading!

Bringing Nature Home by Douglas W. Tallamy

This book is directed to the home gardener and is captivating from beginning to end. Here is a review by William Cullina, Director of Horticulture Research for the New England Wild Flower Society

"We all hear that insects and animals depend on your plants, but in *Bringing Nature Home*, Doug Tallamy presents a powerful and compelling illustration of how the choices we make as gardeners can profoundly impact the diversity of life in our yards, towns and on our planet. This important work should be required reading for anyone who ever put shovel to earth."

The Nature Principle by Richard Louv

From the back cover: "The author of *Last Child in the Woods*, the landmark bestseller that became an international force for change, now presents a compelling case that the time has come for us all to reenvision a future that puts aside scenarios of environmental and social apocalypse and instead taps into the restorative powers of the natural world. With groundbreaking research, anecdotal evidence, and compelling personal stories, Richard Louv shows how nature can boost mental acuity and creativity; promote health and wellness; help us build smarter, more sustainable businesses, communities and economies; and strengthen human bonds. *The Nature Principle* offers renewed optimism while challenging us to rethink the way we live now."

Reporting Prohibited Plant Species

Master Gardeners are asked to help the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species and the DNR by reporting prohibited plant species if they are found in Wisconsin. To report a prohibited species:

- Take a photo or collect a plant
- Record location, landowner (if known), size of population (GPS coordinates are wonderful but not necessary)
- Report your find to Mindy Wilkinson, Invasive Species Project Coordinator, at 608-266-6437, or e-mail her at invasive.species@wi.gov or follow reporting instructions at dnr.wi.gov (type in the keyword "invasives.")

Master Gardeners Business Meeting

April 9, 2013

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

Treasures Report: Sue Egner

Handout supplied for March

All accounts as of 3/31 were \$23,459.19. Year to date is in the black

PROJECT PRESENTATION

PARKVIEW FLOWER ARRANGING- Dorothy Bonninand Lillian Hansche

The flower arranging is done at Parkview every Monday at 1:30. The flowers are supplied by the cutting gardens at the facility, along with some that are donated.

There are up to 40 residence that help arrange the cut flower along with the help of the Master Gardener volunteers. They create a wide variety of arrangements that they enjoy.

Volunteers can assist any Monday

INVASIVE PLANTS - Lawanda Jungwirth and Audrey Ruedinger

Presentation on what is an invasive plant and what makes a plant invasive.

The following plants are listed as invasive; buckthorn, common teasel wild parsnip, white and yellow sweet clover, garlic mustard, purple looseetrife, spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, European marsh thistle, bull thistle, Japanese knotweed, common reed grass, common buckthorn, oriental bittersweet, Dames rocket, common tansy.

Handouts were available of the invasive plants. Information on NR 40 on Wisconsin Invasive Species Rule and their website was listed on the handouts.

Time spent on controlling invasive plants can be listed as volunteer hours.

Secretary's Report: Mary Jo Maher

Corrections on March minutes in regards to the April meeting dates, both for the board meeting and the business meeting were stated incorrect.

Old Business

Kimberly Miller reminded everyone to fill out the survey that was sent via email.

New Business

Winchester museum garden project will be looked at now that the weather is improving.

Neenah Humane plant sale, Paine gardens and Shattuck Park have volunteers for their projects

Menasha tree project is still looking for volunteers

New projects under consideration are: Heckrodt Nature Preserve, Sunny View entry gardens and Menasha Community garden.

Education Committee Report:

The trip for the West coast is full with a waiting list

There is still room for the July trip.

UW Extension Updates: Kimberly Miller

Kim announced that Katie Roenwill be leaving April 10th. Sara Thompson will take email request.

Seeds are available for projects again this year.

Other items:

The picnic committee is looking into details for this year's picnic. It will be help at Parkview again this year on June 11 at 6:00. It will be an indoor potluck.

A reminder that any items for the newsletter must be submitted to Diana Dougherty before the 20th of the month.

Parkview is having a luncheon for their volunteers on May 15.

Next Meeting, May 14th @ 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				
	Linda Petek	233-5730				
Co-Vice Presidents						
	Ivan Placko	721-9394				
	Jane Kuhn	231-3993				
Secretary	Mary Jo Maher	915-2506				
Treasurer	Sue Egner	231-1729				
Members						
	Linda Baeten	232-1224				
	Pat Behm	410-3290				
	Carole Dorsch	589-5936				
	Diana Dougherty	233-7137				
	Marge Menacher	233-3467				
	Roy Anne Moulton	886-1283				
	Anne Murphy	379-7132				
	Dara Sitter	420-0620				

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 Cindy Meszaros	233-6619 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
	Sue Egner	231-1729
Farmers Market	Dorothy Gayhart Kunz	233-8468
	Janet Priebe	233-1898
Home & Garden Shows	Joni Pagel Cindy Meszaros	233-6619 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	Dorothy Bonnin	836-2868
	Lil Hansche	235-4740
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

	May 2013					
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 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	

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