



Winnebago County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

May 2023

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.

***“May all your
weeds be
wildflowers.”***



Scilla. Submitted by Linda Loker.

What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a wildflower (perennial, zones 3-8) that can be seen in early spring covering the Wisconsin woodland floor with white (turning pink with age) blossoms. I get my name from the Latin word for three, due to my three ruffled petals and three broad, oval-shaped leaves which are on an 8-10 inch stem. My leaves have indented veins and ride high on the stem, just below my single flower. Enjoy my flowers in the garden rather than picking. Due to my short stems, leaves would have to be picked with the flower and the leaves are needed to provide the plant with nourishment for the following year.

In the fall, each flower produces a blue-black, berry-like fruit. I prefer to be grown in full to part shade and thrive in a moist, humus rich soil of neutral pH. My habit of growth makes me a useful ground cover in the shade garden. I spread on creeping underground stems, or rhizomes, sending up dense clumps of foliage. Each rhizome may send up as many as eight flower-bearing stems. Plant me in the fall, setting rhizomes 2 to 4 inches deep with the eyes facing upward and spacing plants 5 to 8 inches apart. Protect me from the cold and enrich the soil by adding a mulch of leaf mold or compost each winter.

WCMGA Contacts

Check your membership guide for contact information.

Advisory Team: Linda Loker, Kathy Schultz, Ruth Retzlaff

Secretary: Jean Reed, Anne Murphy

Treasurer: Deb Voyles

Communications Team

Website: Jean Reed

Newsletter: Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Jane Kuhn, Lawanda Jungwirth

Partner Liaison: Deb Butch

WIMGA Rep: Kathy Procknow

Education Team: Valerie Stabenow, Linda Werner

Meeting Teams

DECEMBER: Susan Forbes, Sandra Dennis, Mary Wiedenmeier

MARCH: Anne Murphy, Kim Willman, Kathy Daniels

JUNE Picnic: Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn, Sue Egner, Vicki Daniels, Ruth Retzlaff, Renee Donner, Bob Potter

SEPTEMBER: Mary Bossert, Jenny Breinin, Lil Hansche

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 me 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 May!

"We may think we are nurturing our garden but of course it's our garden that is nurturing us." *Jenny Uglow*

The projects are gearing up for spring...and hopefully at this writing, we will have reached our normal weather patterns. We had more snow and cloudy days in March than predicted...now we need to see sunshine and flowers bursting from the ground! Check out the projects that are listed in every newsletter, and if you are not yet working on any, contact the lead listed on the project you may be interested in. We have all learned so much working side by side with our fellow master gardeners, and the friendships are everlasting.

Worm castings are back! What are the benefits of using this "Black Gold"- as it has been referred to? The humus in earthworm castings helps increase soil water retention, improve aeration and anchor plant nutrients that otherwise leach away with water. The castings also feed beneficial soil microorganisms that produce, store and slowly release nutrients into your soil to feed plants. Use in pots, in vegetable and flower gardens...and it works its' magic!

Our leads on this project are organizing a worm casting party (aka packaging) for Tuesday, May 16. The cost per pound has increased (what hasn't!) slightly, however, we have enough interested members that we are going ahead with ordering and supplying this "Black Gold". Watch for an email from Sue Egner for further details. Thank you Sue and Jerry!

Our advisor, Madisen Potratz, has been busy organizing MG involvement with Oshkosh Farmers Market again. Madisen sent out an email to inquire about MG interest. There will only be 4 dates, with the August date being Kids Day. We will work with Madisen on the details. The Farmers Market coordinator is very excited to see us back. They are waving any booth fees just to get master gardeners back. If you have any interest in working any one of the dates, even just a portion of the morning, please let Madisen know. Look for the details and dates in an article in this newsletter.

In April, Madisen also gave a talk on growing tomatoes at the Neenah Library; and our very own Linda Werner and Jean Reed gave a talk on gardening without chemicals. WCMG YOU ROCK! If you were unable to attend either of these talks, there is a good possibility that the material presented will be available to you. Let us know.

Our next meeting is our June Picnic – this is so great that we are getting back to normal and having time to spend together again. The invitation was recently sent out, so make sure you respond! And if time – and weather – allows, maybe we can view our project's gardens.

Let us now don our hats and boots and get out to the garden!

Ruth, Kathy and Linda



Summer Picnic Potluck

The Summer Picnic will be a Potluck Supper on Tuesday, June 6th at the Coughlin Center. 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 share. There will be a place to plug in crock pots. Plates, napkins, utensils, and water will be provided, or bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

Please RSVP with the names of those attending to Ruth Retzlaff at 1969retz@gmail.com by June 1st.

We are looking forward to seeing you there! Please remember to wear your name tag!

Your Summer Picnic Committee,

Carleen Christianson, Vicki Daniels, Renee Donner, Sue Egner, Donna Kudlas, Jane Kuhn, Bob Potter, Ruth Retzlaff, Sue Tappy

Farmer's Market Here We Come!

- ***June 17, 2023 – Pollinator Week***
- ***July 15, 2023 – Christmas in July***
- ***July 29, 2023 – National Farmers Market Week***
- ***Aug. 19, 2023 – Kid's Week***

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the Farmer's Market, please contact Madisen.

CORRECTION

In April's newsletter, in the Minutes, Ken Hawk was incorrectly named as Kevin. My apologies. The bench will have his correct name.

- ***Bench at Coughlin Center displays deceased WCMG members these will be added:***
 - ***RoyAnne Moulton***
 - ***Ken Hawk***
 - ***Mary Ginke***

***Thank you -
Anne Murphy***

Reorganization Plan Proposal for October 1, 2022- December 31, 2023

<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><i>Notes: Roundtable Meeting/CE/Social Suggestions Presentation from WIMGA on its purpose/plans/offerings</i></p> <p><i>Apply for WIMGA grants for programs as needed</i></p> <p><i>Hands-on learning (park or garden tours, weed ID walk, partner organizations present or offer tours of facilities gardens, members offer programs/presentations)</i></p>



Think about volunteering for one of the Advisory positions that will be open next Fall. You can get an idea from the current group and learn the ropes. It's really quite painless and we can continue to move forward with our Association! THANK YOU!

Continuing Education Opportunities

Olbrich Gardens Webinars

Resilient In Nature at Olbrich Gardens, by Olbrich Hort staff. Thursday, May 25, 7-8:30 p.m.

Cost \$15 non-members. Register at:

<https://olbrich.doubleknot.com/event/resilient-in-nature-at-olbrich-gardens/2949095>

SEWISC

2023 Spring Invasive Plant Management Workshop at Ellwood H. May Environmental Park, Sheboygan. Saturday, June 3, 2023, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost \$60. Registration opens May 1st at:

<https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop> Limited to 20 participants.

2023 Fall Invasive Plant Management Workshop at the Kenosha County Center, Bristol, WI. Saturday, September 9, 2023, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost \$60. Registration opens August 6th at:

<https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop> Limited to 20 participants.



Answer to What am I?

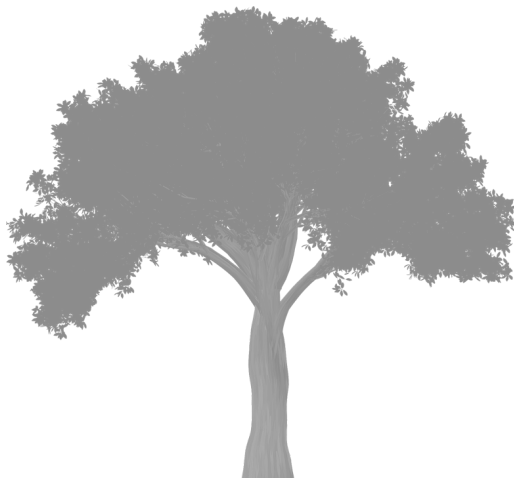
By Jane Kuhn

I am a trillium. Family: liliaceae (lily family). Genus: trillium. Species: trillium grandiflorum. Common name: trillium. Some native people used trillium roots and rootstocks as medicine. The young leaves are said to make an excellent salad and cooked greens, but it would be a shame to kill such a beautiful plant.

References: USDA Plants Database and associated links

WIMGA Grant Received

By Linda Werner



The Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) awarded a grant of \$400 to the Winnebago County Master Gardener Association (WCMGA) that has allowed the Neenah Historical Society to replant Neenah's Old Council Tree. A public planting ceremony was held on Arbor Day, Friday, April 28th at Kimberly Point Park near the original site of the Old Council Tree as part of Neenah's sesquicentennial celebrations.

WIMGA has awarded numerous grants to Winnebago County over the years for educational programs and horticulture projects such as the Butterfly Garden at Miravida Living of Oshkosh and others. This year, WIMGA budgeted over \$8,000 for grants to its 47 Master Gardener affiliates around the state. WCMGA was fortunate to receive this grant to make a horticultural project part of Neenah's 150th anniversary.

Long before Neenah was incorporated, an enormous elm tree known as the Old Council Tree on the banks of the Fox River was already a well-known landmark used by the Menominee Tribe as a meeting site. It was quickly adopted by the newcomers as well, starting in the 1830s. It was felled in the 1880's when the river was dredged and widened, but not forgotten. Today, the Old Council Tree is Neenah's distinctive symbol. It is on everything from the Breezewood exit from Highway 41 into Neenah, to the City's website, water tower and even trash cans.

The new elm tree is a disease resistant variety that will become a valuable part of the city's ecosystem, providing food and shelter for birds and other wildlife as well as a symbol of Neenah's past and future.



Mayapples. Submitted by Linda Loker.

Mayapple is a native woodland plant that is widespread across most of eastern North America south to Texas in zones 3 to 8. *Podophyllum peltatum* is the only species in this genus in the barberry family (Berberidaceae). This herbaceous perennial typically grows in colonies from a single root in open deciduous forests and shady fields, riverbanks and roadsides. All the parts of the plant, except the fruit, contain podophyllotoxin which is highly toxic if consumed, but was used by Native Americans for a variety of medicinal purposes. Podophyllotoxin is an ingredient in prescription drugs.

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: Julie Stobbe, 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, jkeltesch@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 & Archeological 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

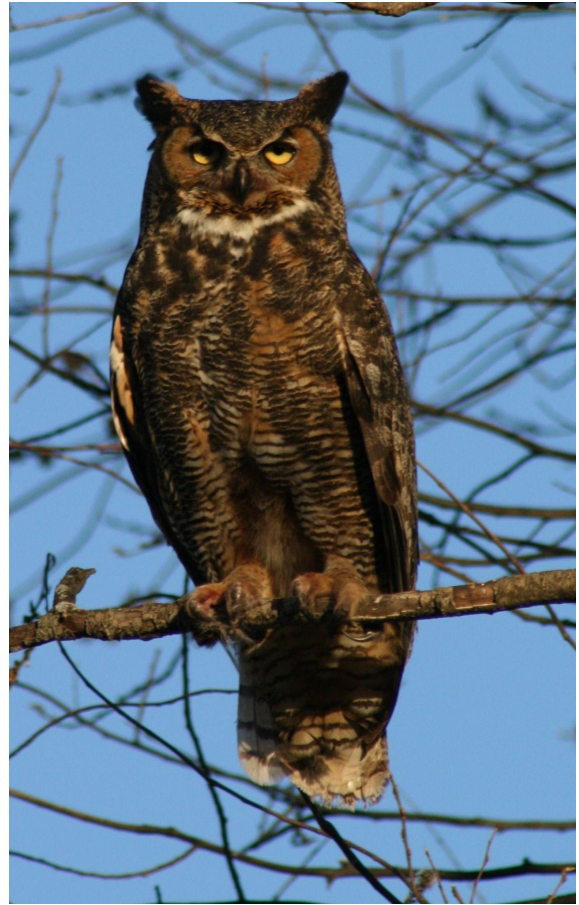


Upcoming Dates:

- **Summer Picnic: June 6, Coughlin Center, 5:30**
Gathering, 6:00 Dinner More info to come!
- **September Meeting: Sept. 6, 2023, Coughlin Ctr.**



Great Horned owlets we named Fritz & Marie, in honor of my grandparents. Submitted by Kim Willman.



*Fritz & Marie are getting bigger & as of 4/18/23, we're empty nesters. Top right, momma Great Horned named Annie, keeps an eye on her youngsters. Dad, Hoot, was out hunting for breakfast.
Submitted by Kim Willman.*

MAY 2023						
Sun	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 	30	31			

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.