

Portage County MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS



March 2013



Winter Sowing by Barbara Wallace

Are you missing playing in the soil and getting your hands dirty yet? I know I am. Why not try winter sowing? A fun, fast project to do with younger family members and save money by growing your own perennials. This is a great way to expose younger generations to the love of growing from seed and also a great school project for school teachers to do in the classroom.

All you need is a clean milk jug, quality potting soil, perennial seed hardy to zone 4, labels (old vinyl window shades cut up make great labels, duct tape and a pencil or paint pen. *Oh, and a snow bank!*

Cut your clean milk jug all around the middle, not cutting the handle. Poke holes in the bottom for drainage and holes in the top for rain water to penetrate through to the soil. Place your slightly moistened potting soil into the milk jug approximately 3 inches deep. Place seeds per package instructions into the soil. Write the name of the seed sowed onto a label and place inside jug into the soil. (Don't use sharpie pens as they tend to fade in the sun.) Close milk jug and tape shut around the middle with duct tape.

Find the nearest snow bank in your yard and place the milk jug there and forget it until spring! Once our warmer days start to show up here in Wisconsin, you and your younger family and or student member can keep an eye upon the jug for soil moisture and germination. You might have to take the watering hose and spray them for a drink as they act as miniature greenhouses and can heat up quickly.

The seeds will start to sprout as nature intended them to do on their time. Once they germinate, remove the tape and bend the top back.

We like to call it "*Popping our Tops.*" As soon as they are a couple inches tall, they can be planted out into the garden bed. Don't worry about dividing each little plant separately. Worry-free planting! We Winter Sowers like to call it "*Pluck and Run.*" Remember to water your new family treasures. Teacher, these make great Mother's Day presents for your students.



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If you have any questions, Barbara Wallace can be reached through the UW-Extension office, Wautoma Courthouse 920-787-0416.

Editor's Note: The website www.wintersown.org has detailed information on winter sowing along with FAQ's, seed lists specifically for our climate, etc. I personally tried this last winter and had good luck with the annuals I planted.

Article submitted by Lynn Caine

April 2013 Calendar of Events

2 – Design and Install Your Own Productive and Beautiful Vegetable Garden – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), Madison –

Thinking about starting a vegetable garden and don't know where to begin? Tired of your unsuccessful garden and ready to rebuild it into something more inspiring? By designing & installing a garden right the first time you set yourself up for success year after year. Learn the step-by-step process of assessing your site, creating a design, sourcing materials, installing a productive and beautiful garden & easy long-term maintenance tips from instructor Megan Cain. From 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. \$38 (\$30 members).

3 – Native Plants for Any Garden – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), Madison – Are you thinking about using some native plants in your yard, but aren't sure where to start? Frank Hassler from Oakwood Ecological Services will share info about various native plants that are the best looking and highest performing in a variety of conditions to help you select those that are perfect for your landscape. From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$15 (\$12 members).

4 – Mushroom Cultivation 101 – [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#), Green Bay – Put a mushroom garden in your wooded landscape and enjoy the beauty and delight of growing gourmet mushrooms. Learn essential cultivation steps, the basics of mushroom I.D and harvest tips in this class from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. \$14 (\$7 member)

6 – Green Thumb Living – [Green Lake](#) – A full day of gardening and sustainable living seminars, exhibits, greenhouse tours, art displays, cooking and canning ideas, composting, nature walks, children's activities and lunch. \$35 before April 6 (\$40 after). At the Green Lake Conference Center, W2511 State Rd 23, Green Lake. Contact [Sue Krueger](#) at (920) 294-7253 or [see the Green Lake Conference Center website](#). To register call (920) 294-3323.

9 – Frugal Gardener – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), Madison – There are lots of ways to have an incredible garden without breaking your budget. Instructor Connie Glasheen will share techniques, tips, and resources on inexpensive and easy solutions to soil building, plant propagation, creating organic rooting hormone, saving seeds, planning a plant swap, and much more in this class from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. \$15 (\$12 members).

12 – Gardening Beside the Experts Hands-on Workshop – [Olbrich Botanical Gardens](#), Madison – Here's your chance to meet Olbrich's horticulturists and work side-by-side with them, learning the techniques and tricks they use to make the outdoor gardens beautiful and sustainable. As you spend the morning rotating throughout the various specialty gardens, the horticulturists will share their gardening tips on spring clean-up and much more. Learn skills you can take home such as how to divide perennials and prune trees and shrubs. Dress to be outdoors and to get a little dirty during this hands-on workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rain or shine. Wear sturdy shoes and don't forget to bring your gardening gloves and questions! \$47 (\$38 members).

13 – Master Composter Training – [Portage](#) – Participates will gain a more thorough understanding of the composting process as well as common uses for compost. The program also provides an introduction to vermicomposting and techniques to reduce the amount of waste generated. Master Composter trainees will learn strategies that will enable them to share their knowledge and interest in composting with others. In order to become a certified Master Composter trainees must attend the one-day workshop and complete three outreach activities. For info contact [George Koeppe](#), Columbia Co. UW-Ext. at (608) 742-9680.

14 – Ecological Design: From Yards to Landscapes – [UW-Arboretum](#), Madison – This workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. will cover the basics of how to design & implement a restora-

Underlined events qualify for continuing educational hours.

tion at different scales (yards to landscapes) and ecosystem types (wetlands/forests/prairies). We'll cover the ten steps of ecological restoration, and dig deeper into site analysis & prep, plant selection, how to plant & seed native plants, native plant & seed sources & ongoing site maintenance. At the UW-Arboretum Visitor Center, 1207 Seminole Hwy, Madison. For info contact the [UW-Arboretum](#) at (608) 263-7888 or [register online for this class](#).

16 – Wake Up Your Garden – [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#), Green Bay – The gardening season is here again, how will you be getting your garden ready for spring planting and summer beauty? Lisa Stubbe of Landscape Artisans has been prepping gardens for years and would love to share her suggestions. Join her for discussions and demonstrations of the methods including pruning that will bring your garden up to speed for the growing season. Please dress appropriately for outdoor demos in this class from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. \$14 (\$7 member).

27 – Beekeeping for Beginners – [Madison](#) – This class from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is for those with no experience at all in beekeeping. Lecture with props will touch on everything you need to know for your first year. Artisan honey, hand dipped candles, and several other products available for purchase (cash). Rich Schneider of Capitol Bee Supply will be on hand with woodenware and equipment for sale. At the Dane Co. Ext. Building, 5201 Fen Oak Dr., Madison. \$40 includes handouts, membership in the Dane Co. Beekeeper's Assoc., free sample journals & catalogues. For info or to register, contact [Jeanne Hansen](#) at (608) 244-5094.

27 – What's That Flower?: Plant Families and Plant ID – [UW-Arboretum](#), Madison – This workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. will introduce the dominant plant families in WI & their key characteristics. We will explore plant adaptations & their functions. We'll learn basic flower anatomy, and practice using field guides in the Arboretum's Native Plant Garden. At the UW-Arboretum Visitor Center, 1207 Seminole Hwy, Madison. Contact the [UW-Arboretum](#) at (608) 263-7888 or [register online](#).

27 – Wood Co. MG's Spring Seminar – [Wisconsin Rapids](#) – Begins with 8:00 a.m. registration followed by seminars at 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to noon with refreshments between sessions. Topics include: *Decoding Gardening Advice: the Science Behind Common Recommendations* by Jeff Gillman, the best-selling Minneapolis author of *The Truth About Garden Remedies*, and *Lilies* by Assistant Professor David Zlesak of UW-River Falls. \$10. For more information call Barb at (715) 325-2075.

BOERNER BOTANICAL GARDENS: For info or to register contact Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Drive, Hales Corners, WI 53130 at (414)525-5659 or email scheduling@fbbg.org.

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDENS: 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe IL 60022. Phone: (847)835-5440.

GARDENS OF THE FOX CITIES: Register for classes on the [Event Calendar](#). For info contact [Gardens of the Fox Cities](#), 1313 E. Witzke Blvd. Appleton, WI 54911 at (920)993-1900.

GREEN BAY BOTANICAL GARDEN: For more information, contact the [Green Bay Botanical Garden](#), 2600 Larsen Road, P.O. Box 12644, Green Bay, WI 54307-2644 at (920)491-3691 ext 103

MN LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM: For info contact the [Education Department](#), Minnesota Arboretum, P.O. Box 39, Chansassen, MN 5531-0039 at (952)443-1422.

NORTHWIND PERENNIAL FARM: For info contact Northwind Perennial Farm, 7047 Hospital Rd, Burlington, WI 53105 at (262)248-8229 or info@northwindperennialfarm.com.

OLBRICH BOTANICAL GARDENS: For info contact Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI 53704; phone (608)246-4550 or download the [Classes and Workshops Brochure](#). Pre-registration required, including online registration from the OBG website.

First AAS Winners of 2013 are:



All-America Selections has announced the first six of their winners for 2013. Look for the red, white and blue logo of All-America Selections on seed packets in retail stores, plant tags in bedding plants in garden centers or nurseries, or in mail-order catalogs this spring. Success is almost guaranteed with these varieties of reliable new flower and vegetable varieties.

Only the very best varieties receive this prestigious award. All AAS winners have been tested for home garden performance in more than 30 independent test sites, each under the responsibility of an AAS judge, all over the United States and Canada. Gardeners can rely on AAS Winners to perform in their garden because of these unbiased, independent tests. Most of the time only one to three flower varieties and the same number of vegetables get this award each year, and sometimes none qualifies. So far there are two flowers, one bedding plant and three vegetable award winners.

More winners may be announced early in 2013.

www.all-americaelections.org



Flower Winner:
Canna "South Pacific Scarlet"



Flower Winner:
"Echinacea Cheyenne Spirit"



Bedding Plant Winner:
Geranium "Pinto Premium White to Rose"



Vegetable Winner:
Melon "Melemone" F1



Vegetable Winner:
Watermelon "Harvest Moon" F1



Vegetable Winner:
Tomato "Jasper" F1

PCMGV Board Members

Chairperson:

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(715) 341-9414

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rickjansing@att.net
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Committee Chairs

*Chair **Co-chair

Bylaws

Cindy Bredow *

Display

Barb Gifford *
Open**

Flower Beds

Chrismary Pacyna *
Carole Jansing **

Funds/Grants

Cindy Bredow *

Garden Dreams

Charlotte Kolinski *
Sally Prideaux **

Garden Parade

Katie Rettler *
Bob Rausch **

Habitat House

Jennifer Young *
Jen Haas **

Hunger Prevention/Head Start

Open

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John Kolinski *

Plant Sale

Chere Schmit *
Kathy Herbert **

Programs

Tina Lechner *
Diane Somers **

YMCA Gardens

Dan Goulet *

Coordinators

Amherst Fair

Open

Arbor Day

Open

Chicago Bus Trip

Bob Rausch
Sally Prideaux

Farmers Market

Todd Teuchert
Lori Teuchert

Fundraisers

Open

Garden Line

Open

KMart Potting Day

Open

Newsletter

Marian Helm

Rosholt Fair

Todd Teuchert

Website

Lynn Caine

Articles for the newsletter should be submitted by the **10th of the month** for publication that month.

Submit to: Marian Helm: azmhelm@yahoo.com or 715-347-5265

Please send any address changes to: Bonnie Maier: bonnie.maier@ces.uwex.edu or 715-346-1316



SPRING IS COMING! (we think)

Please note this **NEW DATE** on your calendars!

The Flower Bed Committee will meet on **Monday, April 15th at 6:30 at Chrismary Pacyna's house**. We will meet for about an hour to get our plans organized for the upcoming SPRING!! **ALL** Portage County Master Gardeners are welcome to attend!

We have openings for Flower Bed Coordinators. A coordinator plans, organizes the "work days", plants, and takes general care of that garden. Committee members and other Master Gardener Volunteers help with the work under the coordinator's direction. IF you may be interested in taking care of one of the follow beds or would like to know more about what the Flower Bed Committee does, please come (and bring a gardening friend) to the meeting – or call *Carole Jansing* or *Chrismary Pacyna* (Flower Bed Co-Chairpersons) for more information. It is a great way to earn volunteer hours while working within your own schedule.

These flower beds needing a coordinator in 2013:

Hein Park (eastside, just north of Walgreens' Drug store in Park Ridge)

Courthouse area (across the street from the Court House on Church Street, and on the southwest corner of the Courthouse block))

Bluetop Triangle (strip of "garden" in the middle of Church Street across from the BlueTop /Rookies restaurant and bar)

Stevens Point Airport (two small gardens at the entrance to the Stevens Point Airport off highway 66; support is given through the Stevens Point Pilot's Association)

Stevens Point Visitors Bureau (located on Business 52 north near the "missing" Ramada Inn.

Carole Jansing: carole.jansing@att.net
715-344-2118

Chrismary Pacyna: cmpacyna@charter.net
715-341-3343

PCMGV Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2013

PRESENT: Sue Baldischwiler, Tom Baldischwiler, Margaret Bau, Kelly Berg, Sandy Boehm, Cindy Bredow, Diane Dieterich, Eric Ecklund, Deanna Gertsh-Pozorski, Timothy Goskowicz, Jen Haas, Angie Hauer, Kathy Herbert, Rick Jansing, Tina Lechner, Ellie Mendyke, Pat Mrozinski, Sandra Newby, Terri Offerman, Stephanie Olson, Carole Olson, Chrismary Pacyna, RoseMarie Piekarski, Sally Prideaux, Robert Rausch, Katie Rettler, Leanna Rusch, Chere Schmit, Don Schmit, Nick Schultz, Kathy Stanke, Todd Teuchert, Lori Teuchert, Judith Thies, Kirby Throckmorton, Joanne West, Jennifer Young, Linda Zick and Portage County Ag Agent Ken Schroeder.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chere Schmit at the Annex.

Minutes from January meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Chere Schmit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FUNDS: Cindy Bredow received a thank you booklet from the Rosholt 4-H Club. They will be given \$250 for their flower arrangement project.

FLOWER BEDS: Chrismary Pacyna will have a meeting March 18 at 6:00 at her home. MGV maintain 19 Flower Beds. Six coordinators are needed.

GARDEN PARADE: Katie Rettler said the committee is looking for graphic design people to work on art work that can be used continually on the tickets.

HOME & GARDEN SHOW: Sandy Boehm said the positions have been filled. Tickets will be available for the volunteers.

GARDEN DREAMS: Sally Prideaux reported that GD is scheduled for January 11, 2015.

EXTENSION REPORT: Ken stated that the Extension Office will first be moved to the Court House in March. The second move in May will be to the Annex second floor. The phone number will remain the same.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Contact Sally Prideaux to order onions & leeks from the Long Day Onion Co. Go on-line to check their prices.
- There is a Board of Directors open position.
- The next meeting is March 25 at the Annex at 6:00 p.m.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.
- Continuing Education: "Introduction to Permaculture" by Mary Eberle: 1.25 hours

Submitted by Sandra Newby PCMGV Secretary

Your county
extension office



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Extension
Cooperative Extension
Portage County

Cooperative Extension
University of Wisconsin—Extension
Portage County UW-Extension
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Return Service Requested



April Garden Guide

- Start tomato seeds indoors. Research shows seven-week old transplants produce earliest fruit and best overall results.
- Cut back over-wintered geraniums to six to eight inches.
- Start fast-growing annual flowers indoors.
- Start seedlings of eggplant, okra, peppers and broccoli.
- Set out lily of the valley clumps with pips just even with the ground.
- When annual beds can be worked, turn over green manure crop such as annual rye in beds for annuals and vegetables. If none was planted, top-dress with compost or rotted manure.
- Remove mulch from spring flowering bulb beds.
- Container grown or balled and bur lapped trees and shrubs can be planted at any time during the growing season.
- Divide perennials and pot for the PCMG plant sale by the end of the month. This will provide roots time to get established.
- Prune and fertilize all bush fruits and grapes. Fertilize fruit trees as soon as possible after ground thaws but before blossoming.
- Plant rhubarb and asparagus as soon as ground can be worked.



Articles for the newsletter should be submitted by the 10th of the month for publication that month. Submit to: Marian Helm: azmhelm@yahoo.com or 715-347-5265. Please send any address changes to: Bonnie Maier: bonnie.maier@ces.uwex.edu or 715-346-1316