



Glacial Gardeners Grapevine

Volume 23, Issue 2

February 2018

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TO DO LIST:

- Say Proper Plant Pronunciations & Popcorn three times fast.
- Think about projects for next year—what we want to continue, what we want to discontinue
- Bring your dues
- Attend the meeting



Fleurette's Chat

NOTE FROM CHAIR February 2018

Here we are again, looking out the window. It's above freezing and the sun is shining, so that's good. The only thing standing in the perennial bed now are the grasses and the stalks of the Autumn Joy sedum as the deer have eaten up all the dried flowers. Often lately when I look out the window, there is either a deer or a turkey looking back, sometimes both. With the ferns gone and the leaves off the hazelnut bushes, I can see that we have a lot of future Christmas trees doing well in the woods beyond.

Too early to do much gardening yet, but as I go through closets and drawers in my annual winter cleaning, I find the occasional item that belongs in the garden shed and haul them out. I keep reminding myself that I need to take seed inventory and look seriously at the garden catalogs but that hasn't

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GGMGVA MEETING MINUTES

GLACIAL GARDENERS MINUTES

January 9, 2018

Ten members met at 1:00 p.m. in the Curry Room of the Natural Resources Center for a delicious POTLUCK dinner. This was the first afternoon meeting we've had and those members who were in attendance, liked the change very much.

Afterward, President Fleurette called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. with the following members in ATTENDANCE: Keri, Lois Ann, Sharon, Mary W, Jean, Nancy, Connie, Deb, Karen and Fleurette.

Connie moved, Sharon supported and motion carried to accept Secretary Karen's November MINUTES with one correction; RE: the election, Karen and Nancy "are willing" to remain as secretary and treasurer.

Jean moved, Mary W supported and motion carried to accept Treasurer Nancy's ACCOUNT BALANCES as presented.

Nancy advised she will RESERVE the Fairgrounds for our Spring Plant Sale on May 26, 2018, the Community Center Pavilion for our Fall Plant Sale on August 25, 2018, and the Community Center for our Wreath Workshop on Tuesday, November 13, 2018.

Those who are due "funny money" for bringing in their up-to-date VOLUNTEER HOURS are Lois Ann, Sharon, Mary W, Jean, Nancy, Connie and Fleurette.

UWEX: Members will receive MGV RECERTIFICATION CARDS when everyone has turned in their Criminal Background Check Forms.

WIMGA: \$15 dues are due. Deb attended the October Face to Face meeting and reported on sensory gardening, ergonomic garden tools, raised bed gardens and kids in the garden. The beautiful AAR was passed around for everyone to see the Glacial Gardener's page.

NEXT MEETING

Proper Plant Pronunciations & Popcorn

February 12 1:00pm

TUESDAY

(ALERT: Notice meeting time)



HOURS TO BE COUNTED—FOR JANUARY

2-1/2 Support hours for attending meeting + driving time

Support hours for time spent on getting food ready for the meeting.

STARTING SEEDS INDOORS

Starting Seeds Indoors

By Beth Berlin, University of Minnesota Extension

ST. CLOUD, Minn. (01/24/18) — Minnesota winters can seem long, especially at this point of the year, but for those gardeners who want to get their green thumbs to work, consider starting seeds indoors. Starting seeds indoors can be very successful with the proper preparation and follow-through. The key to growing good transplants is having the proper timing, light, temperature, and humidity.

Often the most common problem is inadequate lighting. Supplemental lighting is needed if you are starting seeds indoors. An inexpensive lighting option is to put together a set-up where a shop light with a 40-watt fluorescent can be adjusted to different heights above the flat or container of seeds. The light should be placed within two to four inches above the tallest seedlings. If the lighting is placed too high the plant may become “leggy” as it reaches for the light. Seedlings need to be placed under this direct light for 14-16 hours each day. Timers may be used with the lights to provide consistency and ease for the gardener.



It is critical from the very beginning to provide adequate water to the seeds or seedlings. The soil should be kept moist but not wet. The growing medium must be loose, well-aerated, well-drained, and sterile. Pre-mixed seed starting mixtures can be used or a soilless mixture consisting of equal parts of vermiculite, perlite, and peat moss can also be blended. The critical thing is the medium and containers must be sterile. To sterilize your containers use one-part bleach, nine-part water mixture to clean the trays, pots, or even recycled containers or cans.

“Damping-off” is a fungal disease that can damage seedlings. Signs of “damping-off” are wilting, or rotting of the stems. Using sterile growing medium and sterile containers may assist in preventing this disease, however if these symptoms are noticed in the seedlings, remove them immediately to prevent from spreading.

Once you’ve cleaned the containers fill the container full with moist sterile growing medium, and then compress it using your hand so that it is about one-half inch below the rim. Insert the seeds by either broadcast seeding or planting them in rows. Sift a thin layer of planting medium on the surface. Read the seed packet for specific instructions for some seeds have different requirements. Once you’ve planted the seeds, water them in carefully. Using a spray bottle will allow you to water with a fine mist without disrupting the growing medium or seeds.

Cover the containers using plastic domes or a sheet of polyethylene plastic. The containers will now need to be placed in a warm location with a constant temperature of 60-75° F. Heat is critical to the success of the seeds’ germination, placing it in a window sill is typically not a good idea because it tends to be inconsistent in temperature and can become too cool for germination. As soon as germination occurs and you see emerging plants, loosen the plastic cover and place the containers under bright lights. Begin fertilizing once the seedlings have several sets of true leaves using diluted fertilizer at quarter strength every week; water with plain water as required the rest of the week.

Timing is critical when starting seeds indoors; starting too early can lead to unhealthy, overgrown plants. Ideally, transplants are relatively small and stocky plants that have five to seven leaves. Best results are obtained by reading the seed packets for starting dates of both vegetables and flowering annuals. The time needed to grow a transplant is usually given on the seed packet in weeks from the

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MEETING MINUTES - cont'd

A 2018 COMMITTEE SIGN-UP SHEET was passed around for members to sign.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification - Lois Ann reported Florence Electricity and Rainmakers will install a sprinkler system in the Spring and an anonymous donor will pay for the system in the Gazebo Garden.

Scholarship - President Fleurette reported letters will be sent out by the February meeting with publicity to follow.

Sunshine - Jean reported an appreciation card was sent to Scott. A gift will be sent in memory of Paul J as soon as we find out where to send it. Jean continues to send out birthday cards.

OLD BUSINESS:

Keri will donate ten bags of seed starting mix to GG.

Nancy reported Gro-Max donated four bags of ferti-loam potting soil to GG.

FEBRUARY 13, we'll talk about proper plant pronunciations while enjoying popcorn. We need to come up with an idea for our MARCH meeting, possibly pruning techniques.

NEW BUSINESS:

Members who turned in their 2017 volunteer hour sheets received INCENTIVE GIFT CERTIFICATES.

Please report any address changes to Nancy so she can make an updated GG DIRECTORY.

Jean moved, Connie supported and motion carried that GG donate \$50 to each of the following LIBRARIES to be used for purchase of a garden-related magazine subscription or book: Niagara, Iron Mountain, Norway, Crystal Falls, Florence, and West Iron.

Annual OFFICER ELECTIONS followed. Jean nominated, Sharon supported Nancy for treasurer.

There being no other nominations, NANCY was voted GG treasurer.

Nancy nominated, Sharon supported Karen for secretary. There being no other nominations, KAREN was voted GG secretary.

Mary W nominated, Lois Ann supported Sharon for vice-president. There being no other nominations, SHARON was voted GG vice-president.

Sharon nominated, Jean supported Fleurette for president. There being no other nominations, FLEURETTE was voted GG president.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Keri announced there will be a seed starting class at the SPREAD EAGLE GARDEN CENTER soon. Keri also reported so many people signed up for her wreath making workshop, she had to run two workshops. Besides wreaths, her students made kissing balls, hanging baskets and floor-standing pots.

Jean moved, Sharon supported and motion carried to ADJOURN at 3:40 p.m.

CHAT - cont'd

happened yet. And I need to make up my seed planting chart so I don't forget when to start what and cruise right past the best time to get something going. Not that I've ever done that...☐

I have been looking for a video for our February meeting to help us to learn to say the scientific names of plants. It has been interesting and I have found a lot of information. There is only one really useful pronunciation guide but it doesn't give the common name of the plant on the viewing list, just the scientific one, so if you can all think of some names you want to learn, it might make it a little more user-friendly for us. Because I can now say *Acalypha wilkesiana* but have no idea what the heck it is! We can go through the whole thing, but it's quite long. I will keep searching for a better one, just in case.

Also, at the February meeting we should discuss our years' plans so we have some idea where we are going. We had a really good turnout for the 1 p.m. meeting in January so don't forget the time change.

Hope to see you all then!

PUZZLES

Gardening Tools Word Search

D O N O T P R T A H N U S U N
 R E Y A R P S K N A T E E G V
 E S P O L E P R U N E R R L W
 G R R W K E L E N D S I N O A
 T A H A E S S E P T R M L V S
 I E R T N G R P V R O R A E G
 W H E E L B A R R O W U W S N
 N S E R E V E T R W H E N R I
 G G R I E E H B I E N S M S N
 S N D N U R S I N L G T O R U
 H I E G D L E A F B L O W E R
 O N R C M A G N T W I E E P P
 N U T A E R D R E D A E R P S
 M R O N K N E E S T O O L O N
 T P H E S O H N E D R A G L S

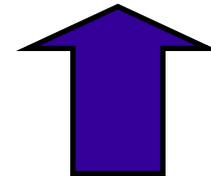
BROOM
 GARDEN HOSE
 GLOVES
 HAND TROWEL
 HEDGE SHEARS
 KNEE STOOL
 LAWNMOWER
 LEAF BLOWER
 LOPPERS
 POLE PRUNER

PRUNING SAW
 PRUNING SHEARS
 RAKE
 SHOVEL
 SPREADER
 SUNHAT
 TANK SPRAYER
 TILLER
 WATERING CAN
 WHEELBARROW



Nancy recently was looking in her e-mail spam and found the newsletter, The Vibe, from Mike there. She wonders now how many she missed. Since those are sent out in bulk sometimes your e-mail server interprets that as spam. Not only is there a lot of useful information in the letters, they have links to lots of great educational (for hours) material. Here is the link for the last newsletter:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PYeYDUxQ4B3UHo89Jrz2EVmhCHPva_m4wiAiwETDmeXc/edit#. Make sure that you have SUSAN RICE MAHR and Mike Maddox as allowed names for e-mail. Usually Susan sends The Vibe, but she was away so Mike did this last one.



GARDENING

Just another day at the plant....

SLOW COOKER BEEF TIPS

1/2 pound sliced baby portobello mushrooms
 1 small onion, halved and sliced
 1 beef top sirloin steak (1 pound), cubed
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 2 teaspoons olive oil
 1/3 cup dry red wine or beef broth
 2 cups beef broth
 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
 2 tablespoons cornstarch
 1/4 cup cold water
 Hot cooked mashed potatoes

Place mushrooms and onion in a 3-qt. slow cooker. Sprinkle beef with salt and pepper. In a large skillet, heat 1 teaspoon oil over medium-high heat; brown meat in batches, adding additional oil as needed. Transfer meat to slow cooker.

Add wine to skillet, stirring to loosen browned bits from pan. Stir in broth and Worcestershire sauce; pour over meat. Cook, covered, on low 6-8 hours or until meat is tender.

In a small bowl, mix cornstarch and cold water until smooth; gradually stir into slow cooker. Cook, covered, on high 15-30 minutes or until gravy is thickened. Serve with mashed potatoes. Yield: 4 servings.

TIP: Stir a little heavy cream or sour cream into leftover sauce and serve over pasta.

**RECIPES****VEGGIE CHOPPED SALAD**

3 cups finely chopped fresh broccoli
 3 cups finely chopped cauliflower
 3 cups finely chopped celery
 2 cups frozen peas (about 8 ounces), thawed
 6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
 1-1/3 cups mayonnaise
 1/4 cup sugar
 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
 1 tablespoon cider vinegar
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 3/4 cup salted peanuts

In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, sugar, cheese, vinegar and salt until blended. Add to salad and toss to coat. Just before serving, stir in peanuts. Refrigerate leftovers. Yield: 12 servings (3/4 cup each).

TIP: This salad is easily customizable. Add some shaved Brussels sprouts, or swap sunflower seeds for the peanuts. Try adding raisins or dried cranberries.

Recipes from Taste of Home



date to plant them outdoors. Plants such as impatiens, geraniums, wax begonias, and pansies need to be started in February. Seeds to start in March include broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, petunias, snapdragons, and ageratum, as well as starting peppers in mid-March. Tomatoes can be started in

the first week of April along with amaranthus, bachelor buttons, and morning glory. Mid-April is the time to start cosmos, sweet peas, and zinnias. The seedlings also need a period of time in early to mid-May to "harden off." Hardening-off is the process where the transplants should be moved outdoors each day at increasing increments. This allows them to adjust to the outdoors' fluctuating sun, wind, and temperatures. If transplants are moved directly outdoors without the transition period they may undergo stress, sun-scorch, and not survive.

Starting seeds indoors can be an inexpensive way to get a wide variety of plants in your gardens. Visit the University of Minnesota Extension website at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu> and search "Starting Seeds Indoors" for more information



PHOTO: Photo credit: Scott Streble; Copyright: University of Minnesota Extension

PICTURE CORNER



DE-BUG 120 SQ/FT A WEEK!



CONVERT 10 LBS OF FOOD "WASTE" INTO EGGS!



FERTILIZE A 50 SQ/FT GARDEN IN A MONTH!

ONE CHICKEN



BREAK THE LIFE CYCLE OF PESTS AND DISEASE OF ONE FRUIT TREE WITHIN AN HOUR!



LEVEL A PILE OF LEAF MULCH IN 2 DAYS!



TILL 50 SQ/FT OF SOIL IN 4-6 WEEKS!

CAN...



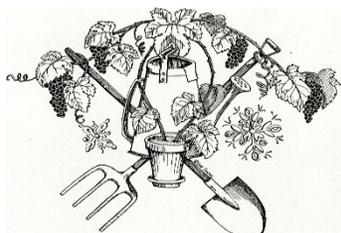
PRODUCE ENOUGH MANURE IN A MONTH TO MAKE 1 CUBIC YARD OF COMPOST FROM LEAVES!



HELP DO A QUARTER OF THE WORK TURNING A COMPOST PILE!

BY JUSTIN RHODES

ABUNDANTPERMACULTURE.COM



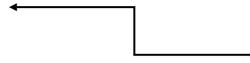
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Master Gardener
Volunteer Association

University of Wisconsin
Cooperative Extension Office
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Florence, WI 54121



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEBRUARY

- 3 Chili Ski-In Florence Lauterman Trail Shelter. 10am-2pm
Cross Country ski into the shelter for a great bowl of chili
- 9th-11th WI Public Television Garden Expo—over 400 vendors; 150 seminars
One-day ticket \$8 in advance/\$10 at the door;
Two-day ticket \$13 in advance/\$15 at the door;
Three-day ticket \$16 in advance/\$18 at the door; additional cost for workshop.
Contact: Kristin Korevec, WPT Special Events Manager
Phone: 608-262-5256 Email: gardenex-
po@wpt.org
<https://wimastergardener.org/events/wisconsin-public-televisions-garden-expo/>
- 10th Winter Farmer's & Artisan's Market
9am-12pm
217 Hughitt St in Iron Mountain
- 12 Glacial Gardener's MGV meeting 6pm.
Florence Resource Center, lower level.



