

**November 2017****2017 Officers:**

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DATE	EVENT
NOV 23	HAPPY THANKSGIVING—OFFICES CLOSED
NOV 24	OFFICES CLOSED
NOV 28	LGCC COMMITTEE MEETING—5PM
NOV 28	POTLUCK & MEMBER ACTIVITY, 6PM ADMINISTRATION BLDG. MTG. ROOM 113/114
DEC	NO MEETING
JAN 23	MGV MEETING—6:00PM, ADMINISTRATION BLDG. MTG. ROOM 115

President's Message

The apples were pressed and the apple juice made at our October Meeting! To start we had to find apples to use, which was a bit more challenging than we anticipated. We collected a mixture of apples, from different places and from different people. It was interesting that some of these apples, that had grown basically in the wild, with no tending; were blemished but were perfect for our juice making. We had to ask around, and find who had apple trees in their yards and who uses them or lets them stay on the tree for the wild life? And, which trees produced apples this year?

The juice we made was delicious and was surprisingly sweet. Thank you to Bill and Jean Damm for hosting this event and to Becky Gutzman for making the cider donuts to compliment the juice.

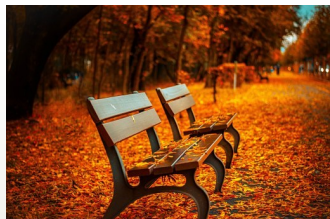
November is truly the end of the growing season. Most of the produce has been harvested from our vegetable gardens. Some food items, like potatoes, squash, onions and garlic can just be stored in a cool, dry space while others need to be processed. Later, often in the winter months, it is so satisfying and wonderful to pull vegetables or fruit out of the freezer or open a jar of food that was raised and preserved with our own hands.

I think that gardening is a three-part process. First you decide what you want to grow, get the seed and plant it. Second, these plants need to be watered, weeded and generally tended to. Finally, we have the harvest and consumption. Sometimes the final step is the hardest and most frustrating. We can get tired of picking those cherry tomatoes or that zucchini that grew into a giant size overnight.. Thank goodness for compost piles to take away some of that quilt. I listened to a speaker who encouraged keeping a gardening journal so we know how much we planted, how much we harvested and how much we were able to use. This is good advice but hard to do. I keep a journal for my flowers and have only thought about keeping a vegetable journal! The speaker recommended that we put the journal right in with the container of seeds so it goes right out to the garden with you.

In the fall, we have Thanksgiving to look forward to. I enjoy this holiday, to pause and appreciate all the good food we have to eat as well as the people we have to share this food with. On the theme of eating and sharing, we will be having a potluck for our November meeting. We will be meeting for the first time in the new County Building and George a will be giving us a tour of the facility!

Carol

Working With Youth in Service



Pauquette Park is the setting for weddings, band concerts and family reunions at the west entrance to the city of Portage. You can imagine that it takes a lot of work to maintain this garden space, and the Columbia County MGVs, as well as Kiwanis club members, with limited help from summer parks employees, struggle every year

to keep up with invasive weeds and overgrown plantings. They have been able to recruit help from the Portage High School Honor Society, Junior Kiwanians, and most recently, students required to perform community service. Students have learned to identify plants, how to dig and prune, and how to plant. Most importantly, youth are able to help beautify the crown jewel of Portage parks, and be part of a team effort.

Sharing Our Knowledge

Columbia County MGVs continue to seek out new ways and places to teach in our communities. Some members taught classes on specific topics such as pruning trees, container gardens, growing and using gourds, beginning gardening, and preserving garden produce at a variety of locations. Others teach in one-to-one settings at Arbor Day events, farmers' markets, garden shows, and booths at the Columbia and Lodi Fairs. A few members educate by writing articles for newspapers and newsletters. In direct teaching (not including written articles) we estimate we had 620 adult teaching contacts this year.

Fighting Food Insecurity by Growing Food



MGVs have participated in a community-wide effort to address hunger and food insecurity. One MGV serves on the oversight committee and brought this need to our group. The specific role chosen was to use the garden at the Portage Public Library to teach low-income families in the area how to grow food in small spaces. The library is one of the sites for the summer food program, which targets neighborhoods with 50% or more school-age children eligible for free/reduced price meals. Families helped plant the square foot beds in May, and then every Tuesday for 10 weeks all summer long, children attending the meal program received a lesson related to growing, harvesting or eating plants. Others from the UW-Extension office, including the nutrition educator and 4-H staff did lessons on other days, so whenever there was produce to harvest, someone was incorporating it into lessons. The youth looked forward to trying many types of smoothies, seeing what was growing, looking for pollinators and other insects, and even making crafts from plants, such as seed mosaics.

Let's Get Green and Growing

Over 200 gardeners learned about sustainable gardens, climate change, new plant threats, growing organically, and many more topics to improve their skills as gardeners. A keynote speaker on a topic of interest to everyone, plus a variety of vendors, and a book/magazine swap table are always popular. What people appreciate most is the chance to visit with other gardeners and exchange ideas, which came up as the top answer to the question "what motivates you to attend?" on the evaluation. They also like that the event is reasonably priced at \$10, and they have 27 breakout sessions to choose from. We are able to accomplish that because so many of our members teach topics that they are knowledgeable about. We provide a small mileage stipend to non-MGVs who speak, if requested, and an honorarium for the keynote speaker only. This event engages more MGVs and generates more volunteer hours than any other Columbia County project.



Community Gardens

Three community and school gardens benefit from MGV leadership in our county. From signing up gardeners to teaching mini-sessions right in the garden, and trouble-shooting problems, MGVs bring their knowledge and UW-Extension resources to gardeners.



Greening Communities

The second largest group of hours and MGV involvement in our county is related to making our communities more appealing through beautification projects. Through colorful planters on main streets, and eye-catching plantings at community "welcome" signs along the highway, MGVs hope to create a positive "first impression" for people driving to and through our villages and cities. In locations where passers-by have ability to see these gardens close-up, such as libraries, post office or museums, our group strives to do three things:



1. Use plantings that are sustainable and could be replicated at home.
2. Include signage that identifies the MG program and gives contact information.
3. Be educational by labeling plants, or providing a brochure about the garden.

Master Gardener's Meeting Agenda—November 28, 2017

6:00 PM Pot Luck Dinner, Meeting to follow

Call the Meeting to Order (Carol)

Secretary's Report (Kelly)

Treasurer's Report (Jane)

Introductions

Old Business

LGGG or "LG3" update (Ardyce and Becky)

Micro Greens in the Classroom (Becky)

Other MGV Project Reports (All)

Facebook Page

Background Checks Update (George)

New Business

Election of Officers in January

Suggestions for 2018 Programs

January Program—Groundwater – Room 115, Administration Building

Other

Room 115 Reserved for all MGV meetings in 2018

MGV Annual Accomplishment Report (Becky)

Hours reporting – Changes for 2018 (George)

Reporting – it's in the details!

Items that count, items that do not

Get ready for VMS – On-line Volunteer Management System

Level II opportunities – "Plants Plus"

Adjournment

Tour of Administration Building and UW-Extension Facilities (George)



MGV Meeting Minutes—10/25/17

Call the Meeting to Order (Carol) Called to order 6:55 pm as the apple pressing activities were completed and cleaned up. A huge "Thank you" to Bill & Jean Damm for hosting and coordinating the activity! Also, thank you to everyone for bringing apples.

Secretary's Report (Kelly) No additions or corrections.

Treasurer's Report (Jane) \$5052.70. \$95.00 of recorded income. \$160.00 deposit for LGGG event location. Dues currently being collected.

Introductions; each member, including the Pardeeville Garden Club guests introduced themselves, shared where they were born and where they currently live.

Old Business

LGGG: Date is set for Saturday, March 24. Plans are moving along; location secure. Next planning meeting: Wednesday, Nov 8, 4:30 pm at the Extension office. We will be honing in on the keynote speaker topics and lists of potential topics.

New Business

- Next Meeting: Nov 28, 6:00 PM, Pot Luck meal and business meeting at Admin Building. The evening will include a tour of the new facility!
- George reported on a proposal for MGV series of educational presentations at area libraries in support of our education piece of our mission. Keep in mind that the same presentation(s) can be re done at different libraries or even other master gardener organizations. The preparation time, travel time to the event and time presenting counts towards "Community Education". People who are present and listening can count that time toward "Continuing education hours".
- Jane Breuer is doing a flower arranging class at Wyocena Library, Monday, 11/6 for \$10.00. Contact her if you are interested in signing up!
- Lila pointed out that the scholarship information would be coming out next month. Please consider prospective candidates in mind.

Adjournment: 6:45 PM.

Being a Master Gardener Volunteer

Being a Master Gardener is about becoming a VOLUNTEER with the University of Wisconsin-Extension to help educate the public about gardening and natural resources. It's not about knowing everything about gardening. It's about learning to ask the right questions and knowing how to look up information from appropriate resources. Being a Master Gardener is about helping deliver meaningful community programs to improve the well-being of individuals and communities, to protect natural resources, and to help keep fresh fruits and vegetables on the table. It's about working in tandem with UW-Extension staff and other volunteers to make a difference in the places we live, learn, and work.

Master Gardener Volunteers assist their local university extension educators address identified community needs, such as:

- Increasing food security
- Creating safe greenspaces
- Beautification projects in downtowns and parks
- Garden therapy programs with seniors to maintain their physical and mental health
- School garden programs to promote science awareness in kids
- Display gardens to protect pollinators, combat invasives, and encourage gardening
- Answering gardening questions, using the internet in addition to the phone and face-to-face
- Facilitate gardening projects at schools, libraries, and other public community sites
- Use gardening to teach life skills to the incarcerated

And much more



Columbia County

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