



## March 2018

### 2018 Officers:

- Carol Ziehmke, President
- Jean Damm, V.P.
- Lori Nadolski, Secretary
- Linda Haddix, Treasurer
- Donna McElroy, Reporter

### In This Newsletter

CCMGV 2018 Activities	1
Bus Trip	2
MGV Meeting Agenda	2
President's Message	3-4
Continued Ed Hours	4
Horticulture Field Day	5
Meeting Minutes	6-7



## Columbia County MGV 2018 Activities

Date	Event
March 24	LGGG—Rio High School
March 27	CCMGV Meeting, MEEC, Poynette -5pm
Apr 25	MGV Meeting—6:30pm—Arlington
	ARS Program: Scott Chapman, "Weather Related Plant Diseases"



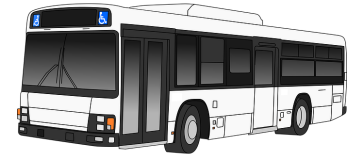
Think  
**SPRING**....



# June 26th

What: Bus Trip

Where: Book-worm Gardens in Sheboygan, tour and lunch at Horicon Marsh & Bloch's Nursery



## CCMGV March Agenda—March 27th - **5:00pm**

*Mackenzie Environmental Education Center, Badger Den,  
W7303 County Hwy CS, Poynette*

*\*Park along the stone wall near the office*

Brian Wahl, DNR Forester will give a short presentation before pruning - Bring your tools! (*Business Meeting to follow*)

- Call to Order
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Introductions
- Old Business
  - LGGG Update
  - Summer Field Trip/Bus Tour
  - New MGV Training
- New Business
- Adjourn



# President's Message

Spring is just around the corner! The maple trees are being tapped for maple syrup, the willow trees are turning yellow and plants are starting to come up out of the cold ground.

Rob, from Link's Greenhouse, gave the MGV interesting news at our February meeting/program about GMO's getting into the petunias that we have been buying for our gardens. Here is information I found on the internet about the subject. Two years ago, plant biologist Teemu Teeri, was walking by a train station in Helsinki when he noticed some vivid orange petunias in a planter. The flowers reminded Teeri of blooms created in a landmark gene-engineering experiment 30 years ago. He did not think those flowers were ever marketed but he was curious and stuck a stem in his backpack.



Teeri confirmed that the plants contained foreign DNA, and he tipped off regulators in Europe and the United States. This resulted in flower growers on two continents having to destroy vast numbers of petunias. Officials say the petunias pose no threat to human health or the environment, however, plant sellers were asked to destroy the flowers since it is illegal to sell them in the United States and Europe without a permit. One of our members has been impacted by this locally. Leah Stark, reported not having access to many varieties of petunias to add to planters she is working on at her job at Jung's Garden Center.

Proposed revisions to U.S. biotechnology rules now under discussion might have exempted the harmless petunias from regulation. But the petunia carnage highlights the growing complexity of regulating GE plants, which have a long history of showing up where they are not allowed and can be difficult to track.



Easter falls early this year. Greenhouses use a 23 week forcing schedule to produce Easter Lilies that can be bought in the next few weeks by Christians, for whom the flower has come to symbolize new life. On a recent trip to Link's

Greenhouse Rob was talking about the Easter Lilies for this year. Most of the Lily bulbs come from a small community, Smith River, at the very top of California, alongside the Pacific Ocean and North of the mountains.

*More.....*

Four family-owned farms produce 99 percent of the Easter Lily bulbs sold in North America—over 10 million Lilies each year. Due to the forest fires on the west coast the Easter Lily bulbs are smaller than usual this year. This makes for fewer leaves and flowers. Links brings the bulbs close to blooming and then keeps them cool, to hold them till a couple weeks before Easter.

We master gardeners have a busy month! Let's Get Green and Growing on March 24th in Rio and the Tree Trimming Seminar on March 27th, at the Mackenzie Environmental Center, just outside Poynette.



*Carol*

## Wisconsin Public TV – University Place Garden Related Shows

A list of Public TV shows with potential for Continued Educational hours for Master Gardeners.

I did a search of Wisconsin Public TV station 'Create' and University Place shows, and selected some with garden and ag themes. Set your timer!

1. Oak Ecosystem Ecology, Episode 1513, Saturday, March 3rd, 4:30 a.m.
2. Proper Tree Planting, Episode 1219, Thursday, March 6th, 9:00 p.m.
3. Therapeutic Gardening, Episode 1511, Thursday, March 15th, 9:00 p.m.

The list goes on,  
Linda Haddix

(Linda's List was much longer, but the programs were past by the time our newsletter comes out.) Do your own search. There is no "Already approved lists".

If you have questions about a particular episode or show, just ask George. Usually the program needs to be relevant to MGVS topics and be presented by University Extension partners or MGVS. Just any old garden show on TV does not count toward Continuing Education hours.

## West Madison Agricultural Research Station Open House - Horticulture Field Day

Saturday, August 18, 2018

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

8502 Mineral Point Road

Verona, WI 53593

608-262-2257

August 18, 2018

### Featuring

- Insects/Pests • Pollinators/Beneficials

P. J. Liesch, Director of Insect Diagnostic Lab, Department of Entomology.

Pollinator Researchers from the USDA Entomology Department.



- Plant Disease Identification

Brian Hudelson, Director of Diagnostic Services, Department of Plant Pathology. Extension Plant Disease Specialist.

- Table & Wine Grapes and Blueberries

Experts will be available to provide information for cold-hardy variety selection.



- Cut Flower Research

Hoophouse vs. Field Grown—plant health assessment of sunflowers and zinnias.

- Turfgrass Diagnostics

Bruce Schweiger, Superintendent, O. J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility.



- Organic Vegetable Systems and Fruit and Veggie Tasting

Extension experts from Department of Horticulture and Plant Pathology specializing in urban and peri-urban agriculture.

- Madison Area Master Gardeners Association

Members will be available to answer general questions.

Entry and Parking — Free.

<http://westmadison.ars.wisc.edu/university-display-gardens/>



Monthly Meeting Minutes—February 27, 2018

## Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

The Call to order -6:00 PM / ROOM 115 - Carol

Agenda Review -Carol

Secretary's Report - Approved

**Treasurer's Report** - Linda Haddix reported a Current Balance of \$7,341.55. A few checks were written and a few deposits were made since last meeting.

**Audit Team Findings** - Kelly Tompko and Linda Haddix did a thorough audit. Some things were off in the beginning, but they recalculated many times. In the end they made an executive decision to make a \$23.00 adjustment. They agreed to it, signed and dated it.

Introductions - share your name

Old Business

- **LGGG** - Becky Gutzman will be teaching composting. Compost bins are available on Amazon for \$19.99. Do we want to sell them? We discussed quality and price of product and motion was moved and passed to purchase 25 and sell them at \$25/ea. Purchaser was not determined. Use of Prime and/or tax exempt numbers were discussed. We need more room monitors at LGGG. Ardyce will email volunteer arrival times.

- **Summer Field Trip** - Linda, Becky, Carol and Lori are organizers. June 26th is date. Itinerary includes: Storybook Gardens in Sheboygan, Horicon Marsh w/ catered lunch, and Bloch's Farm on Hwy 23 near Green Lake.

- **Microfarms** - Becky reported. They are busy! Currently with the Kindergarteners in Pardeeville, and St. John's Lutheran in Pardeeville is next. One unit is at the Heritage House Assisted Living Facility in Portage.

- **MGV Shirts** - Becky requested that someone else take this project over and Leah offered to look into it.



- **Scholarships** – \$500 scholarships are available to H.S. seniors (Columbia County residents) planning on attending a 2 or 4 year program in horticulture related fields. Applications due March 15th.

**New Business**

- **Meeting Start Times** – Do we want to change the start times of our monthly meeting? Currently we begin at 6PM. 6:30 was discussed, but majority voiced a wish to keep it at 6:00 PM. No changes were motioned.
- **Groundwater Flow Model** – Jane Considine looked into the purchase of a Model. Do we want to order one? George explained the model uses and what it is. Should we borrow from Sauk County, first? A plan of action was suggested before purchasing. The correlation (or lack thereof) between groundwater and horticulture was brought to attention. The correlation (or lack thereof) between water and plants was brought to attention. The large cost of the purchase was brought to attention. The possibility of generating concern was brought to attention. No motion was made to purchase at this time.
- **2018 Budget** – Income and expenses were presented. We added the 25 compost bins. Carol & George explained the Window Shade Sign. Becky explained the MG foundation. George explained insurance. (Do we want it for field trips?) Passing the budget would mean approving the purchase of the window shade sign. Lila Waldman moved to pass the budget. Jean Damm 2nd the motion. Motion passed.
- **Spring Fling @ Ace Hardware** – Do we want to do this? They supply table, and all products. We agree to have someone @ table @ all times, and perform ongoing demonstrations. Lila, Becky, Carol and Leah all showed interest. Lila will contact Chris (manager) to confirm our agreement.
- **Ladies' Night @ Do It Best Center** – Ardyce reported. March 15th. Line starts at 3:00 PM. RSVP. Door prizes. Full house!

**Meeting Adjournment** – Ardyce P. moved to adjourn. Paul 2nd.

**Program** – Link's Greenhouse- "What's new with GH plants?" was presented by Robby.

