

President's Message

Hello Friends!

Welcome to the Month of slop! The month of snow, sleet, rain, ice, more snow, more ice, freezing, thawing, and now mud and floods. March is my least favorite month, but as the daylight gets longer, the sun warmer, and temperatures on the rise, the calendar does in fact say that Spring will come!

Regardless the weather, the birds seem to be happy. I have a Mrs. Cardinal that likes to fly into our windows multiple times a day every day for the last few years. We have tried everything to help her to stop, but nothing has worked. If you bird lovers know why she does this or know of a solution, please let me know! Her male companion is always close by and a few times I have seen him "kiss" her and I can't help but think he's saying 'Honey, are you ok?!' Or maybe he is sharing a snack with her? Either way, all birds have been fun to watch this winter. The robins have returned too. About 15 of them were in my backyard today.

Do we all have our gardens planned out for this growing season? I'll be the first to admit that I do not. To be honest, I haven't given mine much thought. Mostly because there is so much work that needs to be done that wasn't taken care of last year. The quack grass has crept through my strawberries and my raspberries have crept through their boundaries and into my vegetable garden. If you would like any raspberries, come help yourself! But With all the hard work that goes in, we reap in sweet rewards.

The Let's Get Green and Growing planning committee has been working hard since last year to create another fabulous garden seminar coming up on March 30. Please mark your calendars and don't forget to sign up to volunteer. Many opportunities are available and it's also a good way to get in some volunteer hours. Hope to see you there!

The Micro Farm and volunteers have also been working hard visiting schools around the county. I happened to see the one at Pardeeville



Master Gardener News



2019 Officers:

- Leah Stark, President
- Deb Buechner, V.P.
- Lori Nadolski, Secretary
- Linda Haddix, Treasurer
- Donna McElroy, Reporter

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Columbia County MGV 2019 Activities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Mar 26	MGV Meeting
Mar 27	"Top Ten Tree & Shrub Diseases", Brian Hudelson, Mauston
Mar 30	LGGG—Rio High School, 8:45am
Apr 4	Ladies Night Out - Portage Do-It Center, 6:30-8:30pm
Apr 6	Spring Fling, Portage Ace Hardware 11am - 2pm
Apr 23	MGV Meeting



Elementary last month during conferences and all those salad greens looked delicious! I know the kiddos really enjoy having it in their classrooms too! If you are interested in working on this project look for the sign up to come through via e-mail.

Other MGVs are working on a few upcoming events...Ladies Night at the Portage Do It Center on Thurs. April 4th from 6:30-8:30pm and the Spring Fling at Ace Hardware in Portage on Sat. April 6th from 11a-2p. A few hands on/make-and-take projects will be available for those who come. Please join us if you are available.



Another project that I hope will be available to us as MGVs, is the Food-Wise Project. If the grant is approved, a 6 raised bed garden will be constructed at Lincoln Park in Portage. The beds will serve as a hands-on learning (with the help of our MGVs) for the areas low income families that live within the neighborhood of the park. The goal is to provide fresh produce to those families

and then what hasn't been harvested is then donated to the weekly Food Pantry that is also located within the park. Stay tuned for more information...

Lastly, if YOU have any projects that you would like recognized, if you need more volunteers to help out, or if you have project ideas and or programs for our monthly meetings, please let any one of the officer team know. We'd love to hear from you!

Thinking of warmer days,

Leah Stark



How to Care for Potted Shamrocks

Written by M.H. Dyer; Updated December 17, 2018 Oregon Sate University Master Gardener



You're lucky indeed if you have a shamrock plant (Oxalis spp.) because this little plant will reward you with an abundance of colorful and long-lasting, clover-shaped leaves. With a little tender loving care, shamrock, also known as wood sorrel or good luck plant depending on the variety, produces dainty blooms all winter. Although this tender perennial

is often grown indoors, it is suitable for outdoor growing in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 6 through 10.

Shamrock reaches a height of about 10 inches at maturity. Place shamrock in full sunlight, but protect it from extreme temperatures and hot sunlight. For example, a sunny, south-facing window is perfect for winter but may be too hot during the summer. Move the plant 3 or 4 feet from the window or cover the window with a sheer curtain. Otherwise, place the plant in a window that isn't exposed to the sun during the hottest part of the day.

Place shamrock in a room with daytime temperatures of 75 degrees Fahrenheit or less and nighttime temperatures 10 to 15 degrees cooler. Be sure the temperature doesn't drop below 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Water shamrock whenever the top of the soil feels slightly dry. Add water slowly until it begins to trickle through the drainage hole, then let the pot drain thoroughly. Never let the soil remain soggy or waterlogged.

Fertilize shamrock lightly once every month while the plant is actively growing, then withhold fertilizer when the plant enters dormancy. Use a regular house plant fertilizer with a balanced ratio such as 15-15-15. Mix the fertilizer at a rate of 1/4 teaspoon per gallon of water.

Stop watering and fertilizing if the leaves begin to die back during the summer months; shamrock benefits from a period of dormancy. Put the plant in a cool, dark place for two to three months, or until new growth emerges. Return the plant to full sunlight and resume normal care. Pinch off flowers as soon as they start to wilt. Removing the spent flowers stimulates the plant to produce more blooms.



The Report: *Clivia*

As I was watering my plants after yet another weekend of sleet/snow/rain/and ice, I was thrilled to see the clivia plant that I had gotten at one of our MGV plant sales was in bloom, greeting me with a cheery, bright orange blossom head for the very first time since I've had it. A native of South Africa, it seemed to bring some of its homeland's warmth to my winter weary world.



What's a clivia? It is a member of the Amaryllid family and according to the Clivia Society, there are six described species of the genus, mine being a *Clivia miniata*. Like the amaryllis, the *C. miniata* has strap-like green leaves and sends up a similar flower stalk. Though the trumpet-type blossoms are smaller than those of the amaryllis, there are more, having 12 - 20 flowers in a cluster at the top of the stalk. Other clivia species have pendulant blossoms in a tubular shape. Clivia blossoms are commonly orange colored, though there are also yellow, red, peach, pink and nearly white one.

After the clivia blooms, it forms smooth, cherry-sized fruits called berries that turn from green to red, taking nearly a year to ripen. If fertilized, seeds form inside the fruit that need to be planted soon after ripening. The plant also produces off-shoots that can be separated and potted in a well-drained organic mix when they have grown 3 or 4 leaves. A slow growing plant, it takes 3-4 years for an off-shoot to mature or 3-5 years for plants grown from seeds, and it needs at least 12 mature leaves before it's ready to flower. Although you don't allow the plant

to die completely back like the amaryllis, it needs a resting period in the fall/early winter for a couple of months, with at least one month being below 50 degrees but no lower than the upper thirties. Do not fertilize while resting and water sparingly, only enough to keep the leaves from wilting. After the resting period, return the plant to room temperature. When the flower stalk starts to grow in about 6 to 8 weeks, give it more water, allowing the soil to dry to the touch between watering. Do not saturate the soil as wet conditions will cause root rot. The flower stalk should be cut off after flowering unless you want to grow seeds.

In the wild, clivia grow in deep to partial shade, so put your plant in bright, diffuse lighting in the house, avoiding direct sunlight. Clivias can be moved to a shady spot outside in the summer, moving them back in before freezing temperatures as they are a zone 9 or 10 plant.

Donna McElroy, Reporter

TOP TEN TREE & SHRUB DISEASES



WHEN
Wednesday, March 27th, 2019
10 am – 12 pm

WHERE
Hatch Public Library
111 W. State St, Mauston, WI 53948

You are invited to attend an informative talk on tree and shrub diseases with UW-Madison specialist Brian Hudelson. Here is your chance to learn how to handle or prepare for potential diseases that may affect your trees and shrubs this year. Along with answering any other questions you may have on tree and shrub diseases.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin - Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX and ADA requirements.

**PUBLIC
EVENT**



SPEAKER
Brian Hudelson
Director of
Diagnostic Services,
UW-Madison Plant
Disease Diagnostics

**QUESTIONS
CONTACT:**

UW - Madison
Division of
Extension
Juneau County
220 E State St,
Rm #104
Mauston, WI
53948
608-847-9329



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers
Meeting Agenda - March 26, 2019



Call the Meeting to Order
(Leah)

Secretary's Report (Lori)

Treasurer's Report (Linda)

Introductions

Old Business

LGGG - Are we ready?

Microgreens in the Classroom

New Hours Recording System

Ladies Night Out - April 4th

Spring Fling - April 6th

New Business

Columbia County Fair Committee

4H Container Gardeners @ Links Greenhouse

Lincoln Park Gardens

Other

Next Meeting : April 23, HHS #2 & 3

Adjournment

Program: "WIMGA & MGV Program - Who's Responsible for
What?" - Becky Gutzman and George Koepp



Master Gardener News
112 E. Edgewater Street
Room 212
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-9680
Fax: 608-742-9862
711 for Wisconsin Relay