

# 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

Date	Event
May 15	4H Container Gardening @ Links Greenhouse
May 21	MGV Meeting, John Muir Park, 5:00pm Tour and Walk-around, 6:00pm Meeting
June ??	MGV Tour
July 23-28	Columbia County Fair



# President's Message

Hello again Friends!

Where is the Spring we were promised? And the warmer weather? And the spring flowers? And the sunshine? Or is it that I'm being too impatient?!

As I sit here tonight, it is raining, and windy, and downright cold. And soon the millions of mosquitoes will be hatching from the marsh behind our home. Living in Portage, it is almost guaranteed that every year the mosquitoes will be bad. The marsh is also home to many spring peepers and a common ground for the birds, cranes, and of course the city deer. Those deer like to believe that my yard is an All-You-Can-Eat midnight buffet and my daylilies are the specialty of the night. Most of my plants that are showing life have been sampled on a few times already. Even though most of my plants are supposed to be resistant, all it takes is one midnight rendezvous and there goes my Asiatic Lilies too.

While planning my gardens I do have to take those deer into consideration. My vegetable garden must be fenced or I wouldn't have a harvest! I like to plant a lot of annuals, and although they say resistant, we all know there is no such thing. My go to favorites are Alyssum, Zinnias, Morning Glory, Thunbergia, Marigolds, Salvias and Snapdragons. My go to favorite perennials are Russian Sage, (most) Coneflowers, Asclepias, Lady's Mantle, and Silvermound. Right now I'm on the hunt for a shrub that will tolerate partial sun/mostly shade, the brutal winter winds from the west, and of course...deer resistant. (Good Luck, right!)

At our last MG meeting George gave a presentation on bees. I was unaware of the many different types of bees that are out there! This year I am planning on preparing one of my flower beds for a pollinator garden. I will try to do my part in giving them a food source as long as it doesn't involve me being stung! Have you ever tried to pet a Bumble Bee that is pollen drunk? You should, they are quite soft and fuzzy!

I hope you all can join us on May 21<sup>st</sup> for our next MG meeting. We are planning on a guided tour at John Muir Park, with snacks/low-key pot luck to follow. Should be a fun evening!

Wishing You Happy Days in the Garden,

Leah Stark  
Leahlynn3@yahoo.com



# The Report - Orchid Cactus

I don't seem to have much luck growing Orchids, but have had some success with an Orchid Cactus that came to me from a friend. The Orchid Cactus (Epiphyllum) is native to Central and South America. It has long, flat leaves (with just a few fine pricklers to find their way into your finger if you're not careful!), and has large eye-catching flowers. White and yellow specimens flower in April, pink and reds in May, and deep reds and purples in June and July. Mine is red and blooming now. I measured one blossom for size and it was 4.5".

In order for them to bloom, they need a period of cool nighttime temperatures ranging from 40 to mid 50 degrees. They will die if exposed to temperatures 32 degrees or below. It helps for them to be root bound to blossom. They like a few hours of full morning sun but not full afternoon sun. Lights shouldn't be turned on in the evening or flowering will be affected. Do not water the plant starting in November or early December. When the buds form in the notches of the leaves, resume watering as usual, allowing the top third of the soil to dry out before watering. According to the following article from Oregon State University Extension, "Overwatering is the greatest danger in raising these cacti." For more information on propagating and caring for the Orchid Cactus, see the following link:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/flowers-shrubs-trees/orchid-cactus-epiphyllums>

Donna McElroy, Reporter



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# Garlic Mustard:

## Biocontrol Testing in Ontario



Garlic mustard is such a serious invader of forests that international non-profit CABI has been working with partners in the U.S. and Canada on possible biocontrol solutions since 1998. Two insect species that attack differing parts of the plant

have been undergoing extensive testing to ensure they will only attack garlic mustard. The most damaging insect, the root-mining weevil *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* (photo above) received a release permit in Canada in June 2018. It has been recommended for release in the U.S. by the USDA-APHIS Technical Advisory Group (TAG), but is awaiting further regulatory approvals in the U.S.

The first releases of *C. scrobicollis* (and the first-ever biocontrol agent against garlic mustard in North America) took place in Ontario in mid-August and October 2018. Research scientist Dr. Rob Bouchier, of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), is conducting the trial in collaboration with researchers at the University of Minnesota, who are leading the petitioning for a release permit for the U.S. His next steps are determining how the released weevils fared this winter and monitoring for population establishment and impact on the target weed. Dr. Bouchier offered to give us an update this fall when the first-year findings are available, so stay tuned to find out if *C. scrobicollis* establishes and shows potential for management of garlic mustard.



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Inviting all Master Gardener Volunteers to join the weekly video conference, Wisconsin Horticulture Update. By joining, you will receive 1 hour of continuing education.

Master Gardener Volunteers will participate by being "audience" members only, by keeping your mics muted. There will be an orientation on how to use the tech at the very beginning of the meeting. If MGV's have questions for a specialist or a speaker, please use the chat box. Please log in a few minutes before the start time. You will be given a short orientation and set of instructions prior to "going live". MGV's will not typically be expected to participate in the County Round UP, as educators will take the lead in this agenda item.

Each week the general agenda is as follows:

- **County Round Up** (County Extension Educators report what they're seeing locally & report the questions they're getting)
- **Plant Disease Update** (Brian)
- **Insect Update** (PJ)
- **Specialist / County Faculty Presentation** (Various)

\*Go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) to sign up for a free account prior to the Friday morning meeting time.

## Zoom connection and call in information

~~~~~  
**2019 Wisconsin Horticulture Update:** Weekly Zoom meeting and professional development opportunity in support of all county educators who field plant disease, insect and plant identification questions.

Most Fridays from 9:30 am to 10:30 am - **From May 3 to September 27**  
**\*\*\*No meetings on May 24, July 5, August 30\*\*\***

Meetings will be recorded and made available to county offices.

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://uwextension.zoom.us/j/594689234>

Dial: +1-646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 594-689-234

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,594689234# US

Leah Stark called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Meeting was hosted at HHS #2 & 3

Secretary's Minutes: Were viewed motion made to approve.

Treasurer's Report: LGGG reported an income of \$2,344.00.

Introductions: In attendance were: Kate Rietmann, Ardyce Piehl, Robin Abbott, Marcie Read, Sue Bradley, Bill Damm, Jean Damm, (?), (?), Lila Waldman, Marie Rohrbecker, Deb Buechner, Donna McElroy, Linda Haddix, Leah Stark and George Koepf.

## Old Business

### LGGG

Was discussed

### Microgardens

The microgarden at John Muir elementary school in Portage will be harvested with students this Friday, April 26th at 8:15 AM, with Lila Waldman, Lori Nadolski, Robin Abbott, Sue Bradley, and Phyllis Peterson.

### Ladies Night Out

Was discussed

### Spring Fling

Was discussed



### Tomatopalooza

Save the Date- Saturday, August 17th. 11:00 – 2:00 PM. Edgewater Home & Garden will host the first annual "Tomatopalooza" Tomato & Pepper Tasting Festival. Sample over 50 varieties of tomatoes and peppers, mild to spicy. Vote for your favorites. Salsa judging contest. Live music. Free food: quesadillas, roasted peppers, caprese. We need MGV's who are willing to grow free tomato and pepper plants from Edgewater. To sign up, please contact Lori Nadolski or Carol Ziehmke. At the event, we need MGV's who want to volunteer to stand by the tomato and pepper tasting to answer questions. If you want to run a table/booth to teach a gardening topic, or do a demonstration (food preservation, planting tomato seeds, etc.) feel free! Contact Lori or Carol. If you want to join this committee and help see this event happen, contact Carol or Lori



## New Business

### **Columbia County Fair Display Booth Committee**

This exciting committee will be meeting soon. This year's fair theme will be "Celebrate Wisconsin." If you are interested in joining this committee, please contact Leah Stark, Becky Gutzman, Ardyce Piehl, or Robin Abbott.

### **4H Container Gardeners @ Links Greenhouse – May 15th 5:30**

Our annual event of helping youth and their parents (from 4-H) learn how to plant a beautifully arranged container, will happen on May 15th at 5:30. If you wish to help with this educational activity, please consider arriving at Link's before 5:30. Each year, we anticipate between 15 -20 kids to participate. Our MG volunteers who are leading this activity will help remind Bill beforehand, as this is a busy time of year for our greenhouses.

### **4H/MGV Planting Around Fair Buildings**

The CCMGV's have been asked if we would like to participate in a beautification project for a few of the pole sheds and barns at the County Fairgrounds. We are not certain of the exact names of each building, but there are three locations. Edgewater Home & Garden has agreed to donate \$100 for plants, and the Department of Parks & Recreation will provide the soil. Anyone interested in volunteering for this endeavor, please contact Leah Stark.

### **"How to Display Vegetables and Flowers at the Fair"**

The CCMGV have a wonderful opportunity to volunteer to educate youth for one evening, in cooperation with Cal (?) and our area 4-H. There has been a request for a teaching session for kids on how to properly display vegetables and flowers when competing in the contest at the Columbia County Fair. If this sounds like you and you want to sign up to volunteer for this event, please contact Leah Stark or another Officer of the CCMGV.

### **June MGV Tour**

A committee will need to be formed to plan and implement this year's summer field trip. Last year, we visited Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan, the Horicon Marsh, and Bloch's Greenhouse in Green Lake. Some ideas for this year include the Allen Centennial Gardens in Madison, the Paine Art Center in Oshkosh, the Rotary Gardens in Janesville, or a revisit to previous year's locations. Options are wide open. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Leah Stark or another Officer of CCMGV.

### **Update Calendar of Events**

The program portion of our monthly meetings has a few open spots. These are wonderful opportunities for you to share topics of interest that you would like to see on our programming calendar. We could invite any one of our presenters/teachers from LGGG 2019. Cal (?)

### **Update Community Projects**

George Koepp handed out a packet of information explaining what categories we will be reporting on when the electronic reporting begins. Someday we will transfer our paper records to this new system, so keep good records up until then. Be sure when contacting George to use his new email address: George.keopp@wisc.edu

### **Update Member Contact Information**

We passed around the 2018 CCMGV Directory and asked those in attendance to read their information and make any necessary changes.

### **Other**

Next Meeting: May 28th, HHS #2 & 3

### **Adjournment**

Sue Bradley motioned to adjourn, Kate Rietmann 2nd it. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Program: "Pollinator Decline" - George Koepp in place of Phyllis Both

With Respect,  
Lori Nadolski, Secretary

## **ORS – Online Reporting System Update**

We are making progress with the On-Line Reporting System at the local level. Becky and I have begun entering projects into the data base and completing all the details on each project. We are doing our best to group activities and tasks so that it makes sense and is easy for you to report, and yet still captures the diversity of projects that members of the Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers work on.

All of our activities and projects should fall into one of these four themes:

- ⇒ **Food Safety, Security, Health**
- ⇒ **Resilient and Productive Environments**
- ⇒ **Stronger Economics**
- ⇒ **Thriving Youth, Families, and Communities**



I will keep you updated on when to begin putting your hours into the system. For now Becky and I will work to get everything entered from our end of the system as best as we can. Our hope is to be able to go live with this sometime in July. We know and expect that we will need to make additions and changes. Please bear with us as we all learn this new way of recording your volunteer and continuing education hours. In the meantime, please keep recording your hours on a calendar or the form that we have been using for the last several years.

George

# MGV Scholarships

The Columbia County Master Gardeners Association is pleased to announce that two Portage High School seniors have been selected to receive \$500 scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic year. Karalynn Cutsforth, daughter of Randy and Tammy Cutsforth, plans to major in Environmental Science at Northern Illinois University.

Emily McReath, daughter of Brandie McReath and Troy McReath, plans to major in either Agribusiness or Animal Science at Fox Valley Technical College. The Columbia County Master Gardeners Association scholarship is available to high school seniors or others planning to attend a two- or four-year post-secondary institution on a full-time basis or current college students attending full time. The scholarship recipient must be a resident of Columbia County or a graduate or soon-to-be graduate of a Columbia County high school who is majoring in horticulture, plant sciences, forestry, landscape architecture and design, or a closely-related field. Preference is given to individuals with experience (paid or volunteer) in the field of horticulture.



Emily McReath, Lila Waldman



Karalynn Cutsforth, Lila Waldman

# "Recipes from the Garden"

## SAUTEED RED CABBAGE WITH ONIONS AND SMOKED SAUSAGE

Start to finish: 40 minutes Serves 6 Once Skillet Meal

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 lb. cooked kielbasa halved lengthwise and bias-sliced in 1 ½ inch pieces
- 1 large red onion chopped (about 2 cups)
- 2 tsp sugar
- ½ head red cabbage halved and sliced in 1-inch slices
- 1 tsp caraway seeds
- 1 lb. Swiss chard, trimmed and sliced crosswise in 1 inch pieces
- ¼ tsp salt

1. In 12inch skillet heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over med heat. Cook Kielbasa pieces 5 minutes, turning to brown evenly. Remove from skillet and keep warm.
2. Add onion and sugar to skillet. Cook and stir over med heat 5 minutes until onion is tender and caramelized. Remove mixture from skillet, set aside, and keep warm.
3. In same skillet add remaining 1 T olive oil, cabbage and caraway seeds. Cook and stir 6 to 8 minutes until cabbage is wilted. Stir in the chard. Cook and stir another 2-3 minutes until chard is lightly wilted.
4. Stir in onion mixture and salt in cabbage. Add back sausage pieces. Cover briefly to warm.
5. Serve. Keep left overs, reheats well.

Better Homes and Gardens October 2008/Jean Damm

## BLUE-STRAW-RHUBARB JAM - from the kitchen of: Phyllis Peterson

- 7 cups Rhubarb chopped
- 4 cups Sugar
- 1 can Blueberry Pie Filling
- 1 6oz. Pkg Strawberry Jello

Combine and let stand for 20 minutes. Put in pan, bring to a boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Add 1 can blueberry pie filling and return to a boil. Remove from heat and add 1 6oz. Package of strawberry jello and stir until dissolved. Put in jars or plastic containers for freezing. Let stand 24 hours before freezing. Makes 4 pints. Refrigerate after thawing out.

## Beekeeping evening program being hosted in Westfield

*A beekeeping overview learning event for pollinator enthusiasts.*

Westfield, Wisconsin

### For immediate release

Contact: Lyssa Seefeldt, Agriculture Agent for UW-Extension in Marquette County, [lyssa.seefeldt@wisc.edu](mailto:lyssa.seefeldt@wisc.edu)

In the United States there are over 2.63 million honey bee colonies. Honey bees produce or collect many valuable products, including honey, beeswax, and pollen. Beyond the products they collect or produce, bees are a great pollinator of many of our garden plants or farm crops.



**Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) can be great pollinators in the garden and farm field. Photo by Charles J. Sharp, accessed via Wikimedia Commons.**

Join us for a FREE evening of learning about beekeeping on May 22. Registration starts at 5:30 pm and the program will start at 6 pm. The meeting will be hosted at the Westfield Community Center located at 129 East Third Street, Westfield.



**Beekeepers assessing a "dead out" hive that perished**

tools of the trade in person. The East Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association is focused on local awareness, education, and networking about honey bees and beekeeping.\*

We will kick off the evening with Patti and Mark Ingram, members of the East Central Wisconsin Beekeepers Association, who will be giving a general overview of the honey bee and beekeeping. The East Central Wisconsin Beekeepers will be bringing some example beekeeping equipment so you can see some of the *continued.....*

Following this general overview of beekeeping, Marty Havlovic, emeritus Community Resource Development Educator will present on the Nicaragua Bee Project, a local initiative to support families in Nicaragua learning to keep bees. This project brings local Wisconsin beekeepers to Nicaragua to train families about beekeeping. The focus of the project is providing technical assistance to Nicaraguan organizations and families that are focused on developing beekeeping as a means to supplement family income in rural and urban areas.

Finally, if there is interest, to wrap up, we will discuss the costs involved to get started in beekeeping.

Please pre-register for this FREE event by May 20 so that we can ensure we have enough space for all. You can register by calling the Marquette County UW-Extension office at 608-297-3141 or online at <http://bit.ly/2019Bees>.

*\*The ECWBA is not affiliated with the Nicaragua Bee Project and does not make any form of representation or statement which would constitute an express or implied endorsement of the Nicaragua Bee Project.*

*The University of Wisconsin-Extension provides research-based information to help citizens of Wisconsin make informed decisions based on science. UW-Extension extends the boundaries of the university to the boundaries of the state, helping the people of Wisconsin and beyond access university resources and engage in learning, wherever they live or work.*

## Master Gardener Gloves !!

**We have gloves available for sale at the UW-Extension office,  
112 E. Edgewater Street, Room 212, Portage, WI**

**Kids size: XS**

**Adult size: S, M, L, XL**

**\$5.00**





## Even adding a few native plants to your yard or balcony can benefit wildlife

**Contact(s):** Amy Staffen, 608-261-0747, [Amy.Staffen@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amy.Staffen@wisconsin.gov) or Kelly Kearns, 608-267-5066, [Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Kelly.Kearns@wisconsin.gov)

Plant lists, list of native plant nurseries and sales available on DNR website

MADISON - With monarchs and many other butterflies and bees in decline, homeowners can do their part to help conserve these and other wildlife they love by adding native plants to their backyards or balconies. Even adding a few native plant species, or a single "wildlife workhorse," can help feed and shelter wildlife.

Native plant lists, lists of native plant nurseries and sales, and more information can be found on the Department of Natural Resources website, [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), by searching "native plants."

"Native plants are the best choice for backyard habitat," says Amy Staffen, a DNR conservation biologist with an expertise in native plants. "They are hardy, low maintenance, and there are native plants to suit every purpose, whether it's for formal landscaping or providing habitat."

Adding native plants can help for reasons including:

- Native plants are food for insects, which in turn are the base of the food web. Insects are eaten by birds, bees, bats, butterflies, small mammals, fish and other wildlife.
- Up to 90 percent of the world's plant-eating insects are dietary specialists that can feed only on a small selection of plant species. For instance, monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed while endangered Karner blue butterfly caterpillars eat only native lupine.
- Native plants have evolved along with the insects that eat them; they are able to detoxify and digest native plants. Most insects lack the enzymes necessary to eat nonnative plants, like the ornamental trees and other plants so common in landscaping, but relative newcomers to Wisconsin.



96% of all land birds, including this eastern bluebird, feed their young insects -- and native plants feed a ready supply of insects.  
Photo credit: Brian Collins

Native plants also are ideal shelters for native animals to breed and to hide from predators and weather, and they also can help keep Wisconsin lakes and rivers and drinking water clean, Staffen says. Their deep and complex root systems filter pollutants from runoff and slow it down.

Read Amy Staffen's story of turning her urban lawn into a native plant garden and rain garden, and her "Four ways to incorporate native plants into your home landscape" in the DNR Natural Heritage Conservation Program at <https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/nh/NHo204.pdf>

## May: Heinous Hitchhikers –

### *Purchased Plants as Pathogen Providers*



As we get into May, many gardeners begin thinking about buying perennials to replace plants that have died over the winter, or annuals to fill decorative pots and hanging baskets. Being the optimist that I am (NOT), whenever I'm visiting my local nursery or garden center, I'm always evaluating plants as potential sources of plant pathogens. For me, having diseased plants can be good (demo plants for classes and workshops, anyone?).

For sane, rationale gardeners however, avoiding potentially diseased plants is a must. Here on some pointers on what you can do to try to minimize the likelihood that you will bring home unwanted guests as you garden.

- ⇒ Buy plants from a reputable business
- ⇒ Buy locally, when possible
- ⇒ Avoid plants showing disease symptoms
- ⇒ Avoid plants showing signs of disease causing organisms (molds, fungi..)
- ⇒ Avoid plants with insects

With a little bit of effort and by using good observational skills, you can minimize the risk of bringing diseased plants into your garden. However, even if you follow the advice outlined above, purchasing plants is not totally risk-free. Sometimes plants harbor disease-causing organisms with nary a symptom nor sign in sight. These pathogens may rear their ugly heads and start to cause problems once you've begun growing the plants in your garden. Even if you dodge the bullet and successfully avoid purchasing infected plants, know that Mother Nature has tricks up her sleeve to **bring plant pathogens to you**. So expect at least a little bit of disease, no matter how careful you are. In the end though, plant diseases tend to be the exception and not the rule, so remember that most of time when you look at your garden, what you will see will be healthy and happy plants. **KEEP ON GARDENING AND LOVE EVERY MINUTE OF IT!**

From Brian Hudelson, UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic

[hudelson@wisc.edu](mailto:hudelson@wisc.edu)

## Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

### Meeting Agenda - May 21, 2019

#### John Muir County Park, N1424 Co Hwy F, Montello

5:00 PM Tour of County Park

6:00 PM Meeting

Call the Meeting to Order (Leah)

Introductions

Secretary's Report (Lori)

Treasurer's Report (Linda)

Audit Report

Old Business

Edgewater Greenhouse Tomato Project

Lincoln Park Gardens

Summer Tour for June

ORS Update

Columbia County Fair Display Booth Committee

4H Container Gardeners @ Links Greenhouse - May 15th

4-H/MGV planting around fair buildings

"How to display Vegetables and Flowers at the fair"

New Business

WHU Friday meetings on Zoom at 9:30 am

Use the Zoom App – 594 689 234

Mute your device, ask questions in the chat box

Other

Next Meeting: June 25

Program: Field Trip Bus Tour??

Adjournment



Master Gardener News  
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Portage, WI 53901  
Phone: 608-742-9680  
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