



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>
July 20	Pre-Fair Cleanup, 9am - 1pm, CC Fairgrounds
July 23	July Meeting, CC Fair Set-up
July 23-28	Columbia County Fair
Aug 17	Tomatopalooza @ Edgewater Home & Garden
Aug 17	Horticulture Open House, 9-11am, West Madison ARS
Aug 22	UW Organic Vegetable Variety Research Showcase, 2-5pm, West Madison ARS
Aug 27	MGV Meeting @ HHS, Rooms 2 & 3
Sept 12	WIMGA Leadership Mtgs, Marathon County Offices
Sept 14	WIMGA Leadership Mtgs, UW Madison Hort. Bldg.
Sept 20	WIMGA Leadership Mtgs, Eau Claire County Extension Office



Hello Again Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. We are busy almost every day it seems. The kids and I are out checking the milkweed for Monarch Caterpillars...nothing yet, but we know they will be here soon. The heat and humidity have arrived and so have the mosquitoes. My only time to get to the gardens during the week is in the evenings, and that doesn't last for very long before I give up! Strawberries have come and gone. They were delicious as always, but I had to "share" some with the two little raccoons that decided to visit us every night. Now we move onto raspberries.

This season started out with its challenges and hasn't let up since. The birds ate my bean seeds at three different plantings; I have flea beetles everywhere, my "variegated" maple (it has reverted back to green) has anthracnose, some of my berries have a larvae inside them (to be identified), and the Rose Chafers and Japanese Beetles have returned. But on the up side; my annuals look great, the majority of my perennials look great, the lawn looks great, my veggies look great, even the weeds look great. Hopefully it lasts...knock on wood!

I have to apologize; I don't have much Master Gardener news to report on other than a few reminders:

- ◆ July 23 Fair Booth Set-up 6:30 at the County fairgrounds
- ◆ July 24-28 we need volunteers to staff the fair booth
- ◆ August 17 Tomatopalooza at Edgewater Greenhouse

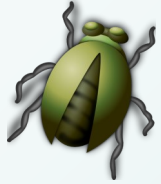
More information will be coming out your to your email within the next few weeks.

As always, thank you for your volunteer efforts. Keep on doing what you do best!
~Leah Stark

Wisconsin Insect Fest

The UW-Madison Entomology department is hosting the first ever [Wisconsin Insect Fest](#) at the [Kemp Natural Resources Station](#) (Woodruff; Oneida County) on July 26 & 27. This event is free, open to the public, and will have activities for a wide range of ages over two days.

A full list of WIF activities can be found [here](#). Activities include:



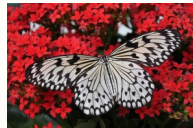
• **The Great Wisconsin Bug Hunt:** It doesn't matter if it's been decades since you last collected an insect or if you're a regular insect observer—The Great Wisconsin Bug Hunt offers a chance to join entomologists and fellow insect enthusiasts to see just how many different arthropods can be spotted at the Kemp station in a single day—including light trapping after sundown on Friday evening in conjunction with [National Moth Week](#). *Don't have that old insect net lying around anymore? Don't worry—we'll have spares to loan out!*

- Talks on identifying our common insects, how to collect insects, forensic entomology, and more!
- Outings to discover the insects and other arthropods at the Kemp station
- A hands-on workshop on how to properly pin and preserve insects to make your own collection
- A kid's insect scavenger hunt. . .and more!



If you'd like additional information, check out the event website (tinyurl.com/WisconsinInsectFest), the Facebook [Event Page](#), follow the hashtag [#WIInsectFest](#) on Twitter.

Calling all Master Gardeners!



The Mackenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette is looking for your help to create a butterfly garden. This garden will be located in our wildlife area near our raptors. It will not only increase the aesthetics of our wildlife area, but will also create educational opportunities for our visitors. We are looking for multiple volunteers to help design the garden using native species, plant the garden, and help maintain it in the future.

Please contact Elizabeth Beaver through phone or e-mail with any questions at (608)617-1613 or Elizabeth.beaver@wisconsin.gov

Garlic Mustard Biocontrol Testing in Ontario



image credit: Andreas Haselböck

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 re-released weevils fared this winter and monitoring for population establishment and impact on the target weed (see photo of typical weevil feeding marks on garlic mustard, right).

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.



"Recipes from the Garden"

Aunt Jean's Fresh Strawberry Pie (from Donna McElroy)

(Can also be used for Red Raspberries)

- 1 - 3 oz. pkg. strawberry gelatin (or substitute raspberry gelatin if making a raspberry pie)
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 Tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 Qt. fresh strawberries or raspberries
- 1 baked pie shell



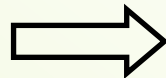
Dissolve gelatin in water in heavy sauce pan. Mix sugar and cornstarch, add to gelatin. Bring to a boil on medium heat and cook until clear. Stir while cooking. Let cool. Arrange clean, hulled berries in a baked pie shell (I use a store bought deep-dish style from the freezer section). Spoon cooled gelatin mixture over the berries and chill in the refrigerator. Serve with whipped cream.

Columbia County Fair Booth Sign-Up....NEW Google Form

Tuesday, July 23, 6 pm set up booth and displays in Flower building (this takes the place of our regular meeting) and 7 pm, select Gardener's Choice Awards for Junior Class flower and vegetables exhibits.

Wednesday through Sunday, we will need MGVs to staff the booth; that sign-up form will come out via email with a link to a google form, or simply use the link below.

Anything that is typed into this form will save automatically. Once you open the form, please type your name in to one or more of the spaces provided, that's it!! The form is real time up to date, so if there is no name in the time spot, the time is available. If you have any difficulties, please call George or Jennifer and we will add your name.



https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OcNeoLr_dunaaq7on2u4yOw925Em29CQqjLEUHojLpQ/edit?usp=sharing

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers 2019 Columbia County Fair Booth Sign-up

Tuesday, July 23 - 6:30 pm Booth set up in the flower building and in the Bidwell Building. Select MGV Youth Awards. All members are invited to help set up and to help select the awards. This is instead of our monthly meeting time!

- | | | |
|----|----|----|
| 1. | 3. | 5. |
| 2. | 4. | 6. |

Wed, July 24 - 1:00 pm MGV Open Class Choice Award Selection

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 3. |
| 2. | 4. |

1-2 members are needed to staff the booth in the Commercial Building during open hours 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. We will be sharing information, helping youth plant seeds, and answering questions.

Wed, July 24

- | | | |
|---------|----|----|
| 5-7 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 7-10 PM | 1. | 2. |

Thur, July 25

- | | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| 10 AM - 1 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 1-4 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 4-7 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 7-10 PM | 1. | 2. |

Fri, July 26

- | | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| 10 AM - 1 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 1-4 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 4-7 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 7-10 PM | 1. | 2. |

Sat, July 27

- | | | |
|--------------|----|----|
| 10 AM - 1 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 1-4 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 4-7 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 7-10 PM | 1. | 2. |

Sun, July 29

- | | | |
|--------------|--|----|
| 10 AM - 1 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 1-4 PM | 1. | 2. |
| 4:00 PM | Assist 1-4 PM shift with tear down and pack up display | |
| | 1. | 2. |

Online Reporting System (ORS)

You may begin reporting your hours for 2018-2019 using the (ORS) On-line Reporting System

It is recommended that you begin here, reading the info online and watching the videos. In doing so, you may report .6 hours of continuing education. This takes you through most all the scenarios you might run into: forgot password, forgot user name, how to navigate the system, how to actually add hours to the system.



<https://wimastergardener.org/report-your-hours/>

Then go to this site to log in and begin reporting your hours. Take your time and try it out. Try to fit your hours in the options listed. If your hours are something entirely different, please let George or Becky know so that we may help you choose the correct area to report in or create a new more appropriate line to report against.

https://volunteers.wimastergardener.org/vms/sec_Login/

This is a learning process for us all, so please be patient, give it a try and then provide some feedback. Send George an email, or give him a call to let him know how it went. I am interested in hearing both your good comments that things went well or frustrations with challenges that you ran into. This should ultimately be an easy system to use once we all learn it.

My recommendation is to sit down at your computer with notes of your activities to report. Make sure you have your beverage of choice handy, a nice tall glass of lemonade, ice tea, or adult beverage. Put a smile on your face and give it a try. When you achieve success, shout out loud, "I did it, yes!!" Take a sip and enter the next event!

I have every confidence that this will work well. If you need help, give a call, send an email, or call for an appointment and I can either talk you through the process or have you come into the office and we can do a few together.

Best of Luck, George

SQUASH VINE BORER:

How to Identify and Get Rid Of

From The Old Farmer's Almanac

WHAT ARE SQUASH VINE BORERS?

It can be so disappointing when your squash is thriving and suddenly starts to wilt. The culprit is probably the squash vine borer. The plants wilt because larvae is boring (burrowing) into the lower part of the stems.



Found throughout the eastern United States, squash vine borers attack [squash](#), [zucchini](#), [pumpkins](#), and gourds. They prefer Hubbard squash and are not as fond of butternut squash. Other cucurbits, like [cucumbers](#) and [melons](#), are not usually affected.

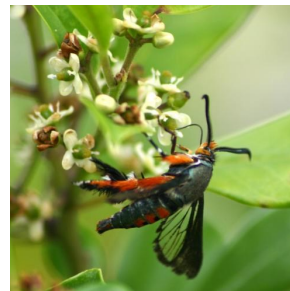
The borers overwinter in soil as pupae in cocoons. When the adult clearwing moths emerge in early to mid-summer, they lay eggs singly or in small groups at the base of plant stems. The eggs will hatch within 1 to 2 weeks of being laid. The larvae will then bore into stems to feed for about 2 to 4 weeks; sometimes they may also bore into the fruit. In northern areas of North America, there is one generation per year; in southern areas, there may be 2 generations.

If caught early, it's possible to save the plant. If caught after the eggs hatch, it may be too late. Controlling the squash vine borer is mainly about prevention.

HOW TO IDENTIFY SQUASH VINE BORERS

- **Eggs:** The eggs are tiny, flat, oval, and brown. The eggs are laid scattered around the bases of squash and pumpkin plants.

- **Larvae:** If you slit open a stem lengthwise with a fine, sharp knife, you will see the borer larva, which has a fat, white, wrinkled body and brown head; it can grow to about an inch long.



If you see the adult squash vine borer moth, beware that it is probably laying eggs! Photo Credit: University of Wisconsin-Extension.

- **Moth:** The adult is a moth about ½ inch long that looks a bit like a wasp with a black body, marked with orange-red. The hind wings are transparent and the front wings are metallic green.

IDENTIFYING SQUASH VINE BORER DAMAGE

- First, the leaves of the plant will probably start to wilt.
- Look for holes at the base of the plant and green to orange-yellow sawdust-like “frass” (droppings).
- Squash vine borers feed on the material inside the stems of the plants. The stem will start to rot at the site of the feeding first.



Squash vine borer larvae can cause major damage to the inside of your squash plant stem. Photo Credit: Donn Cooper, University of Georgia.

CONTROL AND PREVENTION

- If you catch them VERY early, you can manually remove the squash vine borer. Slit the lower stem lengthwise with a fine, sharp knife to remove the larva by hand. One plant can house several larvae. After removal, cover the slit stem section with moist soil above the point of injury to promote formation of secondary roots. Also, extra rich soil near the vines helps rerooting.
- Or, if you spot entrance holes and “sawdust,” try inserting a wire and thread through the stem for some distance to kill the inside larvae.
- Sprinkle diatomaceous earth around the stalks when the squash vines are small. Reapply after rain. Also, build up the soil around the vines. Or, sprinkle black pepper around the plants as a defense.
- If possible, catch and destroy the moths at twilight or in early morning when they are resting on the upper side of leaf bases.
- There are insecticides, too, but timing is critical; they are only truly effective when applied at the time that eggs are hatching.
- The bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis v. kustaki* (Bt) is a natural insecticide that can be injected into and applied to the squash stems, however, it is not usually effective because the larvae are protected inside the plant.
- Many find carbaryl (Sevin) to work, too.
- Consult your local [cooperative extension service](#) for advice on appropriate chemical controls.
- Trap the adult orange moths with yellow sticky traps and yellow-colored bowls of soapy water.
- A trap crop of very early-planted Hubbard squash can be used to alleviate pest pressure on other squash.

- Plant extra squash for the pests! They are around for 6 to 8 weeks and can only eat so much (or, so we think!).
- An old folk remedy from *The 1963 Old Farmer's Almanac* says that wood ashes were effective against the squash vine borer.

PREVENT SQUASH VINE BORERS

- Sometimes the best solution is to start your squash as early as possible. This way you'll be harvesting before the summer time when vine borers become active. If you plant early, you may need to be prepared to cover your plants in case of frost.
- Do not plant squash in the same bed two years in a row. Squash vine borers overwinter in cocoons in the soil. Also, clean up ALL debris and clean up your soil in the fall.
- As soon as the squash is harvested, get rid of the vines. Till the soil in the fall and spring to get rid of overwintering pupae.
- Preventative measures include covering the stems with a barrier, such as strips of nylon stockings or aluminum foil, to prevent egg laying.
- Adding parasitic wasps to your garden prior to the egg stage can be helpful as these wasps are the borers' natural enemy.
- One of the better solutions is to cover crops with floating [row covers](#) to prevent egg laying (but only if you are sure there aren't pupae overwintering in the soil). You can also drape these row covers over frames. This will not only give you a head start over pests but protect your plants from strong heat and frost.
- If you give up on zucchini, which is susceptible to vine borers, try growing a squash that's more resistant such as Cucuzzi (*Lagenaria siceraria*), also known variously as the snake gourd; it's pale green and twists and spirals like a snake.



Larvae of the squash vine borer can destroy cucurbit stems if not controlled and prevented. Photo Credit: Lee Jenkins, University of Missouri Extension.

The Report ~ June Bus Tour



The bus tour on June 25th left Portage at 8 a.m. to take us to Oshkosh for a guided tour of Paine Art Center and Gardens. Docents led us through the mansion of Nathan and Jessie Paine, who designed the property to represent an English country estate, with the house made to appear as though it had been added on through the centuries with sections from different periods in history. The living room was designed as a Great Hall. One interesting piece of period-type furniture in it was a couch with high sides that were designed to fold down into a bed which would have been used for special guests to sleep by the fire in Medieval times. Much of the furniture was made in the 20th century to the Paine's specifications, some made with centuries-old fabric. Nathan Paine owned a thriving millworks in Oshkosh and came from one of the richest families in Wisconsin and Jessie was a member of the wealthy Kimberly family (as in Kimberly-Clark Corp.). Mr. Paine had very exacting specifications for the beautiful woodwork his craftsmen made for the house and the materials used. He had the color of the roof on one section of the house changed three times to get the correct shade he wanted. Planning

and building of the mansion began in the mid-1920s, but came to a halt during the depression and WW2. The property received minimal attention until 1946 when the childless Paines finalized legal plans to establish the estate as a museum. The Paines never lived in the mansion as Nathan passed



away at age 77 in 1947 and Mrs. Paine could not bear to live there after his

death. She oversaw the remaining work and readied the house for opening to the public in 1948. There are several beautiful garden areas surrounding the mansion that we were also guided through by our docents.

After a stop at Golden Corral for a buffet lunch, we went on to Vines and Rushes winery near Ripon. We were led on a tour of their winery and had the process of wine making explained to us from vineyard to the final product, all made on the premises. The tour ended with a tasting of the different types of wines they make. After a quick stop for a little shopping at Bloch's Greenhouse by Green Lake, we arrived back in Portage at 5 pm. (More photos of our trip are on our Facebook page.)

Donna McElroy, Reporter



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