



# 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>
Oct 22	MGV Meeting, HHS Meeting Room #2 & 3
Oct 23	LGGG Committee Meeting, HHS Meeting Room #3, 4:30pm
Oct 26	WIMGA Conference, Stevens Point
Nov 26	MGV Meeting, HHS Meeting Room #2 & 3, Potluck



# President's Report

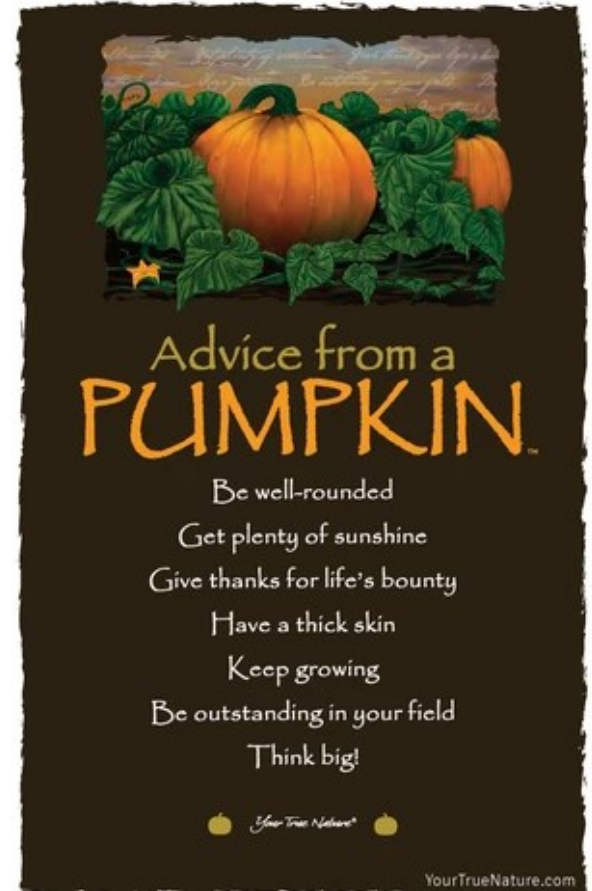
## *Hello Friends,*

Well, October has come in cold and wet. We had 3" of rain at our house this last week and enough is enough already! We need to dry out! It does make for easy digging, but sure makes a mess in the process. My vegetable garden is done and now needs to be cleaned out. My houseplants have made their way into the garage where they will reside for a few days before being moved inside.

And only my petunias have gone kaput. All other annuals are still going strong, so I'll let them keep on blooming until the frost comes in.

Our last MG meeting was short and sweet. Thanks to everyone who attended. Not much new to report other than the Micro Farms will so be starting up at local schools so watch for emails if you are interested in helping with that project. And planning for Let's Get Green and Growing is now underway. If you have a topic that you think might make for a good breakout session, please feel free to share your ideas.

I hope all of you were able to get your hours reported on time. I didn't have too much of a problem with mine, but now know that it will be easier to



record hours as we go, and not one day the week before they are due. Goals for 2020 ) Also remember that our annual dues of \$15 need to be in soon too.

We are working on having a program after our October meeting, so stay tuned for that. November meeting will be Pot Luck. No business meeting in December.

**Best Regards!**  
**Leah Stark**



## "Recipes from the Garden"

### *Apple Slump*

Peel and slice 5 to 6 baking-type apples into the bottom of a 9x13" baking dish, so that the bottom is covered. I like McIntosh or Cortland apples.

*(Can also use other fruit such as blueberries or peaches. Also rhubarb, but add some sugar into the rhubarb.)*

Topping:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 large egg, unbeaten

Mix until it becomes crumbly with a fork or pastry blender. Spread sparingly over the top of the apples. Either dot the topping with 6 to 7 tablespoons of butter or melt the butter and drizzle over the topping. Sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon (or more if you like) and bake at 350 degrees for about 35 minutes, until crust is set but not overly hard. An old family favorite. I like it served warm with vanilla ice cream but is also good after it has cooled.

- Donna McElroy

# W

## Saturday, October 26, 2019

### Dreyfus University Center (Legacy Room)

#### 1015 Reserve Street, Stevens Point

*(There is parking next to the building and across the street; parking restrictions are not enforced on weekends, so do NOT feed the meters. Use the above address or link to this map: <https://www.uwsp.edu/about/Pages/campusMap.aspx>; the Dreyfus Center is #40 on the map). The building opens at 9 am; there will be coffee and breakfast breads provided. If you wish something different, you may bring own snack.*

# I

# M

**10 am** Meeting starts; Bernie Williams, WI-DNR: Jumping Worms—the Latest Update!

**11:15 am** (approx.) WIMGA Annual Meeting

- o WIMGA Update
- o New business: proposed bylaw change see last newsletter <https://www.wimga.org/communications> (password: wimga19)
- o WI MG Program Update

*Following the annual meeting, WIMGA Board members will elect new officers for 2020)*

# G

**Noon:** Networking Lunch in the food court at the Dreyfus Center (variety of choices)

- o Presidents have asked to lunch together and share
- o Finance committee will meet over lunch
- o Treasurers can also lunch and share together
- o Any other suggestions for networking—let me know!

# A

**1:15 pm** (approx.) Professor Paul Whitaker, UW-Stevens Point: Climate Change and Wisconsin Gardening

**2:30 pm** Any final announcements, closing remarks

**RSVP by Friday October 11** (if you have not already) using this link: <https://doodle.com/poll/fn83u8bnf6aaghyk> Enter your name; if you can attend, check the box for Oct 26. If you cannot attend, click the Cannot Attend in the lower right corner.



## Questions on Tomato Late Blight!

**Where does late blight come from?** Late blight is caused by the fungus-like water mold *Phytophthora infestans*. There are several variants of this organism. Some variants cause more severe problems on tomatoes; others are more of a problem on potatoes. *P. infestans* can be introduced when sporangia (i.e., spore-like structures) of the organism are blown into an area on prevailing winds. *P. infestans* can also be introduced on infected plants (e.g., tomato seedlings) or potato tubers that are brought into an area for sale. *P. infestans* is unlikely to survive over the winter in Wisconsin soils. However, the organism can survive on infected plant material that remains alive through the winter. Such plant materials can include *P. infestans*-infected tomato plants or fruits kept warm in compost piles, and *P. infestans* infected potato tubers that have remained in the soil after harvest or have been stored in a warm place.

**How do I save a plant with late blight?** Plants showing symptoms of late blight cannot be saved and should be disposed of immediately to limit spread of *P. infestans* to other plants. For home gardeners, the preferred method of disposal is to pull affected plants (roots and all), and place them in plastic bags. The bags should be left in the sun for a few days to make sure that plants, as well as any *P. infestans*, are totally killed. Bagged plants then can be put out for trash pickup. Diseased plants or plant parts (e.g., tomato fruits or potato tubers) should NOT be composted. Healthy-looking fruits from late-blight-affected tomato plants are safe to eat or preserve. However, before attempting to preserve any fruit or vegetable, contact your county UW-Extension office for the most current food preservation instructions. Once tomato fruits or potato tubers begin to show symptoms of late blight, they should NOT be eaten, nor should they be canned or otherwise preserved.

Extension Factsheets on late blight for potato and tomato below:

<https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0145/8808/4272/files/A4052-02.pdf>  
(Potato)

[https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/tomato-late-blight-p1759?\\_pos=2&\\_sid=a6a60a1f6&\\_ss=r](https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/tomato-late-blight-p1759?_pos=2&_sid=a6a60a1f6&_ss=r) (Tomato)

## Leaf Color Change in Autumn

William Hoch, UW-Horticulture

The bright yellow, orange and red colors of autumn leaves are one of nature's most beautiful spectacles. Although a familiar annual event,



Carotenoids and anthocyanins give leaves their bright fall colors.

much of our understanding of autumn leaf coloration has, until recently, been based primarily on random observation and speculation. Recent research has done much to explain the functions of this phenomenon.

During summer, the majority of a plant's nutrients are contained within the leaves. These nutrients, in particular nitrogen and phosphorus, are components of proteins, pigments and other compounds necessary for photosynthesis, the process by which plants use the sun's energy to manufacture sugars from water and carbon dioxide. These nutrients are valuable resources in nature, and the amount of nutrients a plant possesses directly affects the plant's capacity to grow and reproduce. Thus, it is important

for plants to recover as many of these nutrients as possible before the leaves are discarded in autumn.

The shortening days and cooler temperatures of autumn signal plants to begin a process by which a leaf's photosynthetic components are disassembled and the nutrients contained within them are moved to stems and roots for storage and re-use the following year. The disassembly of leaf components in autumn is highly organized and complex. However, much of this process takes place before any visible color change in leaves, and thus this surge of activity goes largely unnoticed. It is only during the latter stages of this process that the showy colors of autumn appear.

Chlorophyll is the pigment that gives plants their green color and is used

by plants to capture the sun's energy. Throughout autumn, plants are actively breaking down chlorophyll along with the many other photosynthetic components, and as levels of chlorophyll decline, the brightly colored pigments we associate with autumn leaves become visible. There are two types of pigments that give leaves their bright autumn colors: carotenoids and anthocyanins.

Carotenoids are a class of pigments responsible for the bright yellow colors of fall leaves. Carotenoids are present in leaves throughout the growing season, and are visible only when chlorophyll levels become very low in autumn. These pigments protect leaves from a variety of harmful compounds that are normal by-products of photosynthesis. Without carotenoids, leaf photosynthetic components literally destroy themselves.

Anthocyanins are responsible for many of the reds, oranges, pinks, purples and blues in flowers and fruits, but also produce the brilliant red and orange hues of autumn foliage.

Unlike the yellow carotenoids, anthocyanins are made by plants midway through the autumn disassembly process, when a significant amount of chlorophyll is still present within the leaves. At first, the presence of both the red pigments and chlorophyll results in a dark burgundy appearance, but the brightly colored anthocyanins become increasingly visible as chlorophyll levels continue to decline. Red leaves contain similar amounts of carotenoids as yellow leaves, but in red leaves, the yellow carotenoids are masked by the intensely colored anthocyanins.

Red pigments are produced during autumn to help shade leaf photosynthetic systems from bright sunlight. In many plants, the disassembly of leaf components in fall results in susceptibility to damage from bright light, particularly as temperatures decline. Protection from bright light during autumn is important because damage to the photosynthetic components during this time will reduce a plant's capacity to recover nutrients from leaves. Plants that do not turn red in autumn are generally more resistant to the effects of bright light during this time, and therefore do not need to produce red pigments. The shading function of the red pigments explains why leaves exposed to direct sunlight are the brightest red, while leaves shaded within the canopy of a plant often show little or no accumulation of these pigments.

While many factors can affect the quality and duration of autumn leaf colors, the single most important factor influencing this phenomenon is the weather during the time that leaves are changing color. Cool, sunny weather will result in the brightest foliage colors. Because plants use the red pigments to shade leaves from bright light, sunny autumn days will

result in plants producing more of these pigments.

While cool autumn weather is best for the development of brightly colored foliage, hard freezes may irreparably damage leaves before the disassembly process is complete and the brightest colors have emerged. Conversely, very warm autumn temperatures accelerate the processes within leaves and thus shorten the length of time that the colorful leaves remain on plants. Warm temperatures will also reduce the amount of red pigments produced in leaves.

Other factors can also affect leaf color change in autumn. In general, stresses such as drought, nutrient deficiency and even diseases can increase the production of red pigments, and therefore may improve the color display of autumn leaves. Drought is a common stress in many environments, and unless the water deficiency is so severe that leaves are killed before autumn (a very rare occurrence), drought conditions will generally improve the quality of fall leaf colors.



## Columbia County Master Gardener Treasurer's Report

September 24, 2019

Balance August 27, 2019  
\$5,261.78

Checks written in September, 2019  
1548 Portage Youth Inc. (*water bill at Community Garden*)  
\$59.27

Outstanding check 1547 Taylor Savich  
+\$25.00

Ending balance September 24, 2019  
\$5,227.51

Respectfully submitted by Linda Haddix, Treasurer

## Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers Minutes September 24, 2019 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Leah Stark.

In attendance were Leah Stark, Carol Ziehmke, Lila Waldman, Sherryl Stolte, Bill Damm, Ardyce Piehl, Linda Haddix, Marie Rohrbacher, Marcie Reed and Donna Mc Elroy.

The Secretary's minutes from last month were approved.

The Treasurer's report was provided, with a balance in the checking account of \$5,227.51. One check remains outstanding from one of our fair awards, in the amount of \$25.00. A motion was made by Sherryl and second by Carol to approve the report.

Online reporting was discussed which seems to be going well, with a few minor glitches. All hours need to be reported by October 1, 2019. MGV volunteers Linda Haddix and Rita Socha will assist with adding hours for those who need assistance.

Lincoln Park gardens provided 313 pounds of fresh produce to the food pantry! Most items were used by pantry patrons, but leafy greens were not popular. It appeared there was mixed information on how the project worked, and little interest was shown by the public, even though public exposure was good. The grant is now completed for the project so if we continue the garden, we don't need to abide by the rule set forth in the grant. Ardyce reported that she had four meeting kids from the free lunch program, which was also located at Lincoln Park. The kids were enthusiastic and planted five pots of seeds, which were still at the garden.

The gardens will be cleaned up for the season on September 23rd, and hopefully more soil will be added at a later date. If we decide to continue the gardens next year, it was discussed to provide more advertising, i.e. door hangers or brochures to homes in the vicinity of Lincoln Park., and other potentially low income citizens.

Another discussion was held regarding the gardens at the Portage Public Library, and if there was any interest in pursuing a garden next year.

The Micro-farm program for elementary students will be starting soon, with Rio Elementary School scheduled for October. Leah offered to assist with supplies for the micro-farm. Please contact Becky Gutzman if you're interested in volunteering for this project.

Let's Get Green and Growing project is upon us, with the first planning meeting to held on October 9th. Rio High School has tentatively set aside the last two weekends in March for the event. More information to come.

If you're interested in planting at Pauquette Park in Portage, please contact Carol Ziehmke. The garden is looking for donations of Day Lillies, Iris, Black Eye Susan, Hosta and Coneflowers. In the past, Edgewater Greenhouse has donated \$100 to \$150 in gift cards to the city in order to purchase plants and have also donated shrubs and Hydrangeas. Work days at the park usually occur on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00. The park looked lovely at the concert which was held in July.

Several MGV's participated in the Marquette County MGV bus trip to Monk Botanical Gardens, which is mainly a shade garden where cardboard, newspapers and carpet is used as mulch to kill weeds, Buckthorn, etc.

Leah reported that 4-H clubs are looking for speakers for their monthly meetings. They'd like ideas for kids, perhaps seed tapes, microgreens or "dirt balls". If you're interested in participating in that program, please contact Leah.

Planting at the Columbia County Fair Grounds near the Poultry Barn was done by Leah's 4-H club and others. Shrubs around the barn definitely need attention if anyone would be interested in helping with that project. Could this be considered a "work day" for MGV's???

Also at the Columbia County Fair, many 4-H kids had a work day at the Flower Building. Parents and kids used skid loaders and added a picket fence, which looks very impressive. The kids are encouraged to clean up areas where they show their items.

A few items were discussed for future meetings, such as Weed ID program presented by Anne Pierce of the Wisconsin Detector Network; The International Crane Foundation who have contacted us for outreach; Journey North for outreach; possibly Marquette County MGV to speak about their field trip.

The subject of Climate Change was also brought up since it is a timely issue. Leah will do some research and get back to the group.

Ideas for October meeting? Suggested topics were a cooking demo, Lavender, herbs, CDB, and veganism. The November meeting will include a pot luck event.

A motion to adjourn was made by Sherryl and seconded by Marie, and was concluded at 6:50 p.m.

# Master Gardner Meeting Agenda

October 22 6:00pm

HHS Building, Meeting Room #3

Call to Order

Roll Call

Secretaries Report

Treasurers Report

Old Business

On-line Reporting/ Dues

Micro Farm

Other Old Business

New Business

Let's Get Green and Growing

Pauquette Park

Other New Business

Program

Next Meeting: November 26 POT LUCK!!!

*(or switch to Nov 19 because of Thanksgiving?)*

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**



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