



# Master Gardener News

## 2020 Officers:

- Leah Stark, President
- Deb Buechner, V.P.
- Linda Haddix, Secretary
- Ann Marie Fuerst, Treasurer
- Kim Leizinger, Reporter
- Judi Benade, Reporter



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## Columbia County MGV Activities

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Fridays	WI Horticulture Updates—9:30 am—see article on page 8 of this newsletter
June 23	MGV Meeting, 6 pm—On-Line Zoom



## Making Tree Care Recommendations

As I get calls about treating ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer, Oak wilt, mature tree pruning or removal or other questions beyond the scope of Master Gardener abilities, I always recommend that clients search the WI Arborist Association to find and identify Certified Arborists in the area. I get requests to recommend a tree care service or a specific business to help homeowners. It is not ethical or proper for me to make such recommendations. I can share information from the WI Arborist Association and help people find a list of qualified contractors. It is then up to the client or consumer to decide who to hire. My most common recommendations include: to ask lots of questions, ask for references, and request a quote for the work to be completed.

Here is the link to the WI Arborist Association: <https://www.waa-isa.org/> They have a tab "Find an Arborist", which is easy to use. Just type in your zip code and a distance from your location that you would like to search. It will return a list of certified arborists near your location, with names, phone numbers, and websites.

George

The Columbus Farmers Market is looking for one or more volunteers who can help manager the market this summer.

The market opens on Wednesday, June 10 and runs every Wednesday through September. Market hours are 4:00 to 7:00 pm., but the manager should plan to arrive around 3:00 in order to help with set-up. Half the dates are already covered; we just need help covering every other week beginning June 17.

Duties will include assigning spaces to the vendors, providing information about the market to vendors and customers as needed, light recordkeeping and handling cash. Please contact me for more information.

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# Tree First Aid After a Storm

In cooperation with the USDA Forest Service and the International Society of Arboriculture

In the aftermath of a major storm, the initial impulse of property owners is generally along the lines of "let's get this mess cleaned up." But hasty decisions can often result in removing trees that could have been saved.

Doing the right things after trees have been damaged can make the difference between giving your trees a good chance of survival and losing them unnecessarily. The Arbor Day Foundation urges home and property owners to follow a few simple rules in administering tree first aid after a storm:

1. **Don't try to do it all yourself.** If large limbs are broken or hanging, or if high climbing or overhead chainsaw work is needed, it's a job for a professional arborist. They have the necessary equipment and knowledge needed, and are generally listed in the telephone directory under "Tree Service."
2. **Take safety precautions.** Look up and look down. Be on the alert for downed power lines and dangerous hanging branches that look like they're ready to fall. Stay away from any downed utility lines, low-voltage telephone, or cable lines and even fence wires can become electrically charged when there are fallen or broken electrical lines nearby. Don't get under broken limbs that are hanging or caught in other branches overhead. And, unless you really know how to use one, leave chainsaw work to the professionals.
3. **Remove any broken branches still attached to the tree.** Removing the jagged remains of smaller sized broken limbs is one common repair that property owners can make after a storm. If done properly, it will minimize the risk of decay agents entering the wound. Smaller branches should be pruned at the point where they join larger ones. Large branches that are broken should be cut back to the trunk or a main limb by an arborist. For smaller branches, follow the pruning guidelines shown in the illustration so that you make clean cuts in the right places, helping the tree to recover faster (see *Illustration D1*).
4. **Repair torn bark.** To improve the tree's appearance and eliminate hiding places for insects, carefully use a chisel or sharp knife to smooth the ragged edges of wounds where bark has been torn away. Try not to expose any more of the cambium (greenish inner bark) than is necessary, as these fragile layers contain the tree's food and water lifelines between roots and leaves (see *Illustration D2*).
5. **Resist the urge to overprune.** Don't worry if the tree's appearance isn't perfect. With branches gone, your trees may look unbalanced or naked. You'll be surprised at how fast they will heal, grow new foliage, and return to their natural beauty.
6. **Don't top your trees!** Untrained individuals may urge you to cut back all of the branches, on the mistaken assumption that reducing the length of branches will help avoid breakage in future storms. While storm damage may not always allow for ideal pruning cuts, professional arborists say that "topping," cutting main branches back to stubs, is one of the worst things you can do for your trees. Stubs will tend to grow back a lot of weakly-attached branches that are even more likely to break when a storm strikes. Also, the tree will need all its resources to recover from the stress of storm damage. Topping the tree will reduce the amount of foliage, on which the tree depends for the food and nourishment needed for regrowth. A topped tree that has already sustained major storm damage is more likely to die than repair itself. At best, its recovery will be retarded and it will almost never regain its original shape or beauty (see *Illustration D3*).

# Tree First Aid After a Storm—Con't.

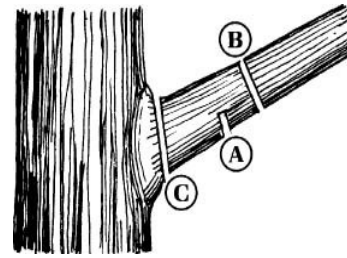


Illustration D1

Cutline: Because of its weight a branch can tear loose during pruning, stripping the bark and creating jagged edges that invite insects and disease. That won't happen if you follow these steps:

1. Make a partial cut from beneath, at a point several inches away from the trunk.
2. Make a second cut from above several inches out from the first cut, to allow the limb to fall safely.
3. Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar, the raised area that surrounds the branch where it joins the trunk.

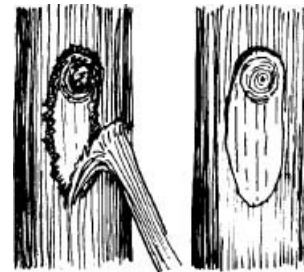


Illustration D2

Cutline: Smoothing the ragged edge of torn bark helps the wound heal faster and eliminates hiding places for insects.



Illustration D3

Cutline: Never cut the main branches of a tree back to stubs. Ugly, weakly attached limbs will often grow back higher than the original branches and be more likely to break off in a future storm.

## ***Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers Minutes - May 26, 2020***

### ***Virtual Meeting***

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

**Introductions:** In attendance were George Koepp, Linda Haddix, Deb Buechner, Lori Nadolski, Connie Wilsnack, Jeff Breuer, Jane Breuer, Ardyce Piehl, Sue Bradley, Sherry Stolte, Jean Damm, Bill Damm, Terry Socha, Rita Socha, Leah Stark, Judi Benade, Milissha Meicher, Pat Trapp, Marcy Read, Kate Rietmann, Becky Gutzman, and Lila Waldman.

**Secretary's Minutes:** The Secretary's report was approved with a motion made by Ardyce, and a second made by Jean.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was presented, and showed a balance of \$4,212.33 as of May 1, 2020. There was some income of \$290.00 from the sale of gloves and fees from community garden plots. Expenses reported were \$140.00 to Link's Greenhouse for media and topsoil for the Lincoln Park Garden; Ardyce presented receipts for \$61.97 for expenses related to Let's Get Green and Growing. There is an outstanding balance of \$100.00. Report will be sent to audit.

#### **4-H Planter**

4-H Planter was held with Becky and Ardyce in attendance. There were a few kids from a couple of clubs. The zoom meeting option was difficult. Planter night was supposed to be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, but it is prohibited by 4-H leadership at this time. Typically, the kids plant in unusual or unique planters or containers and are very nice!

#### **Lincoln Park**

Lincoln Park gardens: two people are interested in plots. George encourages our group to use the remaining plots. Information regarding the garden plots have been shared with City Aldermen, but we have not heard anything back on that. Jean asked if the food raised from the gardens could be donated to the food pantry, but it is not allowed at this time. Lila asked if we could put out baskets of free produce compliments of the MGV's, but Becky reiterated that may not be a good idea. Perhaps we could donate produce to housing units around the city of Portage, or elsewhere.

#### **New Business**

George informed the group about the suspension of the 24 hour volunteer hour requirement for 2020, but still do report hours for your volunteer work. However, the 10 hour continuing education requirement is still in effect for this year. Please observe the social distancing suggestion and wear a mask if you're out there.

George also informed the group that every Friday there is a program we can tune into for an hour of educational hours, which is the Wisconsin Horticulture Update. A link will be sent by George for those interested.

Jean mentioned there is another program called "Badger Talk" every Tuesday and George will send a link for that as well.

#### **Other**

Connie asked if we watched certain videos if they could be included in our educational credits and George indicated that most had to be MGV related. Tours should also be guided for credit, not just strolling through a garden somewhere. Listening to the Larry Mieller show on public radio will be considered as credit.

The Columbia County fair has been cancelled.

Lori reported that Edgewater Greenhouse has no intention of Tomato-palooza for this year, which is disappointing as it was a success last year.

Lila reported that the Sauk County Habitat for Humanity has contacted her to request volunteers to plant perennials and hostas at their Lake Delton house. Contact Lila if you're interested in this project.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2020 via ZOOM

**Adjournment:** Motion was made to adjourn was made by Lila, with a second by Deb.

Continuing hours after the meeting will be sponsored by Becky and Ardyce relating to container gardening.

Linda Haddix- Secretary

## **Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers June 23, 2020 - 6 pm via ZOOM Meeting Agenda**

Call the Meeting to Order (Leah)

Secretary's Report (Linda)

Treasurer's Report (Ann Marie)

Introductions

**Old Business**

Lincoln park Gardens Update

MGV Updates from the State

**New Business**

Other items

**Next Meeting:** July 28?

Adjournment

Continuing Education Presentation:

## Winter Herb Harvest

Most herb aficionados agree that fresh grown herbs are much better than dried or anything purchased. However, winter tends to put a cramp in what can be grown outside. Take heart; there are a number of culinary herbs that can be easily grown inside with a little effort.

When growing herbs indoors, it is necessary to choose ones that will grow in smaller spaces and without full sunlight. Chives, parsley, thyme, basil, sage, winter savory, lemon balm, and oregano would all fit the bill. Most will stay less than a foot tall; the taller ones can be still grown if a dwarf variety is chosen.

Although when grown outside, herbs do well in poor soil, choose a good quality potting soil when growing them inside. Make sure the pots have good drainage; six inch pots are a nice size for most herbs. Water when they start to dry out, but do not keep them moist all of the time. Herbs do not like to have wet feet. Grouping the pots together will raise the humidity, however do not place them so closely that air cannot circulate. This will promote mildew and disease. If mildew starts to form, separate the plants a bit and put a small fan in the area to circulate the air.

Most culinary herbs are native to the Mediterranean area. They require full sunlight to thrive. When growing them inside, make sure they have 6 hours of sunlight by putting them in a south window. If that is unavailable, place them six to twelve inches from two 40-watt cool white fluorescent bulbs for 14 to 16 hours. Without adequate light, plants will become leggy and spindly. If grown on a sunny windowsill, rotate the plants periodically to make sure to get uniform growth on all sides.

Herbs enjoy the same temperatures indoors that people do. They like daytime temperatures of 70 to 75° and most can tolerate nighttime drops to 55 to 60°. Most herbs can withstand temperatures as low as 40°, although most people would not. Basil would be the exception; it does not survive anything less than 50°. Therefore, be careful about putting it too close to a cold window where the temperature may drop at night.

Because potting soil lacks any significant source of nutrients, herbs will benefit from a low dose of water soluble fertilizer every 2 to 4 weeks. Fertilizing any more frequently will result in an off flavor and reduction of aroma.

Herbs kept inside for any length of time will invariably attract pests. They are easily controlled by spraying with a soapy solution. Use 1 to 2 tablespoons of a mild dish detergent in a gallon of water and spray the plants weekly while the pests are visible. If the leaves show discoloration, reduce the amount of soap.

Harvest the herbs as needed. Frequent cuttings will help keep the plant stocky and compact. Leave a few inches at the stem for regrowth.

If this is a first-time indoor growing experience, the easiest one to start with is chives. Not only are they easy to grow, they are versatile and can be used in every meal from breakfast to dinner. If a challenge is the desire, go for basil. It is great to cook with, but tougher to grow indoors.

Happy gardening and happy cooking.

Carol Shirk  
Certified Master Gardener



## Extension UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

### Wisconsin Horticulture Update 2020

Tip: Bookmark this page.

*These meetings are intended to support Extension's efforts related to fielding gardening and diagnostics questions. These are intended as a professional development tool and not intended for broad public distribution. Please do not share this link, or the video links below.*

As a Master Gardener Volunteer in Wisconsin, please join us live most Fridays for the Wisconsin Horticulture Update where you'll hear plant health dispatches from around the state and from the UW Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic and the UW Insect Diagnostic Laboratory.

A typical meeting looks something like this...

- Quick Announcements
- County Round Up
- Plant Disease Update
- Insect Update

By joining us, you can earn one hour of Continuing Education credit.

After viewing, or participating in any of these sessions please complete this short survey. Your responses help us improve our work, and your responses also help us when we report to funders.

[https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e4EgbamGR8eotJH](https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e4EgbamGR8eotJH)

**Unless otherwise stated, all meetings start at 9:30 AM and will be done before 10:30 AM.**

Date	Link
RECORDED	
May 8, 2020	<a href="https://youtu.be/gCzBUMFnRnk">https://youtu.be/gCzBUMFnRnk</a>
May 15, 2020	<a href="https://youtu.be/vDtWJeoqV-4">https://youtu.be/vDtWJeoqV-4</a>
May 29, 2020	<a href="https://youtu.be/aNNnWTbORcE">https://youtu.be/aNNnWTbORcE</a>
SCHEDULED	
June 5, 2020	<a href="https://youtu.be/rm-cKwPI8_Q">https://youtu.be/rm-cKwPI8_Q</a>
June 12, 2020	<a href="https://youtu.be/lpr8U3HWG-E">https://youtu.be/lpr8U3HWG-E</a>
June 19, 2020	<a href="https://youtu.be/Wu7-S-3PiiA">https://youtu.be/Wu7-S-3PiiA</a>
June 26, 2020	Link coming soon.
July 3, 2020	NO MEETING SCHEDULED.
July 10, 2020	Link coming soon.
July 17, 2020	Link coming soon.
July 24, 2020	Link coming soon.
July 31, 2020	Link coming soon.
August 7, 14, 21, & 28, 2020	Links coming soon.
September 11, 18, & 25, 2020	Links coming soon.



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