



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> |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 11-24 | MGV Annual Meeting—6 pm |
| 11-26 | Thanksgiving |
| 11-27 | Extension Office Closed |
| 12-22 | No MGV Meeting |
| 12-24 & 12-25 | Extension Office Closed |
| 12-31 & 1-1 | Extension Office Closed |
| 1-26 | MGV Meeting—6 pm |

Hello Friends,

I hope this finds you all well. Did you get out to enjoy the nice weather we were having? I was able to get out doing some much needed thinning out in my raspberries and planting a few bulbs as well. It felt good to be out doing garden work, which most of the time I love to do, but don’t have the time to do it!

So let me tell you how I came to love plants and working in the garden(s). It was my grandmother. My grandmother was a farmer’s wife and was always working in her gardens whether it was flowers or vegetables. She was 103 (104 this December) when she passed away in September. She was always caring for some plant or another right up until she had to move into the Nursing Home (March 2020). As we were sharing our memories of her, most of mine were with her in her gardens. She always had a HUGE vegetable garden, an area full of Phlox, Hollyhocks along the garage and barns, and Zinnias on the side of the house. Zinnias are one of my favorite flowers because of her, and I make sure to add them to my flower beds every year. The smell of Phlox takes me back to her gardens, and homemade strawberry jam takes me to her table where it was always served with bread and butter. My love for gardening came from her and I am grateful for the memories we made together.

Gardening comes and goes within each generation of each family. For most of us, it has been a passed down from an elder, and now we are passing it on to our kids and grandkids in some way or another. My hope for them, even if they don’t appreciate it now, is for them to have that “remember when” in the garden sometime in their memories and to pass it on to someone else. Gardening sure can be a lot of hard work, but in the end the results are simply worth it.

Stay safe and healthy.
Happy Thanksgiving to you all.

Leah Stark



Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers Minutes - October 27, 2020

Virtual Meeting

The virtual meeting was called to order by President Leah Stark at 6:00 pm.

Introductions: In attendance were : Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Linda Haddix, Marcy Read, Deb Buechner, Jane Breuer, Ardyce Piehl, Becky Gutzman, Judi Benade, Connie Wilsnack, Sue Bradley, Sherryl Stolte, Milissha Meicher, Lila Waldman, Leah Stark, Ann Marie Fuerst, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, and advisor George Koepf.

Secretary's Minutes: A motion was made by Ardyce to accept the minutes, with a second made by Connie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Marie reported there are three outstanding checks from our LGGG event. She will make one more attempt to contact the check writers for advice on the disposition of the checks. A water bill for the Community Gardens was received, and will be further reviewed. Would it be an advantage to our organization to have a new water meter installed? It was decided that we will contact the city for possible options. The Treasurer's Report will be sent to audit.

Old Business

A report from the Tax Exempt study group was presented. The group completed state and federal forms in order to apply for the tax exempt status. In the past, we applied for a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) in order to open our checking account. The number still exists, but is inactive. The group will make application to revive this number for use in this project. It's a good way to track how we spend our money and perhaps how we teach the public. The UW has indicated that each local association must obtain legal status, which is what we are attempting to achieve.

Hour Reporting – the 24 hour volunteer requirement has been suspended for 2020, but the 10 hour continuing education requirement is still intact. George will send a link for the reporting requirements, which is due by December 31st.

LGGG for next year will most likely be a virtual event, the committee reported. Ardyce thanked all involved who met in person and zoom meetings. A planning meeting will be held on November 12th – contact Ardyce or Becky if you are interested in helping out.

New Business

Bylaws for our organization are being written, with a new name to include "Inc.", which has been requested by the UW. Handouts were provided, with the changes highlighted in yellow. A discussion was held with the proposed edits, and Becky made a motion to approve the changes as proposed, with a second made by Ardyce. The motion passed.

Articles of Incorporation statement were presented and discussed. The forms will be completed and submitted which will include a fee of \$35.00. A motion was made to approve by Ardyce, with a second by Lila and, by a voice vote, was approved as presented.

Other

A nominating committee will be formed by the officers of the association to discuss potential new officers. At the monthly meeting in November, nominations will also be accepted from the floor for officers. This meeting will take place on November 24th.

Connie spoke about a "Women in Agriculture" presentation she heard about, and George will send out a link.

Next Meeting: November 24, 2020 at 6 pm via ZOOM.

Adjournment: Motion by Lila to adjourn meeting, second by Connie at 7:42 pm. Motion passed.

Linda Haddix- Secretary

Columbia County Master Gardener Treasurer Report October 2020

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| Cash Balance on 1 Oct 2020 | | \$3,998.44 |
| Income: No deposits | | 0 |
| Expenses Paid: None | | 0 |
| Checks Cleared: | | |
| Check 1708 – Portage Youth Inc – Water bill for Comm Garden | | \$129.23 |
| Still Outstanding from LGGG : checks 1556, 1681, 1687 | | 30.00 |
| Ending Balance on 27 Oct 2020 | 4 | \$3,998.44 |

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers November 24, 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

Report from Tax Exempt Study Committee – Items to complete

1. Articles of Incorporation (WI) (\$35.00)
2. Complete and submit Form for EIN (Fed)
3. Complete and submit 1023 EZ Form for 501c-3 (Fed) (\$275.00)
4. Complete and submit CES Form (WI)

Hour reporting for Oct 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2020

24 Hr. Volunteer Requirement for 2020 Suspended
10 Hr. Continuing Ed Requirement still in tact

Report hours here:

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

Virtual LGGG for March 2021 – committee update

New Business

Election of Officers

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Reporter

Other items of business

No general membership meeting in December

New Officer Team will meet to plan 2021 educational programming

Next Meeting: January 26, 2021

Adjournment

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MGV Hours Reporting

Please go to this website to report your hours for October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020.

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

You only need to report the 10 hours of Continuing Education to maintain certification for 2021. If you have reportable volunteer hours you may enter them, but they are not required due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Contact George if you are having difficulty in reporting your hours. I can either talk and walk you through it. If you do not have internet access, phone a friend to see if they can enter them for you, or I can assist you with getting them entered. Hopefully you have your Username and Password written down somewhere safe.

Stay Safe

Above all, during this time of increasing Covid in our counties and communities, please stay safe. I know we are all getting tired of mask wearing and social distancing, but it is more important than ever right now. Cases are rising rapidly in Columbia County. Be very thoughtful about our family gatherings at Thanksgiving. We all want to be together. As hard as it is, please be cautious, we want all to be healthy and here to enjoy Christmas together as well. This disease is a “Sniper”, quiet, sneaky, and deadly. Everyone reacts differently to it. Please be careful. No one wants to be the cause of someone else's illness.

There is hope. A vaccine is on the way. Be patient, be cautious, be courteous. Stay in contact with friends and relatives via phone, video chats, or stand outside at a distance and have those wonderful conversations in person. We can do this together, while being a little distance apart.

Level 3 Training Delayed Until Spring 2021

The next statewide online advanced MG Training Course will be postponed until spring 2021. In recent years, we have been able to move it earlier in the year to avoid the growing season. Pandemic-related issues have caused this postponement, but there is a big silver lining!

The topic will focus on the diagnostic process and how you can use it in your own garden... so what better time to reinforce what you're learning than by getting to practice it outside for real! (This hands on practice would not be possible in January in Wisconsin. :))

We will advertise this continuing education opportunity in the Volunteer Vibe with ample time to register beforehand.

We are changing the deadline for reporting this year:
September 30, 2020 → December 31, 2020

(past report cycle: October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020)

We will adopt a calendar year for all future hour reporting:
January 1 to December 31

New volunteer onboarding and
returning volunteer enrollment will be:
January 1 to March 31, annually



see wimastergardener.org for additional updates.

Your deadline to report hours moves from September 30 to December 31, 2020. You may continue to report less than 24 hours for volunteer activities this year; 10 hours of continuing education is still required.

Starting on January 1, 2021, we will operate on a calendar year for all program requirements. All program requirements must be completed and reported by December 31, every year. We will wait until January 2021 to determine if COVID-19 restrictions continue to apply.

There are a number of reasons for this move. The biggest is it reduces the confusion and better aligns with activities we are doing.

This is one of several other changes occurring with the Master Gardener Program. You can now read about our [strategic priorities at WIMasterGardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org).

SURVEY: Take it & share to help the program

We're striving to make the program better in the ways you told us matter to you. *One thing you overwhelmingly said mattered: We need to get new people involved in this great program.*



This survey is a step toward that goal. The information we get from it will help us make the program fit the needs of people of different ages and availabilities.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!
Here is how:

Share the survey link: Please share the survey link with people you know... especially younger adults! (We'll be sending this information around in a separate email so you can easily forward it to people you know.)

Here is the survey link:

https://uwmadison.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b3py4JUIQQ6VCd

What does younger mean? Our target audience for "younger adults" is 18-45.

Send it to your neighbors, kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, coworkers- anyone! We are looking to cast a big net.

Take the survey yourself! We always wish to know more about what works best for you. Keep in mind, this survey is geared towards people who aren't already MGVs but your responses are still valuable.

Plants Plus

We've re-released past Plants Plus options to cover your continuing ed needs this year! To see all options, visit the wimastergardener.org website and look under Learn.

Get your continuing education with our Level 2 Plants Plus Series - a remix of past training presentations, printed materials and other references focused on specific plants or topics to help you increase your knowledge so you can better answer homeowner questions. To get 2 hours of continuing education credit for watching and reading this package of information, just complete the short quiz! Click on the image or link to access the module.



SMALL SPACE
GARDENING

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/small-space-gardening/> NEW!



POLLINATORS IN ACTION

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/mastergardener/article/orchards/>



ORCHARDS

<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/mastergardener/article/orchards/>



ORGANIC GARDENING
TECHNIQUES

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/organic-gardening-techniques/>



AGGRESSIVE GARDEN
PLANTS

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/aggressive-garden-plants/>



GREENER GARDENS

<https://wimastergardener.org/article/greener-gardens/>

STILT GRASS

By: J. Benade

Have you heard the story of Japanese Stiltgrass in Wisconsin? This invasive is common in all states east and south of Wisconsin except Maine. Through a lucky coincidence, the first incursion of this plant into Wisconsin was identified and eradicated before it spread.

In July 2020, a botanist working at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Amanda Weise, volunteered with the WI DNR's Rare Plant Monitoring Program. An east coast resident, she recognized Japanese Stiltgrass in the area where she was working. Because there was no previous evidence of the plant in Wisconsin she documented its exact location, photographed the plant, took a specimen and submitted these details using the EDDMaps app on her smartphone.

WI-DNR immediately surveyed the area, removed the plants and made follow-up plans. Thus far the only place in Wisconsin Japanese Stiltgrass has been found is along the road and parking area at the Coulee Experimental State Forest in Lacrosse County. The location of these patches hints that the seed may have arrived embedded in someone's boots, tires or camping gear. The plant can also spread along streams and trails or via animal feet. As time goes on, it seems likely more patches will appear in Wisconsin.

Japanese Stiltgrass tends to grow in shady forests or forest edges and can invade wetlands, floodplain forests, old fields, stream banks, ditches, roadsides and trails. Each plant produces many seeds, which remain viable for seven years. The plants form a thick mat of vegetation that smothers seedling trees, chokes the native plants that provide crucial wildlife habitat, and can easily catch fire.

Japanese Stiltgrass is an annual that grows 1-3 inches tall. Its wiry stems and alternate long narrow leaves look a bit like a delicate bamboo. The center rib on the top of each leaf has a stripe of silvery hairs which reflect light. From late summer to early fall a 1-3 inch stalk covered with small flowers grows from the plant's stem tip and axils, the place where leaf attaches to the stem. Each flower forms fruit which matures into a bristly case containing one seed. The plant's pale green leaves turn orange to yellow in the autumn. Here is the link to a Field Guide with specific ways to identify Japanese Stiltgrass and differentiate it from similar plants: https://www.aces.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/ANR-1457_FieldGuidetoStiltgrass_030119L.pdf

Controlling Japanese Stiltgrass is challenging because the seed is so long-lived. Hand-pulling or mowing effectively kills the growing plant, but not the seed in the ground. Burning kills the plant but causes any seeds in the ground to sprout. Repeated flooding or being flooded for more than

STILT GRASS Con't.

3 months kills the adult Japanese Stiltgrass, but seed survives under water for more than 10 months. Several chemical herbicides kill the plants and decrease the viability of the seed. Unfortunately most of these herbicides can not be used near the standing water and waterways where Japanese Stiltgrass often grows.

To learn more about controlling Japanese Stiltgrass, see the UW Extension Learning Store document "Management of Invasive Plants in Wisconsin: Japanese Stiltgrass (A3924-27)

"We were very fortunate the Japanese Stiltgrass was spotted early by a person familiar with the plant and who knew how to report it," said Kelly Kearns, DNR invasive plant specialist. "As a result, we were able to get out there and get on it. This was a textbook example of early detection and control, and why citizen reports of invasive species are so important." <https://dnr.wi.gov/news/releases/article/?id=5207>

If you find Japanese Stiltgrass, report it through the Great Lakes Early Detection Network cell phone app or send an Email to: invasive.species@Wisconsin.gov Include a closeup photograph of the plant, the population size, and location.



JAPANESE STILT GRASS

(MICROSTEGIUM VIMINEUM)



Photo credit: John Randall

Annual grass that is generally 1-3' tall but will also spread in a mat-like manner. The stems are hairless and branched with upward-pointing tips. Japanese stilt grass can spread vegetatively by rooting at the nodes as well as by seed.



• Scientific names: *Eulalia viminea*; *M. aristulatum*

Ecological threat:

- Prefers wetlands, streambanks, ditches, mesic forests, floodplains where its large seed bank can be spread by moving water.
- Out-competes native plants in low light conditions.



Prohibited (red) counties



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