



# 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>
9-22	First day of Fall
9-29	MGV Meeting—6 pm (1 week later due to George's schedule)
10-12	Columbus Day Indigenous People's Day
10-31	Halloween
11-1	Daylight Savings Ends
11-3	Election Day—Be sure to vote!

Hello Friends,

Hope this finds you all well! Summer is winding down and it won't be long until we start thinking about putting our gardens to rest. I didn't have much of a vegetable garden this year and most of my annuals were in pots, so clean up should be fairly easy. I sprinkled seeds in my "annual/wildflower" bed this spring but not much took off except the weeds. Next year it will be tilled and hopefully back to a pollinator garden. As I think about what I should do different for next year, I'm also thinking about what I should have done this year. What I wish I could have done differently this year is to have more time and energy to tend to my garden and also for Master Gardener duties. I feel bad and guilty that I haven't been showing any leadership during this crazy year, and please know that I am sorry, but in all honesty, I am just ready for this year to be done with! I am ready to start over and think about what life could be if it were normal again!

I don't have anything to report on. A few topics that we have had a lot of questions for at work...

**Japanese Beetles**, [https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/japanese-beetles-p387?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=71e96ea3f&\\_ss=r](https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/japanese-beetles-p387?_pos=1&_sid=71e96ea3f&_ss=r)

**Squash Vine Borers**, [https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/squash-vine-borer-p555?\\_pos=1&\\_sid=42340fa70&\\_ss=r](https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/squash-vine-borer-p555?_pos=1&_sid=42340fa70&_ss=r)

**Powdery Mildew**, [https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/vine-crops-disorder-powdery-mildew-p537?\\_pos=3&\\_sid=3935c3f6f&\\_ss=r](https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/vine-crops-disorder-powdery-mildew-p537?_pos=3&_sid=3935c3f6f&_ss=r)

**Aster Yellows**, <https://extension.umn.edu/plant-diseases/aster-yellows>

Best wishes to you always,

Leah Stark



## *Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers Minutes - August 25, 2020*

### *Virtual Meeting*

The virtual meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Secretary Linda Haddix.

**Introductions:** In attendance were George Koepp, Linda Haddix, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Jane Breuer, Sherryl Stolte, Jean Damm, Bill Damm, Becky Gutzman, Ann Marie Fuerst, Ardyce Piehl, Lila Waldman, Lori Nadolski and Connie Wilsnack.

**Secretary's Minutes:** The Secretary's report from June meeting was approved with a motion by Becky, and a second by Rita.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Ann Marie Fuerst, with no income shown for the month. The balance in the checkbook is \$4,105.87, and is in agreement with the statement. Six checks remain outstanding from Let's Get Green and Growing registrations. Carol wondered if it was worth the time to follow up with the people who have not cashed them and could possibly be considered a donation. Ann Marie will follow up. Report will be sent to audit.

### Old Business

How is everyone coping with the COVID-19? Most people are doing just fine, and Ann Marie had mixed reactions regarding the need for more rain.

George mentioned the recent changes for courses which can be taken. There are a few updates and continuing changes, some of which are ok and some will take some to learn. WI Master's Gardener's Organization looked at some of the changes with many due to COVID-19. Let's just get used to it and do the best we can. Some strategic priorities are designed to decrease confusion to make it easier to follow, and to increase diversity. We need to loosen up a bit and change the thought of "we've always done it that way".

**Service hours:** Continuing Education hours for this year will be reported from October 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. After this reporting cycle MGV hours will be reported by the calendar year (less confusion).

"Foundations in Horticulture" online is an alternative to in person learning and can be found at [www.wimastergardeners.com/programs](http://www.wimastergardeners.com/programs). Take a class anytime to gain more knowledge. Open articles up and keep on learning! You'll need a good internet connection for this site. Checkout onboarding for new programs and to view project approval guidelines.

There is a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) where we need to follow the standards and to agree to certain issues with UW Madison. It's important to create a 501-C3 non-profit organization. The cost may be about \$600.00, but we have enough funds to cover the cost. This way we can accept donations and solicit sponsors, receive bequests upon the passing of folks, or just from the goodness of someone's heart. George recommended we form a committee to explore this program. Becky, Linda, Lori and Ann Marie agreed to be on the committee. The purpose is to gather information to present to the rest of the group at a future date.

Ardyce asked if we could change our local elections to the December meeting to correspond with this issue. Becky will check the by-laws of the organization to check on this. She mentioned that if could make reporting easier if we have grants, etc.

### Other

George will post online educational opportunities for our convenience on Zoom, such as fall clean up, trees, lawn care, container gardening, food preservation, etc. Our gardening class can be offered to the general public, perhaps on demand. Can we add close captioning if possible? Could the public come to the extension office to take training at this time? George said it was not possible now. We could record the sessions for future viewing.

An idea was presented to provide a "garden in a box" such as like the 4-H did with "Camp In a Box" for their membership. How about seed starting, or other ideas where we could involve the public. Could we add videos, zoom links or puzzles.

Terry and Rita mentioned the Green Lake library has a back pack project that the public enjoys. Good ideas!

Becky mentioned that the Rio High School has saved out check to reserve the building for the 2021 LGGG on March 20, 2021, but there is a conflict on that date. We'll stay on it where we could possibly do an online program, perhaps once a week or to consider others ways to share our information. Keep the idea alive and we could offer the opportunities for free or a minimal cost. Lori mentioned she participated in another zoom conference and it worked well.

Next Meeting: September 29, 2020 via ZOOM

**Adjournment:** Motion by Lila to adjourn meeting, second by Ann Marie at 7:02 p.m.



## CITIZEN SCIENTIST

By: J. Benade

A couple of years ago I volunteered as a Citizen Scientist with the Monarch Larva Monitoring Program (MLMP). It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I'd encourage you to look for a Citizen Scientist project that piques your interest. Citizen Scientist programs are massive collaborations. They are carefully designed investigations that produce results on a scale no single scientist could achieve alone. Typically the public is involved collecting data and research teams have done a fine job creating ways for you to collect and organize and submit the information. Often you use an online form, or print a blank chart you write on, then mail to them. You don't need to have any special tools, background, organization skills or education, though I do think enjoying nature and being good at spotting details is helpful. I found the MLMP tasks pleasant, and I like knowing my efforts contributed to knowledge of the natural world. The projects are fun to do on your own and can be a wonderful way to get youngsters intrigued with the natural world.

Here are details about my tasks in the MLMP project, to give you a feel for what is involved. Looking at the MLMP website guidelines, I decided it wouldn't be too taxing to look at two dozen milkweed stalks close to my house each Sunday afternoon. I followed the website instructions and printed blank data sheets, which made it easy to record each week's findings. The research groups go out of their way to make each part of the process straightforward and enjoyable.

Following the instructions, I started by looking for monarch eggs on the underside of milkweed leaves, and the website was correct: I needed a hand lens to spot the tiny bumpy domes. Some of those eggs had hatched a week later, so I learned to hunt for caterpillars, guided by a characteristic munched edge on the smallest tender leaves. Back to the MLMP website for help, I saved pictures on my phone to help identify caterpillar age based on its size. That was confusing until I saw several growing caterpillars. By midsummer I was confidently counting eggs and butterflies, identifying many ages of caterpillar in my patch. I was fairly diligent about inspecting milkweed, but I took some trips, and there were a couple of times I was busy on Sunday and collected my data on a Monday instead.

I got to choose whether I wanted to collect additional information, which is frequently a feature of citizen scientist projects. Because I already had a rain gauge and outdoor thermometer I opted to report the daily temperature and

Citizen Scientist Con't.

weekly rainfall of my milkweed patch. There was a special datasheet to download for that information. I decided not to use adhesive tape to test butterfly bodies for mites, that job just didn't appeal to me.

After the end of summer butterfly migration MLMP emailed me a reminder to type my data into their website. They also asked for the actual paper charts, and I mailed those in. They're happy to get the information one way or the other but prefer to have both. This kind of flexibility is one of the nice things built into most citizen scientist programs.

A citizen scientist project can involve one person or millions, all working toward a common goal. The programs can cover a limited area, whole continents or even the globe. All the projects I saw were beautifully designed to help you accurately collect data and easily record it. The programs are grateful to receive whatever information you collect and they aren't upset about gaps. They expect you to miss readings from time to time, so it is fine to stay inside during stormy weather, go on vacation or get busy with something else; this flexibility is built into their research design.

Here are some links to help you find a Citizen Scientist program that interests you. Odds are there are several projects that coincide with any hobby, interest, or curiosities you have. Open the underlined links by pressing the <CTRL> key while clicking the left mouse button.

Put Wisconsin in the search bar at <https://www.citizenscience.gov/#> and you choose among the main topics available. Or visit platforms like [iNaturalist](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/75-scientific-research-projects-you-can-contribute-online-180975050/) which provides free mobile apps where you can share observations of wild-life and nature. For a dazzling array of choices, visit <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/75-scientific-research-projects-you-can-contribute-online-180975050/>

Journey North has [All Species and Projects](#), also [Journey North | The North American Butterfly Monitoring Network](#) and [Journey North is Newest Partner of the Monarch Joint Venture](#) If you're more interested in bees and other pollinators, check out [Bumble Bee Watch](#), or [Community Science | Xerces Society](#) and [PollinatorLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure | Citizen Science](#) If you'd like to contribute to research about the scourge of summertime, try [Ticks | MCEVBD](#) and [What Researchers Are Learning About Ticks From New Smartphone App](#)

Venturing a bit far from Master Gardener interests, the US Geological Survey has several interesting looking earth science projects, <https://www.usgs.gov/science-support/osqi/youth-education-science/citizen-science> or you can join NASA's effort [counting passing meteors](#), and even [help monitor noise and light pollution](#)



## Citizen Scientist Con't.

For flowers, consider [Citizen Science #5: Wildflower Count](#), or [Photographing wildflowers and other ways you can help fight climate change](#) or [Monitoring wildflower phenology using traditional science, citizen science, and crowdsourcing approaches \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

I find these Citizen Scientist projects are a nice way to feel connected with many people and the natural world around us. It is a good activity while we're moving toward winter and having to stay away from large gatherings. Opportunities to participate in citizen science are boundless and participating is easy. You can find projects to report the first robin sighting, or use smart phone sensors to monitor water and air quality, or submit the date your first crocus bloomed. You can report the size of hail that falls, collect data by taking photographs of clouds or, like I did, look for young monarchs on milkweed.

Which topics attract your attention? Type that and "citizen science" in Google, you're likely to find up an array of interesting possibilities.



Photos by: J. Benade



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## MGV Friendly Websites

When plant related questions arise: insects, diseases, or weeds, be sure to search out information on the websites below. When you have questions, begin to do some of your own research to find your answers. When neighbors or friends ask you plant related questions, check out these resources first. Then if you still have questions or don't have success, contact George for additional help. As a MGV, you have direct access to the power of the University of Wisconsin. You are a MG Volunteer, a part of the University of Wisconsin System, a direct link from the University to our communities. Access that power any time of the day or night, using your computer skills to help yourself, or your neighbors and friends solve plant related challenges.

Bookmark these sites in your computer search engine software, (Google, Chrome, Safari, or Edge, so that they are quickly accessible.

The Learning Store:  
<https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/>

PDDC, Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic:  
<https://pddc.wisc.edu/>

Master Gardener Program Website: <https://wimastgardener.org/>

WI Insect Diagnostic lab: <https://insectlab.russell.wisc.edu/>

***"BUY/SELL/SWAP/GIVE-AWAY/ISO"***

"Looking to purchase/borrow a Rototiller for personal landscaping on farm property. Please contact Lori Nadolski: [lnadolski@gmail.com](mailto:lnadolski@gmail.com)"



From Jeff and Jane Breuer – Price is zero \$\$

The Atlas Tiller has a Briggs & Stratton Engine. Put away clean but have not used in years.



The Bulb Planter is in nearly new condition and works just fine. Again, would give to Columbia Co UWEX for use by MG clients similar to soil probe and education kits.



The Electric Weed Eater is a Sears Craftsman, electric extension cord model. If the Community Garden could use, that would be great.

The Lawn Dethatcher is a Zero Turn Mower front mount model, 40 inches wide. It could be converted to a pull type by reworking the metal brackets.



Many plant pots of different sizes and shapes.



***"BUY/SELL/SWAP/GIVE-AWAY/ISO"***

Misc items for swap or to give away: bicycle plant stand, bird feeders, planters, pots. -

Lila Waldman



If anyone has free extra tomatoes or garden produce, I have a friend with limited physical mobility who would appreciate some. Text or call me and I'll pass the info on to her. Donna McElroy: 608-697-9935. Thanks!



Please note items should be a "for members only listing" as a service to our members. If you have an item you are trying to find/purchase or sell/give-away, please send that information to George. Please be specific about your item, do you want to sell, set a price or give-away; are you looking to purchase, etc.



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