



Master Gardener News



2021 Officers:

- Deb Buechner, President
- Connie Wilsnack, Vice Pres.
- Linda Haddix, Secretary
- Ann Marie Fuerst, Treasurer
- Kim Leizinger, Reporter
- Judi Benade, Reporter

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Columbia County MGV Activities

- 4-23 WI Horticulture Update (WHU) Kick-Off**
- 4-27 MGV Meeting – 6:00 pm Admin Bldg, Rooms 113,114, 115**
- 5-5 Normal Last Frost Date in Portage**
- 5-25 MGV Mtg—6:00 PM—HHS, Room 2&3**
- 5-31 Memorial Day**

Note from the President ~

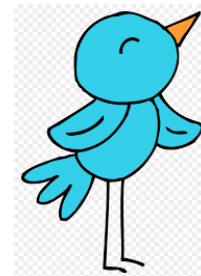
Hurray! It IS officially Spring, and it feels like Spring today. The weather is gorgeous today and some of the over-wintered plants are waking up starting to get green outside. The plants I brought in last Fall are frankly on their last legs and it'll be a gamble to see if they can hold out until the ground is sufficiently warm for them to be taken outside for this year.

The greenhouses are beginning to display early plants and it's really difficult to not leave with several. The seasonal greenhouses are popping up at the stores, which is a sure sign of Spring.

Seeds that we've started indoors have sprouted and are nearly ready to transplant from the tiny-celled flats into larger pots -- their final step before being lovingly tucked into the awaiting garden. But some of those cells are patently vacant of any sprouts, as well.

Gardening is so experimental and always uncertain. A successful garden is dependent upon so many variables we cannot control. It is a challenge we welcome, and that may be why we find gardening so compelling.

Deb Buechner
President





Columbia County Master Gardener's Association

Minutes - March 23, 2021

6:00 pm ZOOM Meeting

In attendance were: Judi Benade, Ann Marie Fuerst, Kate Rietmann, Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Donna Mc Elroy, Ardyce Piehl, Deb Buechner, Pat Trapp, Lila Waldman, Jane Breuer, Terry Socha, Rita Socha, Connie Wilsnack, Lori Richter, Linda Haddix and George Koepf.

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner at 6:03 p.m. Introductions were made, with the question, "What's coming up in your garden"?

Secretary's Report – the report was reviewed and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Ardyce, and a second by Lila. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented, with an ending balance of \$4,123.44. All but three past members have renewed their memberships. Motion was made by Pat and second by Connie to send the report to audit.

Old Business:

501(c)(3) Report – Ann Marie indicated there was an error on our application regarding our EIN number which had been deactivated on April 1, 2000, and has received a letter regarding such. More forms need to be completed, and this is a very busy time for the IRS, so more delays are expected. We may have to start the application process again!

LGGG: Ardyce reported that 299 registrations were received and at many times during the zoom broadcast there were 160 people participating. The committee received 94 evaluations, which is similar to other years and very impressive. George has updated our website including links to the presentations. Check it out! The presentation from Zannah Crowe is still a work in process as the UW is editing using close caption, some clean up and then off for the University to approve. Our website will be updated with a link when it is ready to go. Zannah will send slides to George when they are ready. Everything looks nice so far! Pat asked about demographics. It was reported there was one person was viewing from the United Kingdom. A wrap up meeting will be held on April 13th at 4:30, via zoom.

There won't be a 2021 class. The six people who expressed interest will be trained in a 2022 class which will be run statewide by UW staff and not by George.

New Business:

The 2021 Columbia County MGV enrollment so far is going well, only five more to go. Hopefully they will be completed soon.

Onboarding Light is a new program which will begin on April 1st. Look for emails on the subject. Ten hours can be claimed for continuing education, but it should not take that long to complete the project. Watch for updates and emails on that.

Master Gardener Volunteer week will take place from April 5 to 9, 2021. These are perks for all for re-enrolling in the program for 2021. This will feature different items each day with some shout outs to members and other fun things. Stay tuned for more of this as well. A statewide meeting may be held via zoom as well.

Our MGV Community Projects assignments need to be made for our upcoming directory. Some members volunteered to be the chair persons of certain projects, more to come on this matter.

One scholarship application was received from the Wisconsin Dells High School. A committee was formed to go over the application.

George mentioned the Portage Library has contacted him regarding the request for a display from our association to be shown from March 30th to April 30th featuring gardening techniques. Jean and Rita will contact the library.

Our April meeting will hopefully take place at the County Administration building in rooms 113-114-115. There will be a limit of 20 persons who may attend in person.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Continuing Education after the meeting will be a presentation by Judi Benade on Mason Bees.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Haddix, Secretary.



**Columbia County Master Gardener Treasurer Report
March 23, 2021**

Bank Balance February 28, 2021 4,248.44

Deposits since last meeting in Feb.

Payment from Co.Cty for 4 interns Mar. 11, 2021 60.00

Total: 60.00

All deposits are from MGV dues for 2021

Expenses:

Paid WIMGA for 37 Dues-paying MGVs for 2021 (cleared) 185.00

Paid WIMGA for 4 interns and 2 2020MGVs(late) 30.00

Zannah Crowe - Speaker's fee 150.00

Gift Cards - for 3 speakers at LGGG 75.00

Current Balance as of 23 March 2021 \$ 4,123.44

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

April 27, 2021 – In-Person and Zoom On-line

Meeting Agenda

Call the Meeting to Order (Deb)

Secretary's Report, March 23, 2021 (Linda)

Treasurer's Report (Ann Marie)

Introductions

Old Business

Update on Tax exempt status

"Onboarding Light" – will count for 10 hrs of CE

LGGG 2021 Wrap-up

MGV Scholarship Application Discussion

Portage Library Display Case, March 30 – April 30

New Business

Columbia County Fair – Flower Dept

Columbia County Fair – MGV Display

4-H Flower Planter Night at Link's Greenhouse – need rules or guidance

Other

Next Meeting: May 25, 2021 – Rooms 2-3. HHS (max 20 present)

Presentation for May—"Rain Gardens", Ann Marie Fuerst

Adjournment

April Program: "Beets", Amy Freidig



Continuing Education

In 2021, you will need to get in 10 hours of Continuing Education. We have some important reminders about the Continuing Education Policy: <https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/policies/>

Books: Only titles on the Approved Media List will count for continuing education hours. You cannot count other books that you've read if they're not on the list.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CaUVzeEQOPmMYrmMksSQqXFDXXcRAut9aZVjWmZ4uY/edit>

Submit a Book Title: Want to suggest a book for the Approved Media List? Submit potential books for review. Books are reviewed twice a year by a committee of staff and MGVs. The next review is in April. Remember, in the past books weren't allowed at all! Your help is appreciated as we expand this list.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfwNSPaG87YE-L5hhgrJBLUfRt9zmt0ZCAMg55zZn71uZ4Lw/viewform>

What's Onboarding Lite?

This is the new online training course for MGVs that teaches all about the program. We are strongly recommending ALL MGVs take this course in 2021... and if you complete it, it will count for your 10 hour Continuing Education requirement! It's free to current volunteers.

Each registered MGV will receive their own link from the state MGV office.

MGV Display at Portage Library

Master Gardener Display at the Portage Library. Stop by and take a look. It will be on display from March 31 to April 30. Thanks to Rita Socha, Pat Trapp, and Jean Damm for organizing this and setting up the display.



The Wisconsin Horticulture Update (WHU) Kick off ...

We're starting the WHU on **April 23rd!** Circle your calendars. We'll be meeting most Fridays at 9:30 am to discuss horticulture inquires and diagnostics. We've brought back guest presenters for the 2021 WHU. Brian Hudelson has done a great job securing a good mix of presenters! Watch for the links to join in your email.

Dampening Damping-Off: Tips on Seed Starting to Avoid Disease

Posted on March 5, 2021



Damping off can kill your seedlings

By [Brian Hudelson](#),
[Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic](#)



After a long, cold winter, it's time to start growing plants from seeds for the upcoming growing season. **Damping-off** is a common disease that can prevent seed-starting success. Here are tips that can help prevent damping-off from being a problem.

Buy high quality seed from a reputable source. High quality seeds are less likely to carry damping-off organisms.

Use pasteurized soil. Pasteurized soil has been steam treated to kill pathogens.

Use clean pots/containers. Store new pots or flats in sealed plastic bags to prevent possible pathogen contamination prior to use. When reusing pots, soak them in 10% bleach (1 part of a disinfecting bleach, 9 parts water) for 30 minutes, then rinse well to remove bleach residues.

Dampening Damping-Off: Tips on Seed Starting to Avoid Disease (cont.)

Plant seeds at the proper depth. This will promote quick germination and rapid growth of seedlings out of the early stages of growth when they are most susceptible to damping-off.

Start seeds at higher temperatures. This will again help plants grow out of their susceptible phase quickly. Consider using a seed-starting heat pad (available at your local garden center), particularly if you start seeds in a colder part of your home (e.g., a basement).

Don't overwater! Damping-off organisms are more active in wet soils. Water enough to keep seedlings alive, but keep plants a bit on the dry side to slow development of damping-off pathogens.

Seed starting can be a fun way to start the gardening season. With just a little extra effort, you can prevent damping-off from dampening your gardening efforts.

For more information on damping-off and its management, check out University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1124 (Damping-Off), available at <https://pddc.wisc.edu/fact-sheet-listing-all/> or <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/damping/>.



Volunteer Hours Requirements Due to COVID

In 2021, you may report less than 24 hours of volunteer time at **2021 COVID approved projects** (this may be zero hours). Only volunteer at approved projects if you feel you can do so safely.

We continue to require the minimum of 10 hours of continuing education. The 10 hours of continuing ed plus completing all the volunteer mandates will be required to certify next year.

You have until December 31, 2021, to complete and report your hours.



Email Communications from the State Program

We know regardless of the method we send electronic messages, an individual's email settings may identify our emails as spam. A solution may be to add wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu and noreply@volunteers.wimastergardener.org to your email's safe sender list. Depending on the email service this may be marking a message from these addresses as "not junk" or a similar designation. The following links may provide help on how to do this:

- <https://anyleads.com/how-to-add-email-to-safe-sender-list-gmail>
- <http://onlinegroups.net/blog/2014/02/25/how-to-whitelist-an-email-address/>

In hopes to better reach volunteers with our communications, we are also experimenting with [MyEmma](#) to send messages. We not only hope to improve the delivery of our communications, but to also capture the analytics of these messages. MyEmma can report receipt and open rates, as well as interactions within emails. We'll use this information to improve our communications and message content. We will primarily use MyEmma to send the Volunteer Vibe each month. The mailing list will be exported from the ORS, so please keep that up to date!

Columbia County MGV Projects 2021

Project	Chair Persons
Lincoln Park Gardens	Linda Haddix, Rita & Terry Socha
Let's Green and Growing Microfarm Project in Schools	Becky Gutzman, Ardyce Piehl Lila Waldman, Becky Gutzman
County Fair MGV Booth	Jean Damm
Columbia County Fair Flower Dept Superintendent	Carol Ziehmke
Let's Get Green and Growing Planning and Support	Becky Gutzman, Ardyce Piehl
Let's Get Green and Growing Teaching Sessions	Becky Gutzman, Ardyce Piehl
Teaching 4-H Members	Becky Gutzman
Planting and maintaining public areas	
Museum at the Portage	Lila Waldman, Ann Marie Fuerst
Pauquette Park	Carol Ziehmke
Indian Agency House	Ann Marie Fuerst
Supporting Community Gardens	Linda Haddix
Garden-related education at public events	Ardyce Piehl
School gardens	Deb Buechner
CCMGA Leadership roles	Officer Team
Teaching at libraries	Ardyce Piehl
Mackenzie Environmental Center	Pat Trapp, Lila Waldman
Tomatopalooza (will it happen again?)	Lori Nadolski
Invasive Species Eradication	Deb Buechner
Pollinator Protection and Promotion	Lori Richter
Wisconsin First Detector Network -- Reporting	Judi Benade
Journey North	Judi Benade
Habitat for Humanity - Garden and lawn education	Lila Waldman
Prairie Seed Collection - Goose Pond	Len Betley



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