



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COLUMBIA COUNTY

May 2021

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

- 5-5 Normal Last Frost Date in Portage
- 5-25 MGv Mtg – 6:00 pm, HHS Rooms 2&3
- 5-31 Memorial Day
- 6-20 1st day of Summer – longest daylight of the year!
- 6-22 MGv Mtg – 6:00 pm, HHS Rooms 2&3

Note from the President ~

Spring -- what a great time of year for us Master Gardener Volunteers! The dreaming and thoughts and ideas about what to do in our gardens and yards, as well as how to maximize our volunteer efforts in our communities, will soon become reality, not just aspirations.

This is when the rubber hits the road!

What fun! I really enjoy seeing what perennial plants made it through the winter and what condition they're in, then to figure out how to fill in the blank or bland areas with colorful annuals. It's a challenge choosing the planter flowers each Spring. It's difficult choosing because I want to adopt all the beautiful flowers and plants in the greenhouses! Narrowing it down is tough. Each visit! Every greenhouse!

Enjoy this Spring!

Deb Buechner

President



Columbia County Master Gardener's Association
Minutes - April 27, 2021
6:00 pm In Person & ZOOM Meeting

In person and ZOOM Meeting; In attendance were: Becky Gutzman, Lila Waldman, Ann Marie Fuerst, Ardyce Piehl, Phyllis Peterson, Deb Buechner, Judi Benade, Marie Rohrbacher, Lloyd Moberg, Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Donna McElroy, Milissha Meicher, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Connie Wilsnack, Pat Trapp, 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 "How do you mark your plants in the yard and garden".

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

Treasurer's Report was presented, with an ending balance of \$4,139.74. A deposit of \$200.00 was made for Community Garden plots. A water meter horn, at a charge of \$73.70, was installed on the building for our water use to remain separate from the Park and Recreation water use. Final payment was made to WIM-GA for our membership, and Links Greenhouse was paid for two cubic yards of soil at a cost of \$90.00. A motion was made and seconded to send the report to audit. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Community Garden – the water will be turned on soon. The first water bill to our meter will most likely go to Portage Youth, Inc. until our account kicks in. Most beds are cleaned out, with a few active gardeners attending to strawberry beds and planting leeks.

Tax exempt status – still waiting to hear from the IRS, it's their very busy season. Ann Marie inquired if we need to send in a tax form which lists assets. This will be discussed again soon.

Onboarding Light is new way to gain education credits, and we can earn ten hours for approximately 6 to 7 hours of your time. Log in information will be emailed soon, with courses added over time. It should be interesting and informative for all.

LGGG wrap up – 2021 is in the books! Becky reported that great feedback was received, and loved by many. The information was useful and reported the speakers did a great job. Of the 300 people who were registered, 150 responded to the survey. Most expressed a positive experience, with some suggestions made as well. The technology was great due to an excellent job by our own Kate Rietmann. Great job Kate!! Zannah Crowe got a lot of feedback and was thrilled. George received the software to edit the presentations and close captioning will be added so we can post the presentations. We're making progress!

Minutes - April 27, 2021 (cont)

Scholarships – Lila reported we only received applications from students from Wisconsin Dells, even though scholarship information was sent to Ag Instructors in the county and scholarship teams. Most of the responses were not associated with horticulture, landscape, forestry or any related field. Should we open up the scholarship to other fields? Becky stated that we need to stick to our subject matter. Jean asked if we can offer the scholarship to those who are currently college students, but Beck said it is clearly stated in our information that it is open to high school students. Judi asked if we could look at other majors and update our language, such as plant pathology or plant science. A committee was formed to include Lila, Ann Marie, Becky and Connie to consider possible changes. The scholarships are done for this year...

Portage Library display case – the display ends the end of the week. Nice job to all! We may ask if the library wants to do it again next year.

Amy Freidig of UW presented her talk at on Beets before the end of the business meeting. It was VERY informative and well presented.

New business

The county Fair will be held July 21 through 25, 2021. The theme is "A Fair to Remember". Carol will be in charge of the Flower Department this year. The annual Fair Book categories have not been updated, so we need to use the old version for guidance. Someone asked if the display from the library could be used at the fair and we did not find a reason not to use it. Jean reported she talked to Two River Signs about making some posters regarding comments made at LGGG, on "Why I became a Master Gardener". What a good idea. Two Rivers Signs stated that we could make them reusable, size 2' by 3' for a charge of \$45.00 each. The general consensus of the group was to proceed. Becky made a motion, with a second by Ardyce to purchase 4 of the signs at a cost of 4 at \$180.00. The motion was passed by the group. Flower judging will be held on the first day of the fair. Anyone interested in attending is encourage to attend.

Set up will take place on the Tuesday evening prior to the start of the fair. Jean will be the organizer of the setup, which will take place of our July general meeting.

4-H planter night at Link's Greenhouse needs to be set up. Pat Wagner, the 4-H Development Leader will send information out to 4-H clubs in their newsletter to encourage participation. In the past, some people showed up to take advantage of the projects, but don't show up to the fair with their projects which does not seem to be appropriate. The date has not been set for this project.

Lila reported that the Wyocena Habitat House purchase will close in May. George stated we need to complete paperwork in order for volunteers to claim hours.

Judi mentioned Journey North reported the first oriole and hummingbird siting and ask for citizen science reporting.

Minutes - April 27, 2021 (cont)

Becky mentioned the Wisconsin Bee Project will begin on May 1st, again asking for citizen reporting. Becky will send out info on our list serve.

Our new Directory will be mailed out to members.

Deb asked about a possible field trip this year, but guidance won't be out until June 1st. A fall tour is a possibility.

Ardyce made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Lila. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



Linda Haddix
Secretary

Columbia County Master Gardener Treasurer Report April 27, 2021

Bank Balance as of March 31, 2021: \$ 4,133.44

Deposits since end of March:

Deposits for Community Garden Plots: 200.00

Total: 200.00

Expenses:

Check 1714 – Paid for Meter Horn for Comm. Garden 73.70

Check 1715 – Paid for WIMGA for final 4 30.00

Check 1716 – Paid Link's Greenhouse for compost 90.00

Total: 193.70

Current Balance as of April 27, 2021: \$ 4,139.74

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers May 25, 2021 – In-Person and Zoom On-line Rooms 2 & 3, HHS Building Meeting Agenda

Call the Meeting to Order (Deb)

Secretary's Report, April 27, 2021 (Linda)

Treasurer's Report (Ann Marie)

Introductions

Old Business

Update on Tax exempt status

MGV Scholarship Application Discussion

4-H Flower Planter Night at Link's Greenhouse

New Business

Columbia County Fair – Flower Dept

Columbia County Fair – MGV Display

Other

Next Meeting: June 22, 2021 – Rooms 2-3. HHS (max 20 present)

Presentation John Haack, "Wild Rice and other Edibles"

Adjournment

May Program – Rain Gardens – Anne Marie Fuerst



Upcoming Webinar About Mosquitoes!

The Buzz About Mosquitoes presented by PJ Liesch

Monday, May 24 12:00-1:00 p.m. (CST)

Wisconsin is home to nearly 60 mosquito species, meaning there are plenty of different types to pester us during the warmer months. In this webinar, we'll review the basic biology of mosquitoes, debunk common mosquito myths, and discuss ways to protect ourselves and our families from mosquitoes.

This is a free event, but registration is required. Please register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/2xx44i>



Accessing Canvass For MGVC Classes

Have you received your UW-Madison Net ID? This is needed to access the UW-Madison training for the Onboarding Lite and WIBee programs. If you don't remember seeing an email with your Net ID, please contact Mike Maddox directly to get this taken care of. Email Mike at mike.maddox@wisc.edu. He has indicated that he will be happy to help you resolve this.

The sooner you get your Net ID and use it to make sure it is activated and working, the sooner you will be able to access other MGVC trainings and courses from UW-Madison. This is the direction the MGVC Program is going to offer future trainings. When you get a few minutes check out the learning opportunities that are available to you.

Native Wisconsin Orchids? Yes Indeed!

By Judi Benade

During 2020 Tara Buehler, a volunteer with the DNR Rare Plant Monitoring Program, located an Eastern Prairie White Fringed Orchid. This rare plant had not been found at this site during the previous six years of close monitoring. DNR botanist Kevin Doyle, who coordinates the Rare Plant Monitoring Program, rushed to pollenate the plant. Following their standard protocols, Doyle and his fellow botanists pollenate rare orchids using a toothpick, carefully transporting pollen between matching orchids at different sites. They hope moving pollen this way will increase fruit and seed production, and possibly improve the seed viability. These efforts do seem to be worth the painstaking work, as follow-up surveys have found that most of the fruit produced by these rare orchids comes from the hand pollinated plants.

Showy and easily recognized, florist shop orchids often appear in a corsage for proms and Mother's Day. One distinctive feature of all orchid family flowers is an inflated lip, also called a moccasin or pouch, formed where the stamen and carpels fuse together. Corsage orchids are native to the tropics and subtropics, but other members of the orchid family grow in temperate zones. Tropic orchids often attach to rocks or grow on other plants high in the tree canopy, drawing moisture and nutrition from the surrounding air. Wisconsin orchids grow on the ground, exchanging resources with specific soil fungi. Most produce their own food.

The best-known Wisconsin orchids are Moccasin Flower, Autumn Coral Root and the lovely Lady Slipper, in pink or white to yellow. Wisconsin has 48 native orchid species, which include 18 of the 20-26 genera of orchid found in North America. Orchids grow in a wide variety of Wisconsin's habitats including swamp forests, brushy thickets, open bogs, stream borders and roadside ditches, prairies, and many types of forest. Wisconsin is home to one naturalized species of orchid, which now grows wild. All the other orchid growing wild in Wisconsin are native, and WI DNR lists almost half of these as endangered, threatened or of special concern.

Native Wisconsin Orchids? (cont..)

Like most plants, correct sunlight, soil pH and moisture are crucial for the health of temperate zone orchids. This dependence on environment means loss of natural habitat, particularly wet prairies in the southeast section of the state, contributes to the rarity of Wisconsin native orchids.

Orchids can self-pollenate, and a few varieties require this, but for most, pollination within a group of plants produces more robust fruit and seed. Many of our native orchids are pollinated by night-flying hawk moths, and as the number of plants decrease, the amount of cross-pollination also decreases. Scientists hypothesize hawk moths may have difficulty locating widely spaced plants. Added to loss of habitat, these two factors help explain the downward spiral of viable seed.

Some Wisconsin orchids could be described as inconspicuous, but their beauty and rarity still draws hikers and nature lovers hundreds of miles to view them. It is not easy to spot orchids, and the location of single plants and rare species does not get advertised. If you'd like to hunt for some of the lesser seen orchids, try Ridges Sanctuary in Door County. In 2016 they started work to reintroduce rare orchid species, including Grass Pink Orchid, Showy Lady's Slipper and Ram's-head Lady Slipper. Another site to explore is Woodland Dunes in Two Rivers, which has at least 10 species of native orchids

Few resources focus solely on Wisconsin orchids. https://orchids.botany.wisc.edu/Orchids_of_Wisconsin.html was designed for old internet browsers, but provides information about the habitat and blooming date of our native orchids, plus very detailed botanical descriptions of each plant. The accepted reference book about orchids in our area is the comprehensive and beautifully illustrated Orchids of Minnesota by W. R. Smith (1993).



Fair Planters for Columbia County Fair

4-H clubs are again invited to decorate the Columbia County Fairgrounds with beautiful planters during the county fair. The Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers will once again organize a "planter night" at Link's Greenhouse, N9905 Link Rd, north of Portage on **Thursday, May 20 at 6 PM.**

The theme for this year's fair is "2021 – A Fair to Remember". Club members must do the work of creating these planters, and be sure to enter it on a club entry form by June 20th. Social distancing and masks will be used to ensure the safety of everyone participating. Clubs need bring their own planter, and are encouraged to be creative as well as choosing a container that is large enough, yet easy to move. Link's will provide the planting medium, and flowers and plants used in the planters. This year we are also asking clubs to bring their own trowels, so we are not sharing tools. Weather-permitting, the entire event will be held outside, and members will social-distance while in the greenhouse choosing plants.

If you have questions about this event, contact :
Becky Gutzman buckhill@centurylink.net or
Ardyce Piehl deanardycepiehl@centurytel.net

Clubs must register with the Extension office by Wednesday, May 19 and tell how many people plan to attend.



Lesser Celandine or Marsh Marigold

Are you seeing a showy yellow flower blooming in moist areas these days? It may be the invasive Lesser Celandine or the lovely and well-behaved common native plant Marsh Marigold.

Lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria* or *Ficaria verna*) resembles the marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) but is much smaller. Both plants yellow eight petal flowers and heart-shaped leaves.

When you spot Lesser Celandine, take a photo and note the location, and send the information to invasive.species@wisconsin.gov

Lesser Celandine is just starting to appear throughout Wisconsin, and there is still a chance to squash its spread. The plant thrives in wet soil, invading shaded areas in forest and wetlands as well as shoreland areas. and can crowd out spring wildflowers. It is poisonous to livestock and people.

Learn more and view photos: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/LesserCelandine.html>



WiBee Statewide Project 2021

We want you to have an opportunity to volunteer safely this year!

The Master Gardener Program is partnering with [WiBee](#), a community science project developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is an opportunity to help researchers learn more about wild bees in Wisconsin. We will email specific project instructions before the project begins in May 2021. For now, check out [WiBee's website](#).



Who: You!

What: Volunteer safely in a no-contact setting on a citizen science pollinator project. Collect data to help pollinators!

Where: A garden space with flowering plants to survey- from your home, approved project location, or public space (like a public park).

When: Starting May 1, 2021-October 31, 2021

Why: The data you collect helps UW-Madison researchers provide recommendations to help pollinators!

You will need a smartphone or tablet with access the internet (either a Wifi connection or using data on your smartphone).

Check for more information in your inbox. The project opened on May 1st.

Training for this is provided using UW-Madison Canvass. It is accessed using your Net ID.

Special thank you to the Winnebago County Master Gardener Volunteers for advocating and working to make this project possible!