



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

6-20	1 st day of Summer – longest daylight of the year!
6-22	MGV Mtg – 6:00 pm, Admin Bldg., Rooms 113 & 114
7-04	Independence Day
07/20-25	Columbia Co Fair
07/27	No MGV Mtg
08/05-15	Wi State Fair
08/24	MGV Mtg—Location TBD
09/02-05	Lodi Ag Fair
09/28	MGV Mtg—Location TBD

Note from the President ~

I came outside to get some inspiration for a topic for this note. Inspiration came, but it's geared toward all the things that need to get done for this growing season, rather than any topics that might interest fellow gardeners.

There sure is a lot that needs doing in our yard. We have brand new concrete that we can walk on, but can't drive on for another two or three weeks yet. The safe drive-on date differs between our concrete contractor and the neighbor who used to be one. He said that owning that company helped him decide to return to school for a teaching degree. The cement work does look like a hot and hard way to earn a living. Summers off may have sealed the deal for him, a fellow gardener.

So now we have different boundaries for potential plantings. We live on a hill -- not on top of a hill -- and we put up a terraced wall which will contain our vegetable garden. That will be another project shortly; the soil for it will be delivered tomorrow.

Meanwhile I sit here looking at the new driveway and admire a cement job very well done -- maybe even artistically done. Quite inspiring, Happy gardening.

Deb Buechner

President



Columbia County Master Gardener's Association Minutes - May 25, 2021

The meeting was held in person and via ZOOM. In attendance: Deb Buechner, Lila Waldman, Jean Damm, Bill Damm, Linda Haddix, Ann Marie Fuerst, Ardyce Piehl, George Koepp, Lloyd Moberg, Marie Rorhbacher, Donna Mc Elroy, Becky Gutzman, Connie Wilsnack, Judi Benade, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Carol Ziehmke, Pat Trapp and Milissha Meicher.

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner at 6:05 p.m.

Secretary's Report – Motion made by Jean, with a second by Lila to accept the minutes. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – there was one \$60.00 deposit made for three plots at the Community Garden with all plots assigned. Lincoln Park gardens had two beds yet available at the time of the meeting. The ending balance in the checkbook was \$4,199.74. A motion was made by Lila and a second by Linda to accept the report, which will be sent to audit.

Introductions were made answering the question "Who got you started in gardening"?

Old Business:

Our tax exempt status is still not complete, waiting for a reply from the IRS. All items have been submitted and now we wait.

Scholarships: We had one student apply for the scholarship, but did not meet the qualifications. It was suggested we promote the scholarship to FFA Advisors, 4-H newsletter, colleges and tech schools, not only high schools possibly in late winter. Do we need to update our letter? Ag Education was added as a category which may reach more students. A discussion was held to perhaps increase the amount offered. Connie mentioned the essay and suggested we add something like "what will you do after you complete school"? Some students write one letter when applying for all scholarships and someone mentioned we should ask to apply separately for our program. We could also promote the program more by reporting who received the scholarship, such as newspapers, media, face book and at the county fair. Connie asked if other programs do more than we do to promote the program. Becky mentioned the Farm Bureau or Women in Agriculture program could be a possibility. If anyone is interested in helping Connie research this, please give her a call.

Minutes - May 25, 2021 (cont)

4-H Planter night at Link's Greenhouse – Becky and Ardyce reported that it was great night for teaching outside. Link's offered carts so the students could pick out their plants and visualize how display would look. Great idea! There were 10 kids representing four clubs, several parents and club leaders considering it a good turnout. Lots of good questions were asked and thank you notes were written by Ardyce and Becky.

Five MGV's helped out at the Habitat for Humanity house in Wyocena and a thank you note was received regarding that. This was a good teaching opportunity for the new home owners. Rita drew a map of the plantings for them for their records (great idea!). Possibly our organization could donate a shrub or two?? The Habitat House in Portage could use some perennials, so if you have some you want to split, they could use them!

New business: Columbia County Fair Flower Department will be directed by Carol Ziehmke, and she will write up a sheet on what needs to be done. This will be a static display and no volunteers will be stationed in the building. The public will not be able to attending the flower judging this year. The theme for the fair – A Fair to Remember....

MGV display signs have been ordered and could be used for art work or other items.

Next meeting will be held on June 22nd at the Administration Building.

A motion was made by Becky to adjourn, with a second by Ardyce. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Following the meeting, Ann Marie presented a very informative program on rain Gardens.

Submitted by Linda Haddix

Secretary



Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers
June 22, 2021 – In-Person and Zoom On-line
Rooms 113 & 114, Admin Building
Meeting Agenda

Call the Meeting to Order (Deb)

Secretary's Report, May 25, 2021 (Linda)

Treasurer's Report (Ann Marie)

Introductions

Old Business

Update on Tax exempt status

Columbia County Fair – Flower Dept

Columbia County Fair – MGV Display

Zannah Crowe presentation is now on-line

Other

New Business

1. Selection of MGV Columbia County Fair Awards

2.

Next Meeting: August 24 , 2021 – Location TBD

Presentation – "Fruit and Vegetable Storage" – no presenter identified

Adjournment

June Program – John Haack, "Wild Rice and other Edibles"



**Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers, Inc.
Treasurer Report
May 25, 2021**

Bank Balance as of April 30, 2021:	\$ 4,139.44
Deposits: May 3, 2021 (Community Garden dues)	\$ 60.00
No new expenditures	
Current Balance as of May 25, 2021:	\$ 4,199.74

Help Needed at Columbia County Fair Flower Department

Help is needed for the county fair. There are 3 different opportunities to help.

- Clean-up of the flowers area and arrangement of the shelving on Saturday, July 17, 9 to 11.
- Check in of entries on Wednesday, July 21, from 8 to 11:30.
- Volunteers needed to move plants around for the judge and then to arrange the plants for the public to view, July 21, 1:15 to around 5:00

Participation in these activities count for MGV volunteer time.

Contact Carol Ziehmke, carol@ziehmke.com
phone 608-429-2676, cell 608-201-2576.



Plant Pollination

By Judi Benade

I was touring a friend's gardens and admiring her solar weeding "turtle" when a breeze rained down a shower of maple spinners, helicopters. Technically they're called samara. Bridget commented that she'd seen ads for "Male Maple Trees" that never make spinners, and asked if I'd heard of them. I told her that was new to me but I'd try to get some details. I found one commercial site that claims Celebration Autumn Fantasy maples are seedless, as are some varieties of Sienna Glen and Autumn Blaze. Is that really possible? Our discussion is what led to this exploration of flower types and pollination.

What species have separate male and female plants? The answer is: about 6% of flowering plants, most ferns and mosses plus about 50% of the other non-flowering plants. (Non-flowering plants include liverworts, horsetail, conifers, redwoods, yew, spruce, larch, cypress, pines, and juniper etc.) Male and female flowers that grow on separate plants are called dioecious, or two-house. I'd compare them to having separate dormitories, male and female don't inhabit the same plant. Plants in this group we are most familiar with are holly, ginko and kiwi. These plants can only make seed and fruit after receiving pollen from a separate compatible bush or tree. Many trees follow this pattern, including mulberry, box elder, white ash, red cedar, Osage orange, aspen and willow, also date palm, papaya and apple.

Almost all flowering plants, (which includes most vegetables), are monoecious - both sexes share one house. This term is used when male and female flowers grow on a single plant and also when a single flower has both male and female components. Despite what seems like a "one stop shop" for convenient self-pollination, there are many types of pollination within the monoecious group. Some monoecious vegetables only make seed if they receive pollen from a separate plant - cabbage and radish work this way. A handful of other monoecious vegetables prefer to self-pollinate but are able to accept pollen from a different plant. Beans, peas, tomato, chicory and endive are in this group. According to a University of Georgia Extension article you can save their seeds and the new plant will match the plant it came from: less than 5% of the seed comes from cross-pollination. That's probably why Gregor Mendel was successful using peas in his groundbreaking experiments about inherited traits. Self-pollinating monoecious plants are the exception, which means most monoecious plants prefer to receive pollen from a plant nearby. Corn, (yes, grasses do flower) onions, beets and carrots, pumpkins, melon and squash, eggplant, okra, and peppers follow this pollination pattern.

Most monoecious trees bear separate male and female flowers and polli-

Plant Pollination (cont..)

nate within the tree. Birch, beech, fir, hickory, pecan, chestnut, walnut, white cedar, sweetgum, oak, pine and hemlock are in this category. Some fruit trees, particularly pear and the Prunus family -cherry, plum, peach, almond and nectarine - have cosexual flowers, blossoms that contain both male and female structures within the same bloom. Self-fertile fruit tree varieties are being bred but most fruit trees with cosexual flowers block self-pollination and required another tree nearby. Non-fruit trees with cosexual flowers include redbud, dogwood, magnolia, rhododendron, American elm, yellow poplar, red maple and sugar maple, locust, mulberry, sumac and black ash.

I still wasn't ready to answer Bridget's question, because it turns out trees just don't follow the normal patterns. Some trees flower the same way throughout their lifespan but many others don't, possibly responding to the age of the tree or changes in the environment. Young hardwood trees for instance tend to grow male flowers when they are young and switch to female flowers in the tree's later years. Softwood trees follow the opposite pattern, female flowers in the early years then changing to male. Box elder is always dioecious but the rest of the maple family seems particularly independent. Norway, red and sugar maples are classified as "either dioecious or monoecious." Red maple gets an additional classification, polygamo-dioecious, what I'd term "anything goes." When a Red Maple makes dioecious flowers, they might be cosexual, or they might be separate male and female flowers on a single tree.

I still didn't have an answer to Bridget's question, but I'm not going to suggest she count on planting a maple that never makes samara.

Ask a Gardening Question On-line

Here is an online resource to point clients to or use yourself to get help from a UW-Extension horticulture staff member or MGV from your area. These questions are directed to Extension staff ready to help. It will be especially helpful when there is not a general ag educator seated in the Columbia County office.

Follow this link below and check it out. Just complete general contact information and select your county. Then describe your gardening problem or ask a gardening question. You may insert up to three photos. Take good quality photos that are in focus and show the problem in the landscape and include a close up to help with the identification and/or diagnosis.

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/ask-a-gardening-question/>

Pruning Evergreens

Laura Jull, UW-Madison Horticulture, UW-Extension
Item number: XHT1013

Why prune?

Pruning is important for a variety of reasons. Pruning can help control the size of an evergreen, direct growth, or maintain plant health and appearance. Pruning can also increase the safety of an evergreen by removing broken, diseased, dead, or dying branches. In addition to pruning, selecting plants that are suited to your environment and location are very important. The ultimate height and spread, in addition to location of overhead powerlines, should be taken into account when selecting an evergreen for landscaping.

How to prune specific evergreens.

Evergreen trees such as pine, spruce, fir, Douglas-fir, and hemlock require little pruning. These trees typically have a broad, pyramidal form with low branches, and should be left intact. DO NOT remove lower branches as this destroys the natural aesthetic form of the tree. NEVER remove the main, central stem. DO remove crossing, dead, diseased, or broken branches. Also remove individual branches to help maintain the tree's natural outline. When pruning large branches, use the 3-point method of pruning (refer to University of Wisconsin Garden Facts XHT1014).

Pines: New growth in pines occurs once a year from terminal buds. To maintain a more compact, densely branched habit, remove approximately 1/2 to 2/3 of the elongated terminal buds (candles) before the needles expand in spring. Candles can be pinched in half (see figure), or pruned with hand pruners. Do not cut branches back to older growth farther down the stem. Pines produce buds only at the tips of the current season's growth and will not produce new shoots farther back down the stem.

Spruce, fir, and Douglas-fir: New growth in these trees occurs once a year from terminal buds. To maintain the tree's natural shape and promote denser growth, cut the tip of the branch back to a lateral bud. Do not leave branch stubs. In early summer, you can also remove 2/3 of an unbranched tip to keep the tree fuller.

Hemlocks, arborvitae, and yews: These evergreen trees and shrubs have latent (dormant) buds farther back down the stem. Therefore, you can shear these evergreens in late spring or early summer after new growth has expanded. You can also prune them in spring before the new growth has expanded because any subsequent growth will hide the pruning cuts. You can also prune individual branches back to a bud or a branch to encourage more compact habit. If these evergreens are used in formal hedges, maintain the base of the hedge wider than the top to insure adequate light penetration to the bottom of the hedge.

Pruning Evergreens (Cont...)

Junipers and false cypress: These shrubs require little pruning. They have scale and awl-like foliage that can be tip pruned in summer. Selectively prune branches of these plants back to a side branch, so that pruning cuts are hidden under foliage. These plants should NOT be sheared or cut back to older, non-leafy areas because this type of pruning would take years for new growth to conceal. Do not prune these plants after August, as the new growth will not harden off sufficiently before winter.

For more information on pruning: See UW-Extension Bulletins [A1817](#), [A1771](#), [A1730](#) and Extension Fact Sheets [XHT1014](#), [XHT1015](#).



WI Lawn Care Calendar

Item number: XHT1147

The following lawn care calendar provides an overview of home lawn maintenance. Not all lawns require every maintenance activity. Be sure to customize the care of your lawn to its specific problems and needs. For details on specific activities listed below, check out the University of Wisconsin-Extension bulletins (available at <http://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu>) and University of Wisconsin Garden Facts (available at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>) that are referenced at the end of this fact sheet. Finally, be sure to read and follow all label instructions of any pesticides that you select to ensure that you use these products in the safest and most effective manner possible.

June

- If you have not applied one previously, apply an herbicide to your lawn for broadleaf weed control.
- Begin watering your lawn as needed for the summer. Or alternatively, do not water and allow the lawn to go dormant (i.e., turn brown) if natural rains are insufficient.
- Watch for insect pests, diseases, and other lawn problems.

July

- Water your lawn as needed. If you do not water, your lawn will naturally go dormant.
- Early in July (e.g., around Independence Day), fertilize with a controlled-release or slow-release fertilizer. For grass growing in the sun, use the label rate of the fertilizer that you have selected. For grass growing in the shade, apply half of the label rate. If your lawn has been consistently fertilized for 10 to 15 years, if you leave clippings on your lawn when you mow, or if your lawn has gone dormant, skip this application.

WI Lawn Care Calendar (Cont...)

- Apply a grub control product to your lawn if there is a history of grub problems and/or your lawn is a high maintenance (i.e., regularly watered) lawn.
- Avoid seeding and spraying for weeds.
- Watch for insect pests, diseases, and other lawn problems.

August

- Water your lawn as needed.
- Establish a new lawn or renovate your current lawn. Note that mid-August to mid-September is the best time to establish a lawn in Wisconsin.
- Watch for insects, diseases, and other lawn problems.

September

- Early in September (e.g., around Labor Day), fertilize your lawn using a controlled-release or slow-release formulation. For grass growing in the sun, use the label rate of the fertilizer that you have selected. For grass growing in the shade, apply half of the label rate.
- Apply an herbicide to your established lawn to control broadleaf weeds. Fall is the best time to apply herbicides for weed control. DO NOT apply herbicides to lawns planted in August or September.
- Core aerate actively growing lawns if the thatch layer is over one inch thick, or if the soil is compacted.

October

- Apply a broadleaf herbicide to your lawn if you did not apply one in September and the weeds are still growing.
- If you have removed clippings from your lawn all season, fertilize your lawn in early October using a controlled-release or slow-release formulation. For grass growing in the sun, use the label rate of the fertilizer that you have selected. For grass growing in the shade, apply half of the label rate.

November

- Continue to mow your lawn until it goes dormant for the winter.

Videos from LGGG

Check out the presentation “Creating a Garden of Four Season Interest,” by Zannah Crowe at LGGG on March 20. The link is live and working. Follow this link <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/lets-get-green-and-growing/> and then select Zannah’s Presentation.

Watch for two more presentations to be loaded soon.

- Anne Pearce – “Addressing Invasive Species with Citizen Science”
- Pat Trapp – “Lets take a look at Daylilies”



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