



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
COLUMBIA COUNTY

# June 2021 Report

## Positive Youth Development



*Jamie & Molly Damm Attend Grand Opening of Upham Woods Upper Dells Education & Research Center*

"I'm Molly Damm and I have gone to 4-H camps since I was in the third grade. After my first 4-H camp I knew it wouldn't be my last. I attended as many camps as I could when I was younger. Now I have grown to be a camp counselor myself. 4-H camps have helped me become a leader and grow as a person. I have learned not only about nature and the world around us, but also about my peers and myself. Because of 4-H and camp I have grown and been inspired to be a leader. Without the 4-H experiences I have gained from camps like Upham Woods I wouldn't be the person I am today. I am so excited for the future and can't wait to get back to camp."

- Pat Wagner held an outdoor learning event at Upham Woods for Columbia County youth and adults where participants learned skills for winter survival and winter outdoor sports. This event was designed to develop life skills for healthy living.
- Pat Wagner collaborated with Area 16 Youth Development colleges from Dodge & Sauk Counties creating project kits where youth learned project and life skills from the 4-H curriculum and materials supplied. The goal of this effort is for youth to complete their project work at home when in-person project meetings were not being conducted.
- Columbia County 4-H youth & Master Gardener Volunteers met at Link's Greenhouse where youth participants learned decision making and problem solving skills as they worked through assembling container gardens with the help of the club leader.

*Pictured right: Rob Gehm of Links Greenhouse explain the use of fertilizer to 4-H and Master Gardener participants.*



## FoodWise

- Caitlin Richardson instructed 3, 5 & 6-week educational series for families and youth in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. The kids learned about the importance of eating fruits & vegetables, the five food groups, reducing sugar intake along with being physically active. These series were intended to make healthy eating a positive experience which in turn will help with food choices being made in the future.



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## Agriculture

- George Koepp taught the Master Gardener Volunteers how to produce their own vegetable seedlings from seed in their homes in preparation for spring outdoor planting. This effort was designed to help Master Gardeners and home gardeners become more successful in starting their own garden plants from seed rather than purchasing them from a garden center.
- George Koepp taught the Master Gardener Volunteers how to propagate and grow Sweet Potatoes. This effort was designed to assist Master Gardeners with making and rooting Sweet Potato slips, to be added to their gardens and grown to provide a healthy, home grown vegetable for their family and friends.
- George Koepp taught the Master Gardener Volunteers about the life cycle, working habits, and nesting habits of solitary Mason Bees. This effort was designed to assist Master Gardeners in making and managing appropriate Mason Bee houses in order to provide better pollinator habitat and populations.
- George Koepp is planning for a "Conservation by the Lake" Event in collaboration with the Lake Wisconsin Farmer Watershed Council. During the event (June 19th), members and participants will learn best practice methods to seed, graze, and use low disturbance manure injection into cover crops.



**MASTER  
GARDENER  
VOLUNTEER**

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION**

*"My sister-in-law (a WI Master Gardener) mentioned the conference. Online allowed me to attend even though I live in London, UK. Gardening here is very similar but without the extreme cold or hot to worry about so all sessions were useful, but in particular, the day lily session was great."*

## Community Development

- Kathleen Haas hosted an open house for community leaders where youth participating in Columbia County Future Leaders Active in Government (F.L.A.G.) showcased what they learned about public issues and how they engaged government and non-government professionals in their learning. The "Public Issues that Matter Capstone Journey" presentations were designed to increase understanding of what matters to youth and confidence in youth involvement with public issues.



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## What's Next

- George Koepp and the Columbia County Corn Growers Association will be holding a meeting later in June at the Minick Farm, Columbus. The intention is to help county corn growers increase their productive efficiency and profitability.
- George Koepp has scheduled two Columbia County pasture walks in June - one at a farm near Fall River and the other near Rio.
- Pat Wagner will be collaborating with six area counties to provide Columbia County 4-H youth more educational opportunities at Upham Woods Neighborhood Camps.
- Columbia County 4-H youth will have 3 opportunities to participate in meat, dairy & livestock judging in June.
- The Columbia County Fair will be held July 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, providing youth an opportunity to showcase their project work.

### COLUMBIA COUNTY EXTENSION

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