



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

07/20-25	Columbia Co Fair
07/27	No MGV Mtg
08/05	August Newsletter Articles due to Lori
08/05-15	WI State Fair
08/31	MGV Mtg—Location TBD
09/02-05	Lodi Ag Fair
09/28	MGV Mtg—Location TBD

Note from the President ~

Just yesterday it was on the far side of 90 degrees and now today - in midafternoon - it's 63 degrees. Funny summer weather-wise so far that we're having here in central Wisconsin. It's been so dry, and I called the village office for the people responsible for watering the eight planters located on the main street of Merrimac. The flowers in the planters were so very obviously in need of water. It was too early for the office to be open, so I left a voice message that they need to put "water planters" on their to-do list. Before the office opened for the day it began to rain a real nice gentle rain. Someone else thought the planters needed watering too, I guess!

I hope your vegetable gardens and flower beds made it through the heat and the drought. Here, I watered quite a lot the past hot, hot week, and things lived, but there is nothing like real rain to make plants take off and look happy. Plus, gives the gardeners time to sit back for a lazy day and admire the results of their hard work.

Deb Buechner

President



Columbia County Master Gardener's Association

Minutes - June 22 2021

The meeting was held via ZOOM and in person. In attendance were Deb Buechner, Ann Marie Fuerst, Lila Waldman, Ardyce Piehl, Judi Benade, Connie Wilsnack, George Koepp, Linda Haddix, Terry Socha, Rita Socha, Donna Mc Elroy, Becky Gutzman, Bill Damm, Jean Damm and Lori Nadolski.

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner at 6:03 p.m. Introductions were made by asking "What's your favorite specimen tree"?

Secretary's Report – motion made by Ardyce to approve the minutes, with a second by Lila. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report- beginning balance of the checkbook was \$4,244.74. There were a few deposits for garden gloves and two payments for the community garden. Expenses were for a water bill at the community garden in the amount of \$14.31 and for banners made by Two Rivers Signs in the amount of \$189.90. Ending balance was \$4,315.53. A motion to approve was made by Lori, with a second by Linda. Motion passed and will be sent to audit.

Fair Flower Department update. Jean mentioned the those who are interested should show up to the fair grounds on Saturday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m. and the booths or tables will be set up at the same time. The awards for the flower displays will be held on the following Tuesday night for the 4-H clubs and open class. Contact Carol Ziehmke for further information. Ardyce, Deb, Lila, Carol and Ann Marie will be doing judging for the exhibits. The award from our organization will take place on the final day, Sunday. George will get the information to Deb for certificates and plaques, Ann Marie will prepare the checks and Connie will do the presentation on the final day, Sunday at noon. Jean, Ann Marie, Linda and perhaps Lori will also be there at 8:00 Saturday morning. Larry's Trophy's will be the vendor for the actual plaques. Certificates will be printed in the Extension Office.

It was mentioned that we have several compost pails and garden gloves and wondered if we will sell them at the fair. Sales could be held at the commercial building but it was decided to save them for our next LGGG event.

Minutes - June 22, 2021 (cont)

Scholarship update. Lila asked how school counselors award their scholarships, and it was noted that children of Farm Bureau members could be contacted. Connie will follow up on ideas and contact some schools, perhaps juniors or freshmen. Some schools have a career exploration program which could also be a contact point.

Lila also mentioned that the Habitat House on Oneida Street in Portage could use some sod and needs a tree planted, which is already on the property. The time is to be determined and Deb, Lila and Ann Marie will coordinate the effort.

Community Gardens – there are two open plots, but Lincoln Park garden plots are all spoken for!

Lori mentioned Tomatopalooza and had spoken to Edgewater Greenhouse. That project is on hold for now.

New Business – Four officer positions need to be filled. Please folks, consider becoming an officer. It's a great way to get your volunteer hours. We currently have two reporters, but ideally one would be sufficient.

George will be retiring on August 6th and announced that it's possible that we may not be able to hold meetings at the Administration Building in the future and we will need to find potential places. All are invited to make suggestions for potential meeting locations. Jean asked if the county provides funds for the admin building, and if so, why can't we still be in the building. It was suggested that anyone could contact county board members for information regarding such.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ardyce with a second by Lori. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Submitted by Linda Haddix
Secretary



Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

Meeting Agenda

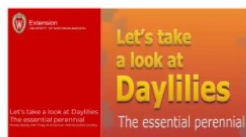
July 27, 2021: NO MGTV meeting

August 31, 2021 Meeting—MGV Officers to book a location and let Lori know to include on next newsletter. Meeting Agenda will be printed in August Newsletter.

Watch Videos from LGGG online

<https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/lets-get-green-and-growing/>

Video Presentations:



Let's take a look at Daylilies, The Essential Perennial by Pat Trapp
(YouTube Video 43 mins 6/18/21)



Addressing Invasive Species with Citizen Science by Anne Pearce
(YouTube Video 38 mins 6/18/21)



Creating a Garden of Four Season Interest by Zannah Crowe
(YouTube Video 1:07 hrs 3/20/21)



Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers, Inc. Treasurer Report June 22, 2021

Bank Balance as of May 31, 2021: \$ 4,244.74

Deposits since : May 25, 2021

26 May -Gloves, Community Garden payments \$ 45.00

18 June - US Government check \$ 275.00

Total: \$ 320.00

Expenses:

Water bill to Portage Youth, Inc – 2 June \$ 14.31

Two Rivers Signs - 15 June \$ 189.90

Total: \$ 204.21

Balance as of June 22, 2021: \$ 4,315.53

Updated Approved Continuing Ed Resources

Additional books and resources have been added to the Approved Media Resources list. Scroll down to find it in the Continuing Education section. The Approved Media Resources lists contains specific "for sure" books, webinars, video series, and radio programs you can use for Master Gardener Program Continuing Education. Happy learning!

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/policies/>



Ask a Gardening Question On-line

Looking for an expert to advise you on your garden questions? There is an online resource to ask questions with a UW-Extension horticulture staff member.

Follow this link:

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

Fill out the form, describe your gardening question, no more than 250 words (1,650 characters max) and you may upload 3 photographs concerning your garden issues. Your inquiry will be responded to by an Extension staff member or a Master Gardener Volunteer in your area.



Wisconsin Horticulture
Division of Extension

MGV Regional and State Information

Be sure to read the Volunteer Vibe each month when it comes out via email to get updated information on regional and state MGV events. This is sent out each month from the MG Program Office on Campus and includes recommendations on being safe from Covid while doing volunteer activities. It provides information on Continuing Ed opportunities and reminders about reporting your volunteer time. You can read it anytime you like, either on-line or print it and read it, your choice. It only takes a few minutes to stay on top of your MGV experience. Contact Mike Maddox, Amy Freidig, or Kimberly Miller with any questions you have about the Volunteer Vibe or articles in it. Email is the best way to contact them.

Pause to New Volunteer Projects

From the MGV Program Office

Effective immediately, we are pausing the start of any new volunteer projects. Current approved projects may continue during this time.

This decision does not come lightly since we understand the importance of MGV projects and the difference they make in our communities. The merger with UW-Madison has been a time of transition and adjustments. It has led us away from our inception of being a 72 county model to one of being a single statewide program. We have realized the old model led to inconsistencies in how decisions were made, who was responsible for those decisions and resources available to support volunteers and staff. Moving forward, it is important for us to improve the program by bringing clarity and consistency to it for you and for every other MGV across the state.

We must start creating simple, consistent statewide project guidelines. This is a huge challenge since there are 1,400+ projects happening across the 72 counties. It will take some time and thought to make the statewide project portfolio one where the current passion and creativity of our volunteers can be harnessed in a way that collectively makes a difference across our communities and the state. Our intention is not to implement more rules, but to clarify them and make them more consistent. Change is always difficult and during the merger and pandemic we all had to stretch and adapt to a very different Master Gardener experience.

We acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. By taking this time to reflect on our projects we can plan for a future that is meaningful and enjoyable for volunteers, staff, and partners.

[More information](#) is available on the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program website.



Groundcovers for Wisconsin

By Judi Benade

Groundcovers are usually planted in deep shade where grass won't grow, or on slopes and other areas that are difficult to access. Groundcovers are more versatile though and can be planted wherever you want to decrease weeds and add year-round beauty. They are a valuable solution for hot dry south and west exposures, between walls, in front of low windows and along the north side of walls and fences, around raised garden beds and children's play areas, even in flower beds.

Whatever the planting environment, there are many interesting types of groundcover plants to consider, with a variety of colors and textures. Moss, for instance, is a good choice for heavy dense shade, where it will easily thrive with no maintenance. Another surprise is turf grass, the most widely planted groundcover. Like all successful ground cover plantings, turf grass looks good while covering the soil, choking out weedy plants and slowing soil erosion. Unlike most groundcovers, turf grass needs a lot of care: mowing, watering and fertilizing.

Solving a landscaping problem isn't the only reason to plant groundcovers. A thoughtfully chosen groundcover contributes to the overall beauty and effect of a garden by adding visual impact. Groundcovers can be used to define garden spaces, highlight showy plants or provide a visual flow between lawn and taller plants in a garden bed. They can create pathways or barriers and soften the visual transition to steps and driveways. Overall, groundcovers help define space, provide color, add height dimensions and contribute texture and color.

Thoughtful garden design suggests selecting low growing groundcovers for small areas and taller ones for larger areas and steep slopes. Planted in broad curving swaths, small-leaved groundcovers add spaciousness, while a dense planting of large leaved groundcovers can create a feeling of coziness. You can create whatever effect suits your landscaping vision, using evergreen or deciduous groundcovers that are woody or herbaceous. Evergreen groundcovers, such as creeping juniper, rarely need care and add interest to the winter landscape. There are even a few groundcovers with flowers or edible berries, though these often require extra care. Tough as they are, most groundcovers don't tolerate foot traffic, so consider whether you want to add stepping stones to your overall design.

Groundcovers for Wisconsin Cont....

Groundcovers thrive when the sun/shade, moisture and soil conditions match to the plant's needs. Steer clear of anything advertised to spread fast in all conditions. These aggressive plants, described as "horticultural nightmares" at one site I visited, tend to be hard to control invasives that are difficult to remove. If you need coverage fast, choose a better-behaved plant and place the starts close together. A well-chosen groundcover will spread, developing a dense growth that decreases weeds. Groundcovers often spread underground by stolons, though some multiply via offsets or tip layering. Do note that a steep slope needs plants with an extensive root system.

Follow up maintenance is rarely needed when you plant an appropriate groundcover into a well prepared bed and keep it weeded and watered during the first year. Most groundcovers can be planted in the spring or fall. Summertime is a good time to define your locations and pick varieties to plant in the fall. Plant groundcovers into a completely prepared bed. Remove all the perennial weeds and grasses following your preferred method. Next comes your favorite way to amend the soil, using a 5-10-50 fertilizer or 3-5 cubic yards of compost or other organic soil amendment per 1000 square feet of area. If you can, leave the area unplanted for a couple of weeks. Any weeds you missed will sprout and you can remove them before planting the groundcover.

The chart on next page, from University of Illinois-Extension, can help you determine the number of plants required to fill your square footage. <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/groundcovers/tips.cfm> For example, if you have 200 square feet of garden to plant with groundcover starts 9 inches apart, you need 356 plants.



Groundcovers for Wisconsin Cont....

Square feet of planting area	Spacing (in inches)				
	6 in.	8 in.	9 in.	12 in.	18 in.
100	400	225	178	100	45
200	800	450	356	200	90
300	1,200	675	535	300	135
400	1,600	900	712	400	180
500	2,000	1,125	890	500	225
600	2,400	1,350	1,068	600	270
700	2,800	1,575	1,246	700	315
800	3,200	1,800	1,425	800	360
900	3,600	2,025	1,602	900	405
1,000	4,000	2,250	1,780	1,000	450

Use a grid or diamond pattern to place the plants, planting fast-growing groundcovers farther apart than slow-growing ones. If you plant in the summer, be sure the bed gets sufficient water. This is rarely a concern for plantings made in the spring or fall. Fall plantings may need a layer of mulch to prevent frost heaving during the winter. Using mulch during the first year can also reduce weeds and help keep the soil moist. On a slope, consider planting through a net to keep the young plants in place while their roots develop, or add mulch. Isn't it nice to think this should be the last time the bed will need mulching!

As you choose groundcovers, be sure to check that they are suitable for your planting zone, and watch out, some options may be more invasive and/or aggressive than you want. University of Illinois-Extension has a good list of groundcovers with photographs that you can access through this link: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/groundcovers/directory/index.cfm> Colorado State Extension has a detailed list of groundcovers, but without pictures, at <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/ground-cover-plants-7-400/>

Introducing Canvas, Our Online Classroom

Published on 2021-03-16 by [Mike Maddox](#)

This April 2021, we are putting all our online learning in one spot: **our new online classroom, Canvas.**

If you completed Master Gardener Program annual enrollment this year, you will get exclusive access to Canvas. We will send you a NetID by email. A NetID is a special, UW-Madison issued username. You must use your NetID username plus a password to get into Canvas. It is different than your Online Reporting System (ORS) username and password. Your netID will be sent to the email address on file in the Master Gardener Program Online Reporting System (ORS).

Here is all the stuff you will find inside Canvas in one convenient spot!

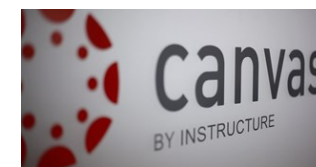
- Volunteer Vibe
- Plants Plus
- Onboarding Lite (highly recommended in 2021, counts for 10 hours of Continuing Education)
- All future advanced training courses

We are happy to tell you about some of the perks Canvas will give us.

- **All in one location:** All online learning supported by the state program office will be in one spot. You can also keep track of learning modules you've completed or Volunteer Vibes you have read.
- **Interactive and fun:** We will use fun features like quizzes, puzzles, and more, to make online learning more engaging.
- **All the usual good stuff will be there:** Readings, videos, podcasts, resources, links- all the things you're used seeing in our educational online classes are making the move to Canvas.



[Go to Canvas](#)



NetID: Request to Resend

Thank you for your patience in getting your NetID to access our online classroom.

Go to this link to request your NetID to be resent to you:

<https://forms.gle/3haBxDeX6WNRvRVs8>

Remember, this a manual process! After you submit your information, a staff person must push individual buttons to resend it. It does not automatically happen when you complete this form. Also note, some people got the email the first time. For other people, they finally got it on the second- or fourth request. Please don't give up! It is ok if you want to put in a request each week until you get the email.

Tips for Getting the Email:

Please check your junk folder.

Make sure your email will accept an email from

"noreply@welcome.csis.wisc.edu" with the subject line:

"UW-Madison: Access Your Online Course Site"

Activating Your NetID (Once you have the email)

Instructions for activating your NetID are posted on the Wisconsin Master Gardener Program website.

Please read and/or watch what is provided on this page:

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/16/using-canvas/>

Pay particular attention to the part about "if you already have a NetID". If you were in a previous UW-Madison Canvas course, or already associated with the campus, you may encounter a problem.

Logging Into Canvas

Once your NetID is activated, you can log into our course at: <https://canvas.wisc.edu/>

VERY IMPORTANT: When you get your NetID it will look like an email address (for example, rmmaddox@wisc.edu). When you log into Canvas, **you only need the first part.** (For example, only use rmmaddox to log into Canvas. Don't type the @wisc.edu.)

Need Help? Troubleshoot with DoIT

If you have any difficulty in activating your NetID or logging into Canvas, please contact our friends at the DoIT Help Desk, **let them know you are a Lifelong Learner (L3)**, and they will help troubleshoot any problem you may have with logging in! DoIT Help Desk contact info:

<https://kb.wisc.edu/page.php?id=1>

Give Onboarding-Lite a Try!

As you get your NetID and access to our online classroom, we want to keep pointing you to Onboarding-Lite.

For new volunteers entering the program, the onboarding course is a requirement. During the course, they are introduced to what it means to be an Extension and a Master Gardener Volunteer, our connection to the land grant university and the USDA, and all the program mandates (criminal background check, mandated reporter training, etc.).

Onboarding-Lite is available for all current volunteers.

We strongly recommend you complete it this year as it will begin to frame the program in light of the recent merger with UW-Madison.

It is "lite" as you won't have to do the criminal background check or other mandated things found in the full course. And, **it will count as 10 hours of continuing education (!!!) which we have been informed is very generous as it takes most people far less time than that.**

Read more about it here:

<https://mastergardener.extension.wisc.edu/2021/03/23/onboarding-lite-for-returning-volunteers/>

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

To share your knowledge, expertise, and passion for garden related topics with others! Creating connections with libraries in Columbia County to offer educational programs is in the works and we hope you will consider being a part of it. Please share ideas and suggestions with Ardyce or Becky. Stay tuned for more details!

Thank you Columbia County MGV's!

It has been my pleasure to work as the UW-Extension Agriculture Educator for the past ten years. It is now time to close this chapter in my life and begin a new one. Working as the Columbia County Agriculture Agent has been a dream job for me.

I have appreciated the support of UW-Extension, the County Board and our oversight committee, my office colleagues and Administrative Assistants over the last ten years. All of these people along with the residents of Columbia County helped me experience a very smooth transition from being a High School Agriculture teacher of 27 years to becoming an Extension County Ag Educator. I enjoyed working with High School students, but I really enjoyed teaching adults and helping residents of Columbia County use the power of the University of Wisconsin – Madison to find answers to their plant and animal related questions.

MGV Highlights over 10 years include teaching MGV Classes, working with the Community Gardens, watching the “Let’s Get Green and Growing” event grow from three presentations and 40 participants to 30 presentations and over 200 participants, and advising the Master Gardener Volunteer Association. Teaching adults and training Master Gardener Volunteers to become teachers were always some of my favorite job activities. Helping people to feel the “Aha” moment when they learn something new and useful in their life is very fulfilling. It is something I love and enjoy.

This position has always been interesting and never boring. Fielding questions on weed and insect identification, assisting residents on soil sampling and results interpretation, and many other non-typical questions about plants or animals is challenging. That is part of what I loved about this job, never knowing what the next phone call or email might be asking. Some were easy questions for me to answer, some were questions that I needed help from my Extension Specialist friends from UW-Madison.

Beginning August 6th, Polly and I look forward to travelling and hiking in the US and Europe. We also have grandchildren that we need to spend more time with. We have several volunteer projects that we want to work on as well and plan to continue living in the Town of Caledonia. I have fish that need to be found and deer and turkeys that need to be observed. We are not moving, just changing our focus on what we do and when we do it. We both look forward to still being involved in local and county activities.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you, the Master Gardeners of Columbia County. Keep learning, keep improving, and keep helping each other to make Columbia County an awesome place to live and work.

Best wishes to all,

George

George Koepp
Columbia County Extension Agriculture Educator



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