



*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**

- 08/05-15** WI State Fair
- 08/31** MGV Mtg—Bidwell Room at Portage Library 6:00 p.m.
- 09/02-05** Lodi Ag Fair
- 09/02** September News Articles due (1st Thursday/Month)
- 09/28** MGV Mtg—Bidwell Room at Portage Library 6:00 p.m.

*Note from the President ~*

Summertime, summertime - isn't it wonderful? Get up in the morning and put on shorts and flip flops! If it looks like it'll be hot and humid, get up earlier to get gardening done before the hot blast of midday.

This summer I am drawing my flower beds and labeling the drawings. Maybe next year I'll know more what to expect to appear. We'll see - if all the drawings get done and if it helps

My vegetable garden got planted late due to constructing the garden wall and then filling the inside slope with good soil and compost. Though late, it's doing better than any previous garden. The green beans have been picked three times so far and there are a lot of blooms still. About blooms - what's with all the flowers on the cucumbers? No cucumbers though. My mom says to fertilize with a paint brush and I have done that, twice. No cukes yet. Waiting impatiently.

Looking over the tomato end of the garden I spotted a big green worm - ahha - the dreaded tomato hornworm. I peeled it off the tomato stem and brought it inside to study it a bit. It was kind of late, so I put it in a ziplock bag. The next morning there was a hole eaten right through the bag. Oh no! The hornworm got out and is somewhere inside the house! Yikes!

Deb Buechner  
President



*Columbia County Master Gardener's Association  
Minutes - July 27, 2021*



NO meeting was held on July 27, 2021



On July 16 Lila Waldman and Ann Marie Fuerst planted a tree at the Portage Habitat for Humanity home.

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers  
August 31, 2021 - Meeting Agenda  
Bidwell Room at Portage Library 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Deb

Secretary's Report from June 22, 2021-Linda

Treasurer's Report-Ann Marie

Introductions

**Old Business**-Flower judging-Carol

- Tax Exempt Status-Ann Marie
- Presentations at County Fair-Deb
- Scholarship Committee Report-Becky, Ann Marie, Lila, Connie
- Oneida Street Habitat Planting-Lila
- Microfarm at MacKenzie Center with Curtis Niglis and Aerial

**New Business**-(Due to no oversight, we need to shore up our procedures and instructions so we can carry on without George's input):

- Update officer job descriptions-form committee
- Go through MGV documents, materials and info at George's office-form committee
- Identify who collects and handles community garden and legal forms etc.-form committee to write instructions
- MGV email (list serve) management-write instructions
- Identify who will coordinate and edit newsletter-Kim?
- Identify who volunteers and where
- Identify who is responsible for Facebook updates-write instructions
- Other Business-
- Officer elections-date is November 23, 2021
- Identify our list of projects



**Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers, Inc.  
Treasurer Report  
July 31, 2021**

Bank balance as of July 31, 2021	\$4,075.53
No deposits	
One withdrawal on July 20, 2021, for Form 1023-EZ application	\$275.00
Checks written:	
1719 – Portage Youth Inc – water bill	\$ 54.17
1720 – Larry’s Trophies – bill for trophies	\$ 42.75
1721 – County fair award – junior division	\$ 25.00
1722 – County fair award – junior division – veg.	\$ 25.00

**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

**DNR Ecologist Finds "Holy Grail" Of Rare Plants  
At State Natural Area**



*DNR Ecologist Ryan O'Connor discovered green violets in a State Natural Area this spring, the first time the plant has been reported since 1958. / Photo Credit: Ryan O'Connor*

*"Dear Dad, I hope you find lots of rare stuff"*

The night before DNR Ecologist Ryan O'Connor left on his first extended trip of the field season to survey state lands for rare species and assess native ecosystems, his 6-year-old daughter Sophia wrote him a note.

"Dear Dad, I hope you find lots of rare stuff," she said. Her note would prove to be prescient and good luck.

While surveying a State Natural Area in west central Wisconsin, O'Connor found a rare plant not documented in the state since 1958. Green violet, (*Hybanthus concolor*), was growing by the hundreds.



## DNR Ecologist Finds "Holy Grail" Of Rare Plants At State Natural Area (Cont....)



*Green violets discovered May 5, 2021. Scroll down to the end of the email for more about this species. / Photo Credit: Ryan O'Connor*

The plant was on a short list of "holy grail" species known to have been present once in Wisconsin but thought to have disappeared.

"It really drives home several things, including that there are still important things to discover on State Natural Areas and that our SNAs are vital to the conservation of plants and animals, some of which are found no where else in the state," O'Connor said.

Fully 75% of wildlife species listed in Wisconsin as threatened or endangered and 90% of state-listed plants are supported on State Natural Areas. These sites, owned both by the DNR and by more than 50 partners, represent Wisconsin's best remaining native forests, wetlands, prairies and geological and archaeological sites and their primary purpose is to maintain this natural heritage for future generations.

## DNR Ecologist Finds "Holy Grail" Of Rare Plants At State Natural Area (Cont....)

O'Connor's discovery also underscores the importance of conducting "biotic inventory surveys" to document the different rare species on state-owned lands and assess how the native ecosystems they are part of are faring. O'Connor is in his 20th year of conducting such rare species inventories, including 13 for Wisconsin DNR.

### "When I found it, I started shaking a bit"

On that fateful day, May 5, 2021, O'Connor pulled up to a State Natural Area with a "[southern mesic forest](#)" and was several hours into his survey of the site, which boasts large sugar maple, basswood and red oak. At the time, the ground was carpeted with spring ephemerals and other wildflowers including Dutchman's breeches, spring beauty and trillium.

He looked up and saw a plant 30 to 40 yards away that was in a clump and was very different from what he had been seeing at the site. He hiked closer, suspecting it was either a rare plant or an invasive plant. As he came up to it and examined it, he realized it was green violet, a plant that hadn't been seen in Wisconsin in over half a century.

"When I found it, I started shaking a bit," O'Connor said. "I forced myself to go through a mental checklist of what else it could be. I wanted to be really sure what it was." O'Connor had seen the plant twice before in Michigan, where he grew up, and where it is also rare.

"Very quickly I came to the conclusion that it couldn't be anything else. At that point, I started tearing up a bit. Somehow, I was the one who had the honor of finding it," he said.

O'Connor took photos with his smartphone and when he returned to an area with good cell phone reception, emailed them to DNR colleague and botanist Kevin Doyle, and to Mary Ann Feist and John Zaborsky at the University of Wisconsin Herbarium. "They wrote back right away and said, 'yeah, that's it!'"

O'Connor shared news of the discovery in an email to his DNR colleagues and with his wife Kara O'Connor and daughter Sophia. "I told her, 'your note worked!'"

## DNR Ecologist Finds "Holy Grail" Of Rare Plants At State Natural Area (Cont....)



Large-flowered trillium and wild leeks carpet the forest floor at the State Natural Area where rare green violets were found earlier this year. / Photo Credit: Ryan O'Connor

### State Natural Area "One Of The Richest" Forests In Wisconsin

The site where Ryan O'Connor found this new population of green violets is one of the richest forests in the state and occurs on a steep slope, which protected it from grazing and extensive logging.

There are a lot of sugar maple dominated forests in Wisconsin, but there are very few as rich, meaning they have carpets of spring wildflowers and overall great diversity, according to Kevin Doyle, DNR botanist and coordinator of DNR's Rare Plant Monitoring Program.

Four more rare plant species are found here: state-threatened snow trillium and muskroot and two species listed as special concern (Short's rock-cress and goldenseal).

## DNR Ecologist Finds "Holy Grail" Of Rare Plants At State Natural Area (Cont....)

This site also is unique in that it is largely free of invasive species like garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle that threaten many other State Natural Areas. Routine monitoring for the early detection of invasive species is the primary management goal for the site, along with monitoring rare plants, according to Dean Edlin, the DNR district ecologist responsible for the site.

### More About Green Violets

- Green violets are native to the eastern United States and Wisconsin is at the very northern edge of the green violet range. Across its range, green violet is limited to rich mesic forests on limestone soil. Unfortunately, a lot of these sites have been lost to logging, grazing and invasion by weeds like garlic mustard and honeysuckle.
- Historically, green violet was only known in Wisconsin from one population near Platteville, but that site has been logged and grazed and the green violet population was presumed lost from the site and, therefore, the state, too.
- Most violets have white, yellow or purple petals and green sepals, but green violet has much less showy flowers. The plant's scientific name, *Hybanthus concolor*, refers to the petals and sepals being the same color (green). The word "concolor" is Latin for "same color."
- Like other violets, green violet has a gelatinous substance, called an elaiosome, attached to its seeds. The elaiosome is rich in fats and proteins, which attract ants. The ants bring the elaiosomes back to their nests to eat, and as they move them around, distribute the violet seeds. – Kevin Doyle, DNR Botanist and Coordinator of the DNR's Rare Plant Monitoring Program



## MGV at 2021 Columbia County Fair



MGV Booth at 2021 Columbia County Fair



Open Class Flower Judging. MGV Assisting Carol Ziehmke, Pat Trapp and Deb Buechner



MGV Open Class Gardeners Choice Honorable Mention, Amy Jo Cross



MGV Gardeners Choice Open Class, Nancy Kofphamer



**Award Winners:**  
**Jr. Flowers** - Melanie Emkow  
**Jr. Vegetables** - Clara Mickelson  
**Open Class Honorable** - Deb Klaila

## Agricultural Research Station Field Days Return for 2021 Season



Matt and Beth Mueller, who farms east of Lancaster, discuss cover crops with Gene Schriefer (right), the Iowa County UW Extension agriculture agent, at a field day at Lancaster Research Station in 2017. DAVID TENENBAUM

After taking a hiatus in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic, UW–Madison’s Agricultural Research Stations will once again be hosting public field days during the 2021 growing season to share research updates and educational information with agricultural professionals, home gardeners and other interested citizens. Below is a list of some of this season’s field days. Events are free unless noted otherwise.

For more information about a particular event, please [contact the host station](#).

Stations will make a reasonable effort to provide accommodations for participants with disabilities when notified in advance. To request a disability accommodation, please contact [ars\\_accommodation@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:ars_accommodation@cals.wisc.edu) or call (608) 846-3750 ext. 3 at least 10 days in advance of the event. Efforts will be made to meet same-day requests to the extent possible.

### Wisconsin Turfgrass Association Summer Field Day – Verona

July 20, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, 2502 Highway M, Verona, WI

## Agricultural Research Station Field Days

### Return for 2021 Season (Cont....)

This [field day](#), organized by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association and the station, features morning sessions on general turfgrass management and lawn care. After a lunch break, the focus shifts to golf turf management. Registration costs \$45.

#### Potato Research Field Day – Hancock

July 21, 2021, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Hancock Agricultural Research Station, N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI

This field day features updates of interest to the state's potato industry on variety trials; disease, insect and weed management field experiments; and crop storage research.

#### Garden Tour – Hancock

August 7, 2021, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hancock Agricultural Research Station, N3909 County Road V, Hancock, WI

This garden open house is a family-friendly event, offering tours of the station's babbling brook, vegetable garden and many other new additions. There will be activities for kids including an alphabet adventure and bingo.

#### Diseased, Decayed and Dangerous: When Good Trees Go Bad – Woodruff

August 23, 2021, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Kemp Natural Resources Station, 9161 Kemp Road, Woodruff, WI

Landowners have legal “duty of care” for the trees on their properties, including responsibility to obtain expert assistance when appropriate. During this workshop, attendees will learn how qualified arborists assess tree risk by estimating likelihood of tree failure and impact, and the consequences to property and people. For more information, visit <https://kemp.wisc.edu/outreach/> or contact [kemp@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:kemp@cals.wisc.edu).

#### UW Organic Agriculture Research Field Day – Arlington

August 24, 2021, 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Arlington Agricultural Research Station, N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, WI

This field day will highlight organic research conducted at UW–Madison, as well as information about best practices for organic production. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required. To register, send email to [emsilva@wisc.edu](mailto:emsilva@wisc.edu).

## Agricultural Research Station Field Days

### Return for 2021 Season (Cont....)

#### UW Agronomy and Soils Field Day – Arlington

August 25, 2021, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Arlington Agricultural Research Station, N695 Hopkins Road, Arlington, WI

This field day will feature field plot tours and UW research updates on soil fertility and management; pest management; Kernza® production and other grain production systems; and many other topics. Please register by Aug. 15 at <https://go.wisc.edu/a32g16> or call (608) 262-0485. More info at: <https://go.wisc.edu/agronomysoilsfd>.

#### Vineyard Walk – Verona

September 2, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

West Madison Agricultural Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road, Verona, WI

Attendees will take a walk through the station's vineyards with UW–Madison experts and learn about cold-hardy table grape varieties, the Petite Pearl wine grape variety, disease resistance evaluations, insect monitoring efforts, and general vineyard management.

#### Fungi Festival – Woodruff

September 11, 2021, time TBD

Kemp Natural Resources Station, 9161 Kemp Road, Woodruff, WI

At this festival, attendees can join a morning foray to gather fungi in the forest at Kemp Station. After a break to enjoy self-brought lunches, festivities resume with learning stations staffed by fungi experts who will share information and greater details on identifications, and other fungi-related topics. For more information, visit <https://kemp.wisc.edu/outreach/> or contact [kemp@cals.wisc.edu](mailto:kemp@cals.wisc.edu).



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