



Master Gardener News



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2021 Officers:

- Deb Buechner, President
- Connie Wilsnack, Vice Pres.
- Linda Haddix, Secretary
- Ann Marie Fuerst, Treasurer
- Kim Leizinger, Reporter
- Judi Benade, Reporter

Columbia County MGV Activities

09/02-05	Lodi Ag Fair
09/02	September News Articles due (1st Thursday/Month)
09/06	Labor Day—Columbia County Extension Office Closed
09/28	MGV Mtg—Bidwell Room at Portage Library 6:00 p.m.
10/07	October News Articles due (1st Thursday/Month)
11/23	MGV Mtg & Officer Elections

Note from the President ~

This is the last blast of summer. The weather and lake temperature has cooled down quite a bit and the garden is looking maybe more than a little ratty. I was able to water, and most things struggled along and look somewhat alive still. But we had some hot, hot, hot weather there for quite some time. Like one of my neighbors said about this summer's weather, "Nobody can say we didn't have a summer this year!"

But now the garden centers are featuring mums and ornamental kale -- harbingers that cooler and fall-like weather is approaching.

Fall is a wonderful season. Watching the weather maps and television for where the Fall colors are brightest, seeing your own garden and flowerbeds change to softer hues, and seeing holiday merchandise appear way too early at the stores (just kidding) -- all this keeps us interested in the seasonal transition of life here in central Wisconsin.

Deb Buechner
President





Columbia County Master Gardener's Association Minutes - August 31, 2021

Columbia County Master Gardener's Association
August 31, 2021

In attendance were: Deb Buechner, Ann Maie Fuerst, Ardyce Piehl, Terry Socha, Rita Socha, Jeam Damm, Bill Damm, Lila Waldman, Lori Nadolski, Donna McElroy and Linda Haddix.

Attempts were made to connect to Zoom, but were unsuccessful. Sorry about that!

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner. Introductions were made with clever answers to "What's your favorite thing about comuters?"

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ardyce, with a 2nd by Rita. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The check we sent to the IRS for our 501(c)(3) application has been returned as there was a problem with our FEIN number as it had not been activated. A new check in the amount of \$275.00 was issued to continue with the process.

Checks were written to folks who submitted exhibits to the county fair, for trophies and a water bill to the Portage Youth Group for the Community Gardens. There seems to be an issue with a sewer bill at the Community Garden and we pay only the water portion of it. This will be taken care of soon.

Ending balance in the checkbook was \$3,903.61. A motion was made by Lila, with a 2nd by Terry to approve the report, which will be sent to audit.

Old Business:

Jean reported the flower judging at the County Fair went very well, but approximately one third the amount of entries were made compared to past years. She mentioned that judge this year was very good.

Scholarship committee: The rules for acceptance have been updated. We plan to increase the award amount from \$500.00 from \$750.00. It was determined that four year colleges are not the only students we want to reach out to. Considered are Farm and Industry short courses, College of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry (animal science). The money is awarded to students after the first semester is completed. The committee wants to get the information to schools, the Extension office and the media very soon. Lila made a motion to accept the report, with a second by Jean. Motion passed.

The Habitat for Humanity house in Portage needed help with planting a tree, which has been done. The next Habitat House will be in Baraboo and is seeking volunteers. Contact Lila if you are interested.

A microfarm was proposed for the MacKenzie Center. Lila talked to educator Aerial and it was determined that the Center was not an appropriate placement.

MINUTES Con't.

New Business:

Regarding our Facebook account, Lori will step up to be more active performing administrator duties George previously handled. Additional members are requested to become involved. In the project. The topic was tabled until next meeting.

It was reported that the Extension office services are still available to us. Sarah Millard is our contact at the office.

Jean contacted someone at the County Board level requesting information on using the County building. At that time, no response was received.

Ardyce and Becky met in July and made contact with area libraries, who were excited to promote our programs. Pat Trapp was also involved the project. Ardyce will follow through and will be the point person to give libraries pertinent information. Contact Ardyce if you'd like to be a part of the program.

The future of the Master Gardener program is under scrutiny. We need to stay in contact with Mike Maddox and always read the Volunteer Vibe that is sent to members. This is our lifeline to the program and Becky has volunteered to be our local contact.

A motion was made to adjourn by Lori, with a second by Lila at 7:08 p.m.

Submitted by Linda Haddix, Secretary.

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers September 28, 2021 - Meeting Agenda Bidwell Room at Portage Library 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Deb

Secretary's Report from August 31, 2021-Linda

Treasurer's Report-Ann Marie

Introductions

Old Business-

- Tax Exempt Status-Ann Marie



New Business-

- Cake with George
- Discussion about Our Operations from Here On

Other Business-

- Four (4) Officer elections Will be at November 23, 2021 Meeting

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

Bank Balance as of 30 August 2021	\$ 3903.61
Deposits:	None
Checks cleared:	
1719 – Portage Youth Inc.- water bill	\$ 54.17
1720 – Larry’s Trophies (county fair)	\$ 42.75
1721 – Melanie Emkow – County fair award	\$ 25.00
1722 – Clara Mickelson – County Fair award	\$ 25.00
1723 -Nancy Kopfhamer – County Fair award	\$ 25.00
Checks written in August:	
1724 – Portage Youth Inc. (Aug. 6)	\$ 46.09

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

Growing Library Connections

Submitted by Ardyce Piehl

Libraries in our communities provide an important link to learning through media checkout and educational programming and opportunities. This became even more evident as we found our way through pandemic shutdowns and safety concerns. Over the years, libraries have happily promoted our “Let’s Get Green and Growing” program as well as other learning opportunities provided by our members. Thus, together with George and Becky, we are launching “Growing Library Connections” with the purpose of providing horticultural education opportunities to patrons of Columbia County libraries. This encompasses our overriding mission of teaching research-based information through in person or online opportunities.

The goal is to create a data base of topics from within the Columbia County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA). The data base will be shared with Columbia County libraries, and I will initially serve as the point person for them to contact when interested in a particular topic. When contacted, I will share the speaker/s information. Additionally, this will promote our goals of providing CCMGA members more volunteer hours in community education as well as providing additional continuing education hours as topics are presented to our group and to the community.

Currently, we are working to create the data base. Many of you have already done presentations for our group or the public and some of you have ideas of possible programs to develop. Newly developed topics will have the opportunity to be presented to CCMGA for practice and (double bonus) members can receive continuing education hours for attending. Please contact me at deanardycepiehl@centurytel.net so your name/topic can be included in our data base. Thank you in advance for helping to move this forward!

MG County Coordinator

The state program office and Mike Maddox have asked counties where is no local Extension educator in charge of the MG program to designate one of their members as a liaison between the state and county program or association. George discussed this with the CCMGA officers before his retirement, and I am happy to serve in this volunteer role. It's still a new concept, and there are many unknowns, but there are at least three areas I need to look into:

1. The online reporting system (ORS) is one of the areas I will help with: making sure members get their reporting done, answering questions, adding new projects if needed, etc.
2. The MG listserv, which is set up through the state, with their tech services. We'd like to get George added as a member, and from time-to-time there will be other changes.
3. The relationship between our association and the county, and what resources we can access through that partnership.

George and I have identified some key people I need to speak with, as well as the officer team, to get more information and identify strategies we can use to keep our local MG program alive and well! If you have any specific questions or ideas, please give me a call at 920-382-4511, or email me at buck-hill@centurylink.net.

Thank you,
Becky Gutzman

Welcome to the World of Container Gardening

In a world of limited time and space, container gardens seem to make more and more sense. Containers allow you to enjoy growing plants in places that might be thought of as impossible or unthinkable in which to plant. Poor soil or no place to put plants in the ground is no longer an excuse for not being able to enjoy the simple pleasures of gardening.

Container gardening allows you to create special gardens to fit any situation. You may grow special plants that need a bit more attention to soil and water than you are able to provide in a large in-ground garden.

The popularity of container gardening has exploded. Plants in containers are showing up everywhere. From the front porches of bungalows to the rooftops of urban high-rises to the streets of Main Street U.S.A. plants in pots can be found.



Container gardening in European countries is almost an artform where the passion for gardening is not diminished due to lack of space. Gardens show up in window boxes, balconies and decorative pots filled with flowers, vegetables and herbs on the most modest of properties.

With these gardens, individual plants can take on an entirely new look when displayed in containers highlighting the plant's unique color, texture and form.

Combination planters using a variety of plant material achieve the look of a "bouquet with roots" providing color throughout the season. Containers also allow gardeners to provide instant color anywhere and at anytime.

My sincere apologies as I am remiss in sending this note of gratitude to all in the Columbia County Master Gardeners Club who helped to landscape Mike & Akira's new Habitat home in Wyocena this summer. It was such a lovely gesture to help this young family get started on their new adventure, and to share their knowledge and plantings to create a vibrant outdoor space to enjoy.

Warmest regards,
 Morgan Raff



Thank you for helping to build homes, communities and hope. Your support goes directly to our programs, from helping provide families with affordable housing, educating new homeowners, to funding much needed repairs.



Extension
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 COLUMBIA COUNTY

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