



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

Note from the President ~

So, it's officially Fall now. Good news/bad news, It has finally stopped raining and our weather is fantastic! The air is brisk in the morning and in the evening. It reminds me of camping in the woods - smells so good and fresh

Our garden has produced all that it will for this year and I can put that to rest until Spring. My plan is to clean up the annual plants and put them in the compost pile. I am gifted with a neighbor with chickens and I'll use the chicken bedding for compost/mulch on the bare garden plot, All winter it will seep and steep, amending the soil with nothing but good stuff. That ought to squelch the weeds and boost the nutrients by Spring, when it gets planted again!

Enjoy the rest of our Fall - perhaps with a pumpkin latte or an apple fritter - fruits of gardening labor.

Deb Buechner
President



Columbia County MGV Activities

- 10/07 October News Articles due (1st Thursday/Month)
- 10/11 Columbus Day—Extension Office is OPEN
- 10/26 MGV Mtg-VIRTUAL—6:00 p.m.
- 10/31 Halloween
- 11/23 MGV Mtg & Officer Elections
- 11/25 & 26 Thanksgiving Holiday—Extension Office is CLOSED

Write this down, Take a little note ~

*October's meeting will only be VIRTUAL.
The ZOOM link is on the agenda: Ctrl-Click
to join—See you then!*

*Columbia County Master Gardener's Association
Minutes - September 28, 2021*

The meeting was held at the Portage, WI Library, and via ZOOM.

In attendance were: Ann Marie Fuerst, Deb Buechner, George Koepp, Ardyce Piehl, Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Linda Haddix, Becky Gutzman, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Carol Ziehmke, Connie Wilsnack, Kate Reitmann, Lila Waldman and Donna Mc Elroy.

Introductions were made answering the question "What's your favorite thing about fall?"

The meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner at 6:22 pm.

Secretary's Report: a motion to approve was made by Ardyce and seconded by Jean. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in the checking account was \$3,872.52. A few transactions were done this month. Motion to approve was made by Linda, seconded by Becky. Motion approved and the report will be sent to audit.

Old Business:

Tax Exempt status – no updates since last month.

Scholarship Committee – no new updates. Becky and Lila will check with Sarah at the Extension Office to inquire if there is a list of schools we typically send out information to.

Ardyce and Becky are working on a database of topics by MGVs that could be presented to Columbia County libraries. Several MGVs expressed interest in this idea. Feel free to send any ideas for topics!

LGGG - work continues. Ardyce will send out an email regarding an upcoming meeting, probably next month. Becky will contact Rio High School to see if they are available for the event, hoping we can hold it in person next spring.

New Business:

Ardyce reported our group had received the Friend of 4-H award from Columbia County 4-H, thanking us for the help with the Planter project and awards we are involved with. They appreciate our help and we appreciate them!

Our group operations will continue on since George's retirement, with Becky as our county coordinator. She will meet with Mike Maddox when their schedules allow. As always, read with Volunteer Vibe when it arrives for the latest information from the state level office.

Make sure you enter your hours on the MGV website! Please complete the course "Onboarding Light" online for 10 hours of continuing education and to review policies of the group.

If you know anyone who may be interested in joining the MGV group, please send an email to Becky. All of the coursework will be done online.

Deb wondered if we should update our pamphlet which is at the Extension Office. Becky volunteered to write up something.

At our November meeting, we'll elect some new officers. Please consider becoming an officer!

Linda Haddix, Secretary

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers
October 26, 2021 - Meeting Agenda
Virtually—6:00 p.m.

Topic: CCMGA October meeting

Time: Oct 26, 2021 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89438699192>

Meeting ID: 894 3869 9192

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,89438699192# US (Chicago)

Call to Order - Deb

Secretary's Report from September 28, 2021 - Linda

Treasurer's Report - Ann Marie

Introductions

Old Business

New Business

Other Business

Adjourn for presentation at 6:15 p.m.

Presentation Information:

The October CCMGA meeting will be held virtually, with a speaker from Eau Claire County! Because Ellen will be joining us by Zoom, please join us from your home, via the Zoom link above. This topic will be a good way for us to assess how our garden efforts have been, and to think about what we might like to change. If you do not receive the listserve messages, please email Becky Gutzman: buckhill@centurylink.net and she will send the link to you.

Alpacas, Barrels & Composting by Ellen Terwilliger, Eau Claire County MGV
This Power Point Presentation will help gardeners assess how sustainable their gardens are in terms of soil, water use, composting, weed & pest management. Beginning to intermediate gardeners will benefit.

Ellen enjoys vegetable and perennial gardening with her family. They grow a lot of their own food. Besides her large and varied at-home gardens, she gardens with children and families at a local school.

**Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers, Inc.
Treasurer Report
September 28, 2021**

Bank Balance as of 28 Sept. 2021	\$3872.52
Deposits:	
\$15.00 for Community Gardens, per request of George K.	\$ 15.00
Total:	\$ 15.00
Checks written in Sept.	
Check 1725 – Portage Youth Inc., water bill	\$ 50.13
Check 1726 – George Koepp, for soil sample testing	\$ 23.55
Total:	\$ 73.68

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

The History of Bees
by Maja Lunde (2015)

A book report by Lila Waldman

The History of Bees, a novel by Norwegian author Maja Lunde, follows three generations from the past, present, and future and explores their relationship to bees, to their children, and to one another.

England, 1852. William is a biologist and seed merchant who sets out to build a new type of beehive, one that will give both him and his children honor and fame.

United States, 2007. George is a beekeeper fighting an uphill battle against modern farming techniques and hopes that his son can be the savior of the farm.

China, 2098. Tao and other workers hand paint pollen onto the fruit trees now that the bees have long since disappeared. When Tao's young son is taken away by the authorities after a tragic accident, she sets out on a difficult journey to find out what happened to him.

This book offers narrative from these three characters and the three different eras, with some historical facts weaved into their fictional stories. Segments from the 19th century explore the origins of beekeeping. The current day (2007) sections will be familiar to readers who are aware of the fragile situation facing bees and other pollinators in our world. The future story paints a dismal picture of what our world could look like without pollinators.

Although a strong message for readers, the book is an easy read. The characters' relationships with their children offer an interesting supplement to the stories about bees. And the ending leaves us with a glimmer of hope for the future.



I remotely attended this year's International Master Gardener Conference. One of the sessions I really enjoyed was a keynote address, **Plant Science to Make You a Better Gardener** presented by Joseph Tychonievich. It was described as offering "practical ways you can use an understanding of plant science to work better in the garden." Here are some of the facts I learned during this session:

Be quick to remove Japanese Beetles from your plants as soon as they arrive. Japanese Beetles release a pheromone as they eat that attracts more beetles. Ignore that first arrival and you attract more munching pests, plus those hungry hoards will breed and increase the population even more.

Variegated hostas are always less hardy than green leaf varieties, because the pale areas don't contain chlorophyll.

Have an indoor plant that needs a different amount of light? Download a photographic light meter app for your cell phone. Measure the light intensity the plant receives, then measure the light at other locations to find a more suitable amount. You can't get precise measurements with an app, but these comparisons are very useful.

Leaf miners are a pest in Caladium. You'll find fewer leaf miners on Caladium bred to have some white patterning on the leaves because the leaf miners avoid those, thinking the good parts have been eaten.

If you want to provide lights for indoor plants without buying Grow Lights, choose a cool white LED. Buying LED lights is much less expensive than grow lights, they use electricity efficiently and last a long time. Most important, they provide close to the correct red and blue spectrum for plant health. The LED's other colors of light, which plants don't utilize, suit human eyes, making the plants look natural and attractive to us.

Judi Benade

International Master Gardener Conference 2021

By Becky Gutzman

This biennial conference was hosted virtually Sept 12-17 by Virginia Tech, University of Virginia, and Virginia Cooperative Extension. Despite not being able to enjoy the gardens, climate and scenery in person, it was a great opportunity to hear some nationally acclaimed speakers on timely topics. Plus, it was a great way to spend some of my post-surgery recuperation time!! I want to share a bit about two of the keynote speakers that were really excellent.

Nature's Sustainable System - Cole Burrell

Cole Burrell is an acclaimed lecturer, garden designer, award-winning author, and photographer. A certified chlorophyll addict, Cole is an avid and lifelong plantsman, gardener, and naturalist. He is author of several popular titles, including *Perennial Combinations*, *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*, *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Perennials*, and *Hellebores: A Comprehensive Guide*, *Perennials for Today's Gardens*, and *A Gardener's Encyclopedia of Wildflowers*.

Cole's point that our gardens are part of a larger system, and that everything is connected really emphasized our role as gardeners in contributing to a healthy ecosystem. He discussed sustainability and the importance of plant cover on the landscape (something I've been trying to incorporate in my own gardens with cover crops). While he stressed the importance of native plants, especially woody plants, he argued that most gardeners can also have a place for non-native plants (a relief to hear that!) He ended with a great quote from Aldo Leopold: "We abuse land because we see it as a *commodity* belonging to us. When we see land as a *community* to which WE belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Living in the Human Age - Dennis Dimick

Based on his many years as a picture editor and environment editor for National Geographic magazine, Dennis Dimick presented a fast-moving, vivid slide show lecture that explored and explains the modern human era: how we got here, our current prosperity, and what looms on the road ahead. Dimick framed his visual discussion using an emergent idea called the Anthropocene, or Human Age, a new geologic era proposed by scientists that marks our trajectory and enduring impact on the planet as population rises, and demand for energy and food increases. He addressed accumulating environmental

International Master Gardener Conference 2021 (con't)

impacts such as pollution and climatic shifts, and how we might pro-actively respond. His goal was to help us appreciate our place in nature and contemplate how we can contribute towards a more balanced future for ourselves and the planet.

Especially interesting to me was that he credited his early experiences in 4-H and FFA with raising his consciousness about the world around us. He also said “the soil that you inherit on this land is an indicator of the life you will live.” My take-away: *what inheritance are we leaving for our children?*

IMGC - 2023

The next conference is well into the planning stages, and you may have seen a video promotion already on Facebook. It will be held June 18-22, 2023 in Overland Park, Kansas, which is just west of the Kansas City metro area. Their theme is “Celebrate Today, Educate for Tomorrow, Grow the Future” and they have some great tours and workshops planned. I’m excited that this one will be close enough to drive to, and I hope YOU will consider joining me!

~ Becky

UW Wisconsin Horticulture Update

Are you looking to gain education hours?

Check out the link below:

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

October: Harvest Moon

October is here, we are having above average temperatures and I wonder what Mr. Leopold would think today watching his phenology calendar change. The big brown bats continue to roost on my house, the DNR bat guy, coined my home as a “bat hotel.” Hence, the big browns are busy trying their luck at finding love; fall is the time they mate. We are fortunate to enjoy over 20 or so migrants stop by. The locals get to share some of their space for a few weeks, and the squabbling during the mid-day drives my border collie nuts. It is a welcoming sign to know that they are some of the best insect pest control we get on the farm.

Though, the hummingbird feeder still hangs from the log, the humming-birds have moved on. I still have a zucchini plant that hasn’t given up. It makes one, we grill one. The apple orchards are buzzing with bees and people. Pumpkins are popping up like rabbits all over the place. The green beans are showing no sign of stopping. And even though we disassembled the rain barrels over a month ago and stopped watering crops, the long island cheese winter squash has reawakened with a flush of flowers and fruit.

Have you maxed out on canning this year? We vowed to downsize the garden plots... We have more tomatoes than we know what to do with. The good news, they disappear quickly when we take them to the office. Now, we seemed to have even lost interest in picking them and find them on the ground like fallen fruit in an orchard. We couldn’t wait for that first one to ripen and relished its flavor with a sheer child-like delight and now, ironically, we can’t wait for the first frost. Though we continue to count our blessings, we feel fortunate for all the good food we have harvested this year.

We are still trying to break through all the storm damage in the woods from July 29th. I listen keenly as my neighbor describes how bad his land was hit, counting a total of 12 trees down. I tip my head and offer condolences, not disclosing we have most likely lost over a hundred, but fear to find out the truth if we ever start to count.

Our woods are tucked in, isolated by corn, soy and hay fields. We keep them to ourselves and share them with the local deer and critters who travel through. In the four years we have been here, we have been aggressively managing invasives, refusing to use any chemicals, some of the worst offenders are **amur cork trees**, buckthorn and garlic mustard. We have amazed some of our neighbors with our due diligence to bring back and restore the woodland. Though the storm damage was a huge setback and created many new challenges, we haven’t given up our purpose. The proof is in the wildflowers that have started springing up where the ground once stood bare. I now look forward to each month’s offerings from the round lobed hepatica, to the wood anemones, to the shooting stars and wild geraniums.

Soon November will be knocking on our doors. Perhaps you are like me looking at the list of things, you thought you would have checked off before the snow arrives .. and quickly realize.. not everything has been checked off. The good news is we still have time to get our projects done.

The year is winding down, elections for new officers will be happening soon. Enjoy fall and all its colors.

Kim Leizinger





Let's Get Green and Growing 2022

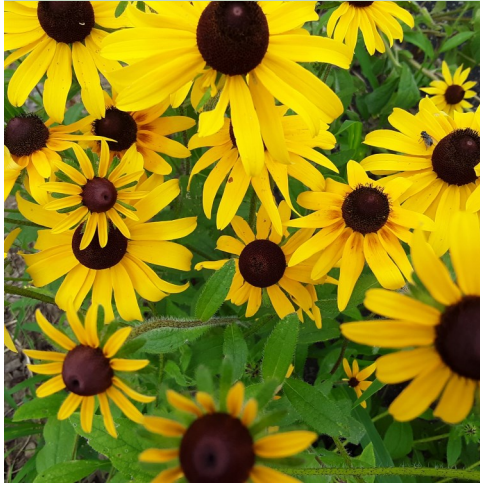
Time to think spring (it's never too early)!!

The "Let's Get Green and Growing" 2022 planning group will be meeting on Monday, October 18th at the Portage Public Library (Bidwell Room). We have it reserved from 4:30-5:45. You are welcome to attend when it works for you.

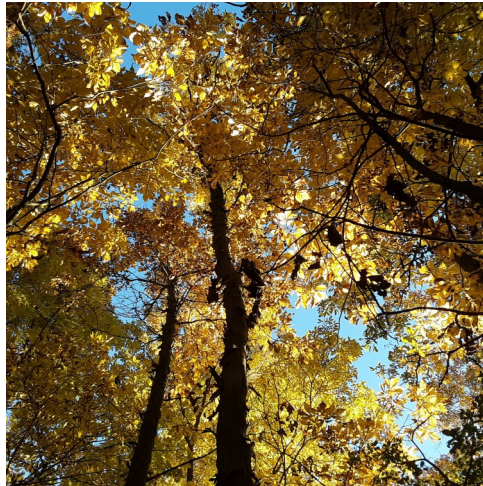
Looking forward to seeing you!



Black Eyed Susans



Photos by Kim Leizinger



Shag Bark Hickories



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COLUMBIA COUNTY

Master Gardener News
112 E. Edgewater Street
Room 212
Portage, WI 53901
Phone: 608-742-9680
Fax: 608-742-9862
711 for Wisconsin Relay