

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

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Note from the President ~

What a great Fall we're having! Fall cleanup. I keep thinking, "This is the last day. What we don't get done today just won't get done this year." Then another great day for working outside comes along and I see there is more to do out there again. There's another opportunity to spend more time outside enjoying the great weather doing tasks I like to do.

In our back yard we had a beautiful display this year of a tree with school bus yellow maple leaves and before I could remember to take a photo, the leaves have all dropped. I think they all fell in one day. I missed a great shot. There's new respect for a tree I have taken for granted all these years.

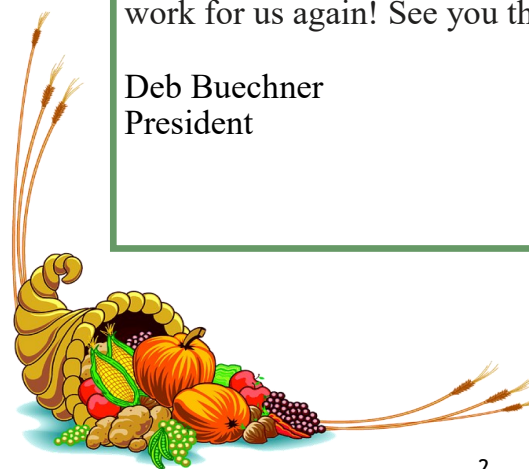
Our last meeting of the year is coming up on November 23 at 6 p.m. It is potluck and officer elections. Join us at the Portage Library in the Bidwell Room or Zoom in - watch your email for the link. Thank you, Ann Marie, for making Zoom work for us again! See you then.

Deb Buechner
President



Columbia County MGV Activities

11/23 **MGV Mtg & Officer Elections & Potluck**
11/25 & 26 **Thanksgiving Holiday—Extension Office is CLOSED**



*Columbia County Master Gardener's Association
Minutes - October 26, 2021*

The zoom meeting was called to order by President Deb Buechner at 6:11 pm.

In attendance: Becky Gutzman, Linda Haddix, Marie Rohrbecker, Connie Wilsnack, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Deb Buechner, Judi Benade, Ardyce Piehl, Kate Rietmann, Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Ann Marie Fuerst, Carol Ziehmke, Pat Trap and guest speaker Ellen Terwilliger.

Secretary's Report: A motion to approve the minutes was made by Judi, and a second by Carol. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The report was discussed by the group. A motion was made by Judi with a second by Carol to approve the report. The ending balance at that time was \$3,798.84. The report will be sent to audit.

Old business:
The application for our 501(c) (3) status is still pending. The IRS is apparently behind in their review.

Scholarship committee: no updates at this time.

Election of officers will be held next month. Please consider running for an office! Contact any current officer for questions. Do we need a coordinator position?

Let's Get Green and Growing: One planning meeting was held and the date of March 26, 2022 has been selected for our event. Another meeting is scheduled for November 15th at the Portage Library. Let Becky or Ardyce know if you have ideas for speakers or presentations.

New business:
Public TV performer Inga Witcher contacted Deb regarding a possible summer tour at her farm near Osseo, WI. The tour takes around an hour or so, and involves her cheese making process and her cows! Possible dates would be May 23, May 30 or June 5th. Linda, Deb and Judi agreed to form a planning committee to get more details including the cost.

Judi mentioned sending out a survey to our members regarding successes and things that might not have worked out the best. What did you grow, what was a big challenge for you, and did you do anything different due to the pandemic. Watch your email for the survey and please complete it!

Growing the Library Connection - Ardyce and Becky are working on a brochure and would like ideas or topics we could add. Pat volunteered to talk about peonies - thanks Pat!

Pat also brought up the Pardeeville Garden Club presentation which was held on October 18th. They did a nice job and about 20 of their member attended.

A motion was made to adjourn by Carol, with a second by Rita. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Ellen Terwilliger, Master Gardener from Eau Claire county presented a talk on a good way for us to assess how our garden efforts have been, and to think about what we might like to change.

Linda Haddix, Secretary.

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers
November 23, 2021 - Meeting and Potluck Agenda
Portage Library—Bidwell Room 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Deb

Secretary's Report - Linda

Treasurer's Report - Ann Marie

Introductions -

Old Business

New Business

Other Business

Officer elections

Adjourn

Next meeting: January 25, 2022

**Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers, Inc.
Treasurer Report
October 26, 2021**

Bank Balance as of 26 Oct. 2021	\$3798.84
No Deposits	0
Checks written in Oct.	
Check 1727 – Portage Youth Inc./Comm. Gardens, water bill	\$ 13.77
Check 1728 – Deb Buechner – cake for all	\$ 19.93
	Total: \$ 33.70
Checks cashed:	
Check 1725 – Portage Youth/ water bill	\$ 50.13
Check 1726 – George Koepp / soil sample	\$ 23.55
	Total: \$ 73.68



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!



2021 Columbia County Garden Trends

About a dozen Columbia County Master Gardeners answered a survey about this past gardening season. Sounds like we all enjoyed gardening with its usual ups and downs. Mostly we had successes, except where outside forces like the weather were concerned.

What grew well this year? Green Beans did well for Deb, Len, Lila, Connie and Terry & Rita, carrots also were a success for most of that group. Connie's grew both in Earth Boxes. Tomatoes were a hit for Terry & Rita, and Sun Gold performed particularly well for Connie. Carol mentioned that her cherry tomatoes were a big success, and that she tried a recipe for Cherry tomato pasta sauce "that I love." Hope you'll share that recipe soon, maybe in the next newsletter. I'm sure I'm not the only person who would like to see it.

Rita & Terry mentioned they had a good crop of radishes, as did Lila. Connie was pleased with the swiss chard, lettuce and cinnamon basil in her container garden and Lila's green peppers did well. Kate focused on "some coleus that I got from the Portage FFA plant sale- those things went CRAZY! I had good luck with most of my potted flowers in my deck planters (I have about 20 planters that I do each year) but the vegetables in my pots didn't do as well as I had hoped." Judi made a green mulch/cover crop by broadcast planting crimson clover and barley in the vegetable garden. This really helped to keep the weeds down and the soil stayed moist and friable despite the lack of rain. Len and Lila both report that it was a wonderful year for sunflowers, Deb mentioned her success with spikes, and Pat's asters and dahlias shone again this year.

Many of the year's challenges centered around the weather: Len mentioned drought, Terry & Rita said "lack of timely rains," and Carol spelled it out the problem as "the dry and hot spring. I lost small plants that I put out because I did not water enough." Lila said her tomato got wilt too early, and so she didn't get as many tomatoes as she wanted.

Animals were another problem. One person described the situation as "Keeping the critters from enjoying my tomatoes before I could. Because I had more plants, I had more deer, raccoons, etc." Connie mentioned "Deer nibbling on new apple tree. Used oregano and Irish spring soap hung in tree, plus hot pepper=worked. Critters chewing through plastic fence and munched down three Fooled You peppers. I saved one and it provided me all I needed." Pat's peppers and eggplants grew, but they barely blossomed and produced little or no fruit. Connie had some powdery mildew on zucchini at end of season when

2021 Columbia County Garden Trends (con't)

it rained a lot. She also said, "I sprouted seeds that never got planted because did not get more fencing where they needed to go and I knew it was futile without."

Another challenging theme was plants in the wrong places. Judi had poison parsnip invade the area where she burns branches. She cut the noxious weeds down with a shovel before it flowered, but plans not to mow the area until all the dead stalks and leaves have disappeared. Kate's big challenge was time. She wrote, "I was swamped at work, and at home, and there didn't seem to be enough time to get everything done. I have two large gardens that I used to use for vegetables- and one of them is so overrun with morning glories that I think I'm going to pull down the fences and just turn it into lawn. I'm so frustrated." Deb spent the summer trying to get the ajuga under control. She also wrote, "I realized some of my garden failures were probably due to having several black walnut trees on our property. They currently have red tape around their trunks waiting our turn to get them cut down. I just can't fight juglone and clay soil."

We didn't hold back trying new varieties this year, and tomato varieties were the most popular again this year. Len liked Atomic Bomb cherry tomatoes, and Cherokee Purple tomatoes also got a vote, with the comment "Outstanding! I never had any less than a pound!" Kate wrote, "I tried a bunch of new tomatoes I was gifted, but the morning glories choked them out. It was a big fail year for me in the garden." Connie mentioned, "peppers and tomatoes from Judi! Matt's Wild Cherry tomato did not do as well in earth box as in ground at Judi's, still prolific, just less so." Connie also grew Cinnamon Basil for the first time, and commented that it is awesome dried and added to green tea. Black Beans were also cited as a winner, and Pat mentioned trying Taurus Beets. These grow longer instead of round. They have a great flavor, she said, and grew well. Judi started adding perennial flowers in 2020 and said that "it is simply lovely to see so many blooming this year. The burgundy mums are at their peak in mid-October." Pat tried starting plants outdoors in plastic milk gallon containers, as described in U-Minnesota-Extension video, and Carol started seeds using the "winter sowing method". Because it worked so well, she found she had far more annual flowers than usual. That sounds like a good "problem" to have!

Kate Rietmann's gardening patterns got changed this year. She wrote, "I'm not sure if the pandemic changed things for me as much this year

2021 Columbia County Garden Trends (con't)

- but throwing a safe graduation party and stressing about Senior Year activities sure changed things for us a lot! This meant that I didn't do as well gardening as I had hoped." The pandemic kept Len from shopping at garden centers and greenhouses. Terry & Rita spent more time gardening and Connie worked harder to grow the "greens and veggies I wanted to eat raw with peel on." Carol said, "Last year my son and his family moved in with us for the pandemic. So I had a houseful. They were here through the end of the school year which they did virtually and I was the helper." The second growing season of the pandemic led others to do more gardening than usual, and Deb said she kept more house plants throughout the winter.

Our lists of tried and true favorite varieties was predominantly tomatoes again this year. Judi wrote that "my favorite tomatoes are still Soldacki and Crnkovic. These are strong rambling plants with slicing tomatoes that taste just the way I like them." Len's favorite is Mortgage Lifter Tomato, also Sun-Sugar Tomato. Rita and Terry go for Wisconsin 55, commenting, "always reliable." Connie's favorite Sun Gold produces all season. "They are sweet and 4 plants gives me all I need, has never had blight or wilt, great snack so helps to get those veggie servings." She also enjoys Black Krim, Black From Tula, Amish Paste-flavor. Big Boy tomatoes also got a vote with a comment, "but too acidic."

Moving to favorite varieties outside the realm of tomatoes, Carol mentioned both Honey Nut Squash "nice size and tasty" and Haricots Verts (French Green Beans)-Pole variety, saying "we like the pole beans, easier to pick." Judi likes Chervena Chuska sweet red pepper because it is a prolific plant that produces wonderful peppers with thick flesh and a great flavor.

That last cold snap is bound to occur any time now. Time to have those outdoor gardens put to bed and turn our attention toward indoor plants, seed catalogs and visions of next year's growing season.

UW Wisconsin Horticulture Update

Are you looking to gain education hours?

Check out the link below:

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



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