



Master Gardener News



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2022 Officers:

- Linda Haddix, President
- Connie Wilsnack, Vice Pres.
- Lila Waldman, Secretary
- Jean Damm, Treasurer
- Lori Richter, Reporter

Columbia County MGV Activities

- 3/13 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/20 Spring Begins
- 3/22 MGV Meeting
- 3/26 LGGG Virtual Event
- 4/1 April Fools' Day
- 4/7 MGV Articles Due
- 4/17 Easter
- 4/22 Earth Day



Notes from the President...

By Linda Haddix, CCMGA President

Greetings, fellow Master Gardeners!

March has come in like a lamb, oh boy! For now, it's a welcome deal for me. The snow has melted for the most part, and my many gardens look pretty sad.

I'm ready to get out the mini-greenhouses and heated mats and plant some seeds. I usually start my tomatoes and peppers too early, so I'll try to control myself this year. I have started some flower seeds to satisfy my enthusiasm!

I did purchase some seeds and planting materials and broke out the seeds I saved from last year, and I'm excited, to say the least. I've even sketched where I want to plant items. We'll see if I make changes or go with my current big ideas.

I'll try to keep better notes and take more pictures this year on my progress which I think is an integral part of the whole gardening process.

I've had much success in the past and have learned from my mistakes. I hope to have abundant results to "grow my groceries" as much as possible this year. We shall see...

Linda Haddix
President

FINAL REMINDER: 2022 Master Gardener Association (MGA) Dues

If you haven't already, please send in your dues for 2022 to Jean Damm, CCMGA Treasurer, at:
N5661 Dunning Rd, Pardeeville WI 53954. Dues are \$15 and checks should be made out to: Columbia County Master Gardeners Association (CCMGA).



*Columbia County Master Gardener's Association
Minutes - February 22, 2022—via Zoom*

In attendance: Bill Damm, Jean Damm, Ardyce Piehl, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Judi Benade, Becky Gutzman, Connie Wilsnack, Linda Haddix, Lloyd Moberg, Lori Richter, George Koepp, Jane Breuer, Lila Waldman, Lori Nadolski.

Linda Haddix called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Minutes of the January 25 meeting were published in the February newsletter. Motion (Jean/Lori) to approve the minutes passed. The treasurer's report will be forwarded for audit. Current balance is \$3,817.65.

Jean reported on her progress with the 501c3 application. We must complete the application by March 8 in order to not lose our filing fee. Jean will get this in the mail by March 1. Fee for garden plots is not rent. Original documents for formation of our organization are stored in the Extension office.

Ardyce reported that the LGGG plans are progressing. The date is March 26. The Columbus Public Library will be hosting the virtual conference.

Linda reported on tentative plans for a tour to a peony farm in Beaver Dam. Saturday, June 4, was the date suggested. When details are finalized, the trip will be publicized. Carpooling will be used for transportation.

Lori N provided an overview of the upcoming events published in the newsletter. The May program will be Magnificent Monarchs; June will be a tour of Pat Trapp's daylily garden; July is the Columbia County fair; and August will be a garden tour at Lori Richter's. The Program Committee is looking for a member to host a garden tour in September. The October meeting will focus on presentation skills, and the November meeting will focus on technology. More in-person events, including member training, will be scheduled in 2023.

Becky reported that she is working on the 2022 directory. It will be mailed to the membership. Becky stated that the database is open until March 3 for reporting of additional 2021 volunteer and continuing education hours.

Connie said that many members like having meetings via Zoom. Becky will attempt to schedule a hybrid meeting at the library in May. ORS is not yet ready for entry of 2022 hours. If unable to locate a partner when entering hours, contact Becky.

Motion (Lori R/Lori N) to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting adjourned 6:34 p.m. Bruce Krawisz, M.D. Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, gave a presentation on Climate Change and Health.

Submitted by Lila Waldman, Secretary

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers Agenda
March 22, 2022

Zoom Meeting (see connection information below)
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Linda

Secretary's Report - Lila

Treasurer's Report - Jean

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

LGGG:

Tour committee

Program committee

Others?

New Business:

Speaker for the night: Plant This, Not That, Ann Marie Fuerst,
CC MGV

Upcoming CCMGA Events

Our **March 2022 CCMGA Meeting** will be by Zoom only. After a brief business meeting, our topic will be “Plant This, Not That,” and our speaker will be Ann Marie Fuerst.

ADD THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR CALENDAR:

Topic: CCMGA March 2022 Meeting

Date/Time: March 22, 2022, 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9324969960?pwd=ZnVBY3VwOVN6azArWmtNK3k4T1J2UT09>

Meeting ID: 932 496 9960

Passcode: q7mriR

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,9324969960#,,,,*790553# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,9324969960#,,,,*790553# US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 932 496 9960

Passcode: 790553



COLUMBIA COUNTY MGV DIRECTORY

The Columbia County MGV Directory will be getting updated. Please verify that your information is accurate so you don't miss anything!

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers, Inc. February Treasurer's Report

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$4290.14
DEPOSITS	\$ 0	
OTHER INCOME		
Donation (dues overpayment)	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00
EXPENSES		
2022 WIMGA Dues	\$170.00	
LGGG speakers	\$ 225.00	
Groundswell Conservancy.	\$150.00	
Jungs Garden Center.	\$ 50.00	
Kwik Trip.	\$ 25.00	
Microfarm supplies.	\$ 82.49	
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 477.49
BALANCE 2/22/2022		\$3817.65

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Columbia County MGV Upcoming Events – At a Glance			
Date	Event	Time	Location
Tuesday, 3/22/22	CC MGV Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Zoom Meeting – Topic: Plant This, Not That
Saturday, 3/26/22	Let's Get Green and Growing	9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	VIRTUAL EVENT
Tuesday, 4/26/22	CC MGV Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Community Garden Tour Portage
Tuesday, 5/24/22	CC MGV Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Portage Library – Topic: Pending

Volunteer Pruning Opportunity

We have been asked to teach a hands-on lesson on pruning techniques with the Home Landscaping class students from Cambria-Friesland High School. Several MGVs have already volunteered to help with this project. The tentative date is **Thursday, March 31, 12:30-2:30 PM** at the home of Becky Gutzman. There are 16 students, so it will be good to have lots of help, AND it will be a good refresher for other MGVs who would like to refresh their pruning knowledge.

We will have fruit trees (apple, pear and cherry), small fruits (aronia, blueberries, jostaberries, honeyberries, elderberries and raspberries), as well as grapevines and a few ornamental shrubs to practice our pruning skills on. Please bring your own pruning tools, gloves, safety glasses, appropriate clothing and shoes for pruning. Let Becky Gutzman know if you plan to participate or have any questions.

CCMGV Newsletter Article Writers Needed

The CC MGV Newsletter brings you fresh content each month on a variety of volunteer and continuing education opportunities, as well as timely, science-based educational articles from our members. We want to invite you to draft an article for an upcoming newsletter on a gardening topic you're passionate about. You will get volunteer hours for the time you spend researching and preparing the article. Please get in touch with Lori Richter (buckysbabe@icloud.com) for more details.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Question of the Month:

Where can I find previous editions of the CCMGV Newsletter?

Answer:

Previous editions of the CCMGV Newsletter are available on Columbia County's Extension Master Gardener Web Page at <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/>.

The newsletter includes activities, resource materials, upcoming events, and more. The newsletter is offered digitally (by email, as a pdf file) or as a hard copy (mailed).

Columbia County Health Care Center MGV Volunteer Project

The Columbia Health Care Center is looking for some MGVs who would be willing to:

- Give them advice on what landscape plants they should use around their entrance sign. The sign and its supports are being redone and the existing overgrown plant material was removed. Helping them design a new, low-maintenance plan is the need.
- Help install the new plantings when the plan is complete and plants have been purchased. If you're not sure of your design skills but can handle a shovel, this could be the job to help with.
- Evaluate their butterfly garden area to see what should be removed and other renovation advice. Maintenance help would also be appreciated.

If interested in helping with any of these projects, please contact Mandi Herwig at CCHC at 608-429-3636 or Mandi.Herwig@co.columbia.wi.us



VIRTUAL EVENT
**LET'S GET GREEN
AND GROWING
2022**

Brought to you by the Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers

March 26 | 9:00AM - 1:45pm

Free Online Conference
Registration Required



9:00 Zoom Opens

9:20 Welcome

9:30 Keynote: "Healing Our Land – The Westport Marsh Success Story" by Tony Abate

10:30 Keynote Q&A

10:40 Break

10:45 Session 1: "Farm to Vase – Peonies and the Slow Flower Movement" by Michelle Ovans

11:30 Lunch Break

12:00 Session 2: "Vegetables – What's Old is New" by Rob Gehm

12:45 Break

12:50 Session 3: "Plant This, Not That" by Ann Marie Fuerst

1:35 Conclusion

MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Keynote: Healing the Land – The Westport Marsh Success Story



With the help of conservation partners, landowners, and volunteers, Groundswell Conservancy conserves and expands the wildlife habitat of the 22-acre Westport Marsh.

Groundswell's Community Conservationist Anthony (Tony)

Abate was born and raised in Coloma. He has a degree in environmental studies from UW-Madison and worked at the Audubon Goose Pond Sanctuary before coming to Groundswell

Session 1: Farm to Vase – Peonies and the Slow Flower Movement

Join Michelle Ovans to learn how peonies are grown for the Floral Industry and how the Slow Flower Movement promotes a sustainable approach to fresh flowers. Michelle owns Ovans Peony Farm, is a member of the American Peony Society, Wisconsin Peony Society, the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers and is a Graduate of the Floret Cut Flower Grower School and Cut Flower Grower School.

Session 2: Vegetables – What's Old is New

Remember celeriac and salsify in your granny's garden?

These and new varieties are coming back! Join lifelong gardener Rob Gehm of Link's Greenhouse and Farm to learn more. Rob attended UW Madison, earning a degree

in plant pathology. His family business, Link's Greenhouse and Farms, is widely supportive of 4-H youth and the Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers with their projects.



Session 3: Plant This, Not That

Many invasive plants were sold in garden centers in the past and now proliferate wildly. Ann Marie Fuerst, Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteer, will share the history of this development and show us how to avoid what is considered invasive. Ann Marie became a Master Gardener Volunteer five years ago. She contributes to several community projects, such as the rose garden at the Museum at the Portage and the vintage garden at The Indian Agency House.

Continuing Education Opportunities

WIMGA Continuing Education Series

The Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA) is pleased to present a 2022 continuing education series in place of its in-person conference. The first speaker in the series is Dr. Irwin Goldman, Professor of Horticulture at UW-Madison. Dr. Goldman researches plant genetics and teaches courses in vegetable crops, plant breed, indigenous foodways, evolutionary biology, and plants and wellbeing.

This session will take place on Monday, March 21, 2022, from 6:30 – 7:45 PM. Registration information will be available soon.

UW-Extension FREE Webinar Series

(Registration required)

SERIES 2: MANAGING YOUR YARD AND GARDEN THROUGHOUT THE GROWING SEASON

- Best Practices for Watering Yards & Gardens (Noon, May 10, 2022)
- Strategies for Identifying & Managing Insect Pests (Noon, May 18, 2022)
- Strategies for Identifying & Managing Plant Diseases (Noon, May 31, 2022)

For more information and to register, visit: https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/mini-webinars-for-gardeners/?utm_source=Emma&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=2022+Webinar+Series+1+State+Email+List



New Publication from UW-Madison Extension: Supporting Native Bees: Our Essential Pollinators



Did you know that approximately 75 percent of the world's major food crops require or benefit from animal pollination?

The UW-Madison Extension publication "Supporting native bees: Our essential pollinators" describes how you can cultivate native plants and preserve nesting sites in your garden. This publication is available for \$3.45 from the Learning Store: <https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/products/supporting-native-bees-our-essential-pollinators-p1629?fbclid=IwAR0SomDjl0SFtAhBAcm2r6WzvBKDciER53vPb-iIGY9aPbs-IU8lh-KyxIM>

Winter 2022 Green Thumb Winter Vegetable Series (UW-Madison Extension Online Classes)

There is still time to attend the Winter 2022 Green Thumb Winter Vegetable Series online through the University of Wisconsin-Madison Dane County Extension. Classes are Monday from 6 PM – 8 PM. Individual classes are \$12.

- ◇ March 14: Vegetable Insects
- ◇ March 21: Seed Saving and Harvesting/Storage

For more information and to register, visit: <https://dane.extension.wisc.edu/horticulture/winter-2022-vegetable-gardening-series-online/>

Kudos Columbia County MGVs for 2021 Volunteer Service

In 2021, Columbia County had 40 Master Gardener Volunteers who reported a total of 855 hours of volunteer service and 523 hours of continuing education—**thank you!** We're looking forward to a great 2022.

There are several ways to find out about upcoming volunteer and continuing education opportunities, including:

- * Participating in the CC Email Listserv: Contact Becky Gutzman to be added and to share any updates to your contact information.
- * Visiting the CC MGV Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersofcolumbiacounty>
- * Reading the archived monthly CCMGV Newsletters and attending the monthly CCMGA Meetings, upcoming events listed at: <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/>

In addition, please reach out to any of the CCMGA Officers listed at the top of this newsletter for more information about upcoming volunteer & continuing education opportunities.





With Gratitude

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.

Our vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live.



Habitat
for Humanity®
of Wisconsin River Area



hfhwisconsinriver.org

Cover Photo: Mike & Akira McVicker, future Habitat homeowners.
Inside Photo: The McVicker family working on their future home.

Reminder: Make Sure to Complete Onboarding Lite

All returning Master Gardeners must complete the “Onboarding Lite” course this year before reporting any volunteer hours. There have been several changes to the Program, and this is where you will become familiar with all of them. The course reviews the mission and values and the MG Program’s history. The sections on purpose are an excellent way to review what we do, whom we serve, and how and when we can volunteer. The “What Counts” section will help you better understand the volunteer activities and continuing education requirements, so we can all meet the expectations. You can claim 5 hours of continuing education for taking this course, even though it will probably take you less time than that.

This course and other continuing ed opportunities are in the Canvas Classroom. You will need a NetID to access Canvas. Check the last issue of the Volunteer Vibe, which arrived in your email about January 20, for the link to getting a NetID setup. If you have trouble, please email the Program Office at: wimastergardener@extension.wisc.edu for help, or contact Becky Gutzman.

Status Update: Online Reporting System (ORS)

The ORS is being updated for 2022 and is expected to be available soon. Please remember to keep track of your hours until you are notified that it is open again. You must complete the Onboarding Lite before reporting any hours. The other significant change this year is that you will report by Partner instead of Project. For example, if you volunteer with the micro-farm project at Muir Elementary School, you will report that by searching the list for the school’s name. Becky Gutzman is working on entering all the “partners” that we worked with last year, so we don’t have multiple, similar entries. If you begin working with a new partner as the year progresses, they can be added at any time. For volunteer work for our own projects, like serving as an officer, working on the newsletter, or Let’s Get Green and Growing, the partner is CCMGA. Thanks for your patience as we adapt to this change.

Key Links—Following are helpful links to keep at hand:

Columbia County Extension: columbia.extension.wisc.edu

Columbia County Master Gardener Homepage:

<https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/>

Master Gardener Volunteers of Columbia County WI Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/mastergardenersofcolumbiacounty/>

UW-Madison Division of Extension: learningstore.extension.wisc.edu

Wisconsin Horticulture: <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu>

Wisconsin Master Gardener Program: wimastergardener.org

If you have a link to a page that may be of interest to your CC MGCV peers, please get in touch with Lori Richter at buckysbabee@icloud.com, and we’ll include its definition in a future newsletter.

Acronyms

CCMGA: Columbia County Master Gardener Association

CC MGCV: Columbia County Master Gardener volunteers

CE: Continuing Education (10 CE hours are required each year)

LGGG: Let’s Get Green & Growing (event)

MG: Master Gardener

MGA: Master Gardeners Association

MGV: Master Gardener volunteer

ORS: Online Reporting System (used for reporting your volunteer and CE hours)

UWEX: University of Wisconsin Extension

WBT: Web-based training

WIMGA: Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association

If there is an acronym used within CC MGCV for which you don’t know the meaning, please get in touch with Lori Richter at buckysbabee@icloud.com, and we’ll include its definition in a future newsletter.



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