

Master Gardener News



2022 Officers:

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

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Columbia County MGV Activities

- 4/1 April Fools' Day
- 4/7 MGV Articles Due
- 4/17 Easter
- 4/22 Earth Day
- 5/1 May Day
- 5/5 MGV Articles Due
- 5/8 Mother's Day
- 5/30 Memorial Day



Notes from the President..

By Linda Haddix, CCMGA President

Hello fellow master gardeners! Welcome Spring, oh, wait...Even though the calendar shows that spring has arrived, we're still waiting for the warmer weather to arrive. Hopefully, it won't be too long.

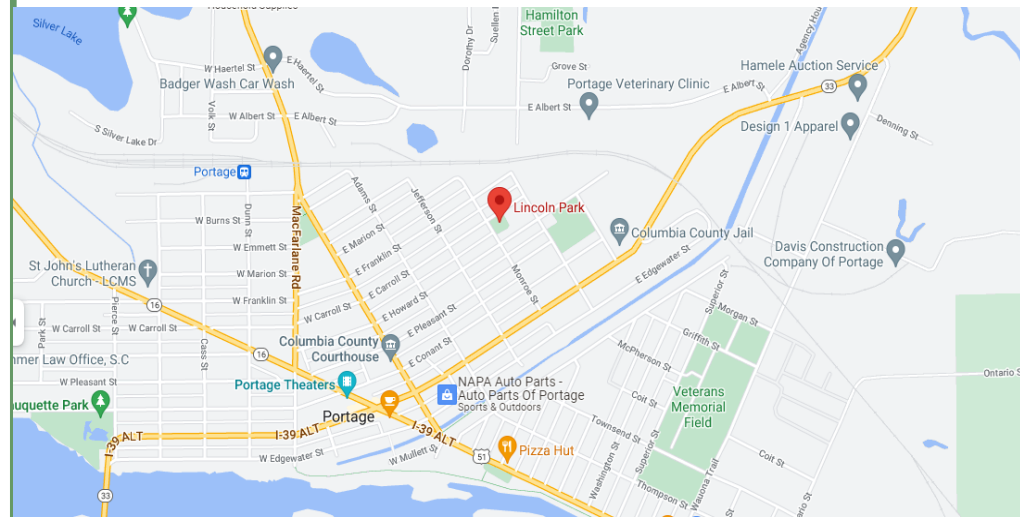
I know we're all ready to get outside to do some cleanup in the yard and gardens, and trim our trees. I know which branches to trim on my maple tree just outside the front door because when leafed out, it blocks my view of the driveway. Gotta get that one soon!

I have started some seeds indoors which are slowly popping up. It seems like they are taking a long time, but probably not. I did some research on seed starting watching videos on the PBS website starring Ben Futa on "Let's Grow Stuff". I learned one thing I have done wrong already - I didn't use seed starting potting soil, I used regular potting soil. I wish I would have watched that earlier. But I did learn many things. Check out this website [Let's Grow Stuff - PBS](#). I know there are many more, but I like watching Ben because he was a speaker at a Let's Get Green and Growing event a couple of years ago.

Speaking of Let's Get Green and Growing, I would like to give a shout out to our master gardener volunteers for another GREAT video presentation last weekend. All sessions were very informative and I'm so proud of Becky, Ardyce and Lori R. for moderating the event, and the entire committee that made it come to life. It's a lot of work and I appreciate it!

Here's to hoping the weather cooperates soon, and let's not forget about Earth Day coming up on April 22, 2022. Come on Spring, we're waiting!

As a reminder, our April meeting will include a tour of the Lincoln Park Gardens at 404 E. Carroll Street and the Portage Community Garden located at 812 Silver Lake Drive, both in Portage. We can meet at the Extension parking lot at 6:00 and car pool from there. Prepare to be impressed!



Our scholarship winner will be announced at the meeting - Stand by!

Linda Haddix
 President

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

In attendance: Ann Marie Fuerst, Lila Waldman, Ardyce Piehl, Rita Socha, Terry Socha, Kate Rietmann, Jean Damm, Bill Damm, Lloyd Moberg, Lori Richter, Linda Haddix, Pat Trapp, Becky Gutzman, Carol Ziehmke, Donna McElroy, Connie Wilsnack.

Linda Haddix called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. Motion (Ardyce/Lori) to approve the minutes passed. George Koepp sent a note thanking our organization for the gift certificate in memory of his father. The treasurer's report will be forwarded for audit. Current balance is \$4093.49. George has provided a spreadsheet on the community garden records.

Lila reported on the microgarden planting at Muir Elementary this morning. Eight volunteers worked with about 80 third grade students.

Becky reported that the LGGG committee and presenters had a practice session on March 18. The virtual conference will be held on Saturday, March 26. The conference will not be recorded.

Linda reported that the annual tour will be Saturday, June 4, to Ovan's Peony Farm in Beaver Dam. After this, there will be lunch and a behind-the-scenes tour at Jung's in Randolph. Details will be shared later; there will be carpooling.

Lila reported that we have three applicants for the scholarship this year. Linda will tentatively present the scholarship at the high school.

Becky has sent out the 2022 directory. The Extension office provided materials and labor. Becky will submit for reimbursement the bill for mailing. The directory was sent to all MGVs who have paid their dues; all members from last year were contacted. Please check the directory and let Becky know if any changes are needed.

A chairperson is needed for the fair committee. The theme will be "Fair Lights Country Nights." Becky suggested a chart/grid listing the requirements for volunteers during the fair. Contact Jean or Becky to volunteer.

Motion (Carol/Terry) to adjourn the meeting passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m. Ann Marie Fuerst gave a presentation, "Plant This, Not That," about invasive plants.

Submitted by Lila Waldman, Secretary

Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteers Agenda
April 26, 2022

Our April 2022 CCMGA Meeting will be in person. After a brief business meeting, George Koepp, Bill Damm, and Terry Socha will host tours the Silver Lake Drive and Lincoln Park Community Gardens in Portage. Portage community gardeners are all invited to attend our meeting and share refreshments. As part of the program, we will hear from a couple of folks who rent the gardens about their experiences. Watch your inbox for more information about when and where we will meet. See the map in the Notes from the President for directions. We will meet at the Columbia County Extension Office in Portage at 6 PM.

Call to Order - Linda

Secretary's Report - Lila

Treasurer's Report - Jean

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

LGGG:

Tour committee

Program committee

Others?

New Business:



Upcoming CCMGA Events

Our **April 2022 CCMGA Meeting** will be in person. After a brief business meeting, George Koepp, Bill Damm, and Terry Socha will host tours the Silver Lake Drive and Lincoln Park Community Gardens in Portage. Portage community gardeners are all invited to attend our meeting and share refreshments. As part of the program, we will hear from a couple of folks who rent the gardens about their experiences. Watch your inbox for more information about when and where we will meet.

The **CC MGV Field Trip** will be Monday, June 6, 10 a.m. to Ovans Peony Farm in Beaver Dam. Afterward, there will be lunch and a behind-the-scenes tour at Jung's in Randolph. We will plan to carpool. Details will be shared later. Watch for an email with additional details.

Columbia County MGV Upcoming Events – At a Glance				
Data	Event	Time	Location	Topic/Speaker
Tuesday, 4/26/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Silver Lake Drive and Lincoln Park Community Gardens	Community Garden Tours - hosted by George Koepp, Bill Damm, and Terry Socha
Tuesday, 5/24/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Bidwell Room at Portage Library, 253 W. Edgewater St., Portage, WI (Virtual Option)	Magnificent Monarchs, Gae Bergmann, Dodge County MGV
Monday, 6/6/22	Field Trip	10:00 AM	Ovans Peony Farm, Beaver Dam + Jungs + Lunch	Peony Farm field trip
Tuesday, 6/28/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Pat's Garden	Garden Tour, Pat Trapp, CCMGV
Tuesday, 8/23/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Lori's Garden	Garden Tour, Lori Richter, CCMGV
Tuesday, 9/27/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	TBD	Garden Tour
Tuesday, 10/25/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Bidwell Room at Portage Library, 253 W. Edgewater St., Portage, WI (Virtual Option)	Super Skill Training: Let's Present, Lori Nadolski and George Koepp
Tuesday, 11/22/22	CCMGA Meeting	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Bidwell Room at Portage Library, 253 W. Edgewater St., Portage, WI (Virtual Option)	Super Skill Training: Let's Get Techy, Kate Rietmann

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

BEGINNING BALANCE \$3812.65
 (Portage Community Garden \$624.29)
 (MGA \$3188.36)

DEPOSITS

3 Member Dues \$ 45.00
 PCG Plot fees \$310.00

TOTAL DEPOSIT \$ 355.00

EXPENSES

2022 WIMGA Dues \$ 15.00
 Gift Koepp Memorial \$ 50.00
 Postage, Certified mail to IRS \$ 9.16

TOTAL EXPENSE \$ 74.16

BALANCE 3/22/2022 \$4093.49
 (Portage Community Gardens \$934.29)
 (MGA \$3,159.20)



Program Updates - Citizen Science Volunteer Category

The volunteer category Citizen Science is new in 2022. This category including spending time observing and reporting data to assist in research on topics of scholarship and communities of practice.

Note that not all observations can be counted toward your volunteer hours. **Only the three activities listed below can be counted:**

- **Invasive species monitoring** - Surveying populations for the Wisconsin First Detector Network (WIFDN). See <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wifdn/>. This category does NOT include aquatics.
- **Pollinator monitoring** - Surveying populations through WiBee, the Wisconsin Wild Bee App. See <http://pollinators.wisc.edu/wibee/>.
- **Phenology records** - Recording phenology observations for the National Phenology Network. See <https://www.usanpn.org/partner/volunteer-scientists>. Only plant and insect observations count toward volunteer service.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question of the Month:

How can I learn about upcoming CC MGV events?



Answer:

There are several ways to find out about upcoming events, 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/mastergardenerofcolumbiacounty>.
- Reading the monthly CCMGV Newsletters, archived at: <https://columbia.extension.wisc.edu/master-gardener/>.
- Attending the monthly CCMGA Meetings, viewing the 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 events.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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 (buckysbabee@icloud.com) for more details.



Volunteer Opportunity – 2022 WiBee:

The Wisconsin Wild Bee Project

The Gratton Lab at the UW-Madison is looking for citizen scientists to collect data on wild bees in the state, using their WiBee mobile application. *See more about the new Citizen Science volunteer category in this newsletter.* Last year, 316 volunteers across the state participated in research to understand the pollinator population in Wisconsin.



The process is quite simple. Answer a few questions in the application, upload a picture and begin your observation. You will select one flower species in a 3 foot by 3 foot area and count the bee visits for 5 minutes.

To learn more about this opportunity, watch this short video <https://wisc.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c110560b951701798429e6a4e&id=7f5f9f6889&e=c02b8ec18d>

If you are interested in participating:

1. Download the WiBee app to your phone using Google Play or Apple's App Store
2. Create a user profile
3. Learn the survey protocol and the five bee morphogroups – there is a Quick Guide available at <https://uwmadison.app.box.com/s/oh4omqp0hosecb7fh519hnqmyjiajfq>
4. Start surveying bees!

For contact information, visit pollinators@wisc.edu

To learn more and download materials, visit www.pollinators.wisc.edu

To view previously collected data, visit the WiBee Dashboard at <https://data-viz.it.wisc.edu/wibee/>

WIMGA Continuing Education Series - featuring Lee Reich, PhD, Weedless Gardening

Wisconsin Master Gardeners Association (WIMGA) is sponsoring a virtual program on Weedless Gardening on Monday, April 25, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 PM. This Zoom Meeting will introduce you to a four-part system for healthier plants and fewer weeds. The meeting room will open at 6 PM and there will be time for questions after the presentation. This event will not be recorded.

Register in advance for this meeting at:

<https://www.wimga.org/so/86N-IKysQ/c?w=hvO1S5NpYEIeBMTJgbZH2dO54vTaTk0Z1HCe2ygIvQ8.eyJ1IjoiaHR0cHM6Ly91czA2d2ViLnpsb20udXMvbnVldGluZy9yZWdpc3Rlci90Snd0ZHU2cXB6a3FIZDNVSkxrVUgxQ1ZKWmtnd3BOUEM0dkliLCJyIjoiaGQ2liwi>

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 Plants Plus available on Canvas Classroom – Shrub Pruning

Visit the Canvas Classroom for a new Plants Plus course on Shrub Pruning. You can earn 2.5 hours of Continuing Education (CE) by attending this Web-Based Training (WBT) on the Canvas Classroom at <https://t.e2ma.net/click/ewixbe/yzq5cfy/65gszl>. For more information, see the March Edition of the Wisconsin Extension Master Gardener Program *Volunteer Vibe*.

Composting

By Lila Waldman, Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteer

With so many advantages (less trash, reduced chemical use), it's surprising that more people are not taking advantage of composting. Most households already have the ingredients and tools necessary for successful composting, and the final result, compost, can be used to enhance both vegetable gardens and flower beds. Of course, ready-made compost can be purchased, but it's easy and more economical to make your own.

Composting starts in the kitchen with saving food scraps such as vegetable peelings, egg shells, coffee ground, fruit pieces, and stale baked goods. Save these items in a durable covered container and transfer them to the outdoor compost pile. Compost buckets may be purchased, but an ice cream pail works just as well. Avoid adding meats, bones, oils, or dairy products because they take longer to break down and can attract pests when taken outdoors. In addition, avoid citrus rinds and banana peels because they could contain pesticides.

Although composting bins can be purchased, your compost site may simply be a pile on the ground. Choose a site which is convenient to your kitchen and which gets five to eight hours of sunlight per day. You may want to create a simple bin around the compost pile using wood or chicken wire. In addition to the kitchen scraps, add materials such as leaves, garden plants, grass clippings, and small branches. Microorganisms in the compost will feed on the organic material and build the compost.

The best formula for making compost is two parts brown material and one part green material (more carbon than nitrogen). Brown materials include dry leaves, small twigs, straw, and shredded paper products. Green materials include the kitchen scraps described above, grass clippings, manure, and other plant material. Weed seeds and diseased or insect-infested plant materials should, of course, not be included in the compost. A shovel full of garden soil or compost will increase the number of microorganisms in the mix.

The starting pile should be at least 3 x 3 x 3 feet in size in order to heat up in the center (100-165 degrees F). The pile should be turned at least once a week when new materials may be added, while maintaining the ratio of brown to green material. If you're not using a tumbler composting bin, use a pitchfork to turn the pile. The compost pile needs to be kept moist, so water needs to be added during times of minimal rain. The finished compost will be ready to use in four to five months. Composition will occur without the weekly turning, but the process will take longer. Worms, beetles, and other bugs may voluntarily join your compost pile to aid with decomposition. In fact, worm composting offers another alternative for the home gardener.

The finished product will resemble dark, rich soil which may be incorporated into your existing garden soil or used as mulch around plants.

More information about composting is available through the UW-Extension publication, "Making and Using Compost in the Garden" by Christine Wen and Joe Van Rossum. This Extension publication (A4021) is available for purchase or a free download through the Learning Store at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu>.

Navigating the New ORS (con't)

Navigating the New ORS

By Becky Gutzman, Columbia County Master Gardener Volunteer and MGA Liaison

The Online Reporting System is open for MGVs to begin reporting their hours for 2022. This article summarizes some changes. Not all partner agencies have been added yet, but here are some tips for finding your way through the process.

1. On the ORS home page, there are currently 414 partners listed the MGVs around the state have already entered. Since the list is several pages long, there is a search function, but you do not need to locate your partner in the list on the home page; it's just informational. On the home page, you will also see your lifetime totals and any hours you have reported this year.
2. Look at the gray ribbon near the top of the home page; you will see ADD HOURS and SUBMIT ORGANIZATION, among other things. You need to click on the ADD HOURS tab to get into the reporting sections. You first need to select whether you are reporting volunteer service or continuing education.
3. Finding the group you volunteered for might be the biggest challenge. Partners are listed by the owner of the site in most cases.

For example, if you work at Pauquette Park, you will choose City of Portage – Park, and Recreation Department as the Organization. If you worked on the committee to plan “Let’s Get Green and Growing,” you will choose Columbia County Master Gardener Association because LGGG is a project sponsored by us. You will report the micro-farm project under the specific school district you worked with, such as Pardeeville Area School District or Portage Community School District.

The MGP Office has been very particular about the naming of the partner organizations, and I am still in discussion with them about getting some of the groups entered. An example of a location that was renamed for us is *Wisconsin Society of the NSCDA – Historic Indian Agency House!* Luckily, the search function picks up portions of titles, so if you type “historic” in the search, it will bring up every agency with that word in their name, and you will see it in the list.

So far, these organizations have also made it into the system: Habitat for Humanity, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Mackenzie Center, Madison Audubon Society – Goose Pond Sanctuary. If you don’t find an agency on the list, please contact me to see if it is on the “waiting list” or if we need to add it.

4. Once you have selected an Organization, you will need to choose what category of volunteer work you did. There is a box to open to see more description of the types, and you will select gardening, educating others, administration, etc.
5. Then you will have to choose whether you are reporting over a period of time (you can report a month’s worth of weeding in one entry if you wish!) and the date of activity.
6. Finally, you have to type in a brief description of what you did. You can summarize and condense; for example: “contacted speakers, planned committee meetings, and corresponded about LGGG.”
7. Don’t forget to hit the +Add button!

Adding your continuing education hours looks much more straightforward, and I haven’t entered any yet, so let me know if you encounter any challenges. As we go through the year, there will be new agencies to add, so I will try to stay on top of that as necessary. Thank you to everyone who asked questions about the ORS—it has helped me learn how to navigate the changes. Please reach out if you need help.

June Master Gardener Tour

Ovans Peony Farm will be the starting point for this summer’s outing on Monday, June 6, 2022, 10 AM. We’ll experience the fields of blooms and see first-hand how this grower supplies beautiful flowers for the brides of June and beyond! Owner Michelle Ovans will give us a guided tour, sharing the history of her business at this location, and answering our questions about peony culture.

Transportation will be on your own; feel free to reach out to others to carpool. We will meet at 10 AM at the farm, which is located at W9904 County Rd CP, west of Beaver Dam. Bring your camera and a notebook for remembering which varieties you want to add to your gardens!

After that, we’ll journey up the road to Fox Lake, where we’ll enjoy lunch at Cabby’s Grill and Patio on the lake. Cabby’s chef has been voted the best in Dodge County and the menu is full of delicious and healthy options.

Following lunch, we’ll be traveling to Randolph, where we’ll meet Leah Stark, manager of Jung’s retail garden center. We’ll also have a special presentation on houseplants, and hear about how this section of gardening has grown in recent years. We may also be able to visit Jung’s peony fields on the way home.

While there is no charge for this year’s tour, we do need a head count of how many will attend, so please let Linda Haddix know by May 31st if you plan to join.

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 MGV 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 MGV: 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 MGV 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.




Thanks for participating in the Let's Get Green & Growing 2022 Virtual Event!

Thanks to attendees, presenters and volunteers for participating in the Let's Get Green & Growing Virtual Event on Saturday, March 26th. While we are grateful for the virtual format to be able to reach people, we're looking forward to seeing you again IN PERSON in 2023 at the Rio High School.



If you attended and would like to provide feedback about the event, please reach out to Ardyce Piehl or Becky Gutzman.



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