

# Columbia County Master Gardener News

## 2009 Officers:

Karren Alden, President  
Mike Koch, Vice President  
Jane Considine, Secretary  
Mae Seib, Treasurer  
Kerri Frisch, Reporter



Volume 11 , Issue 7

September

Care 'N 4 Plants .....	2	2009 WIMGA Conference..	4
September Agenda.....	3	Minutes .....	5
Volunteer Hours Needed ...	4	Calendar of Events .....	11



**Monthly Meeting**  
**September 22, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Columbia County Annex Building**  
**120 W Conant Street**  
**Portage, WI 53901**

## Care 'N 4 Plants Message from Karren Alden Columbia County Master Gardener President

### Care 'N 4 Plants

I can't believe we are into September already, what an unusual summer. I had my container garden lettuces, longer than I expected, yeah! My tomato plants aren't as bushy and full of fruit as usual. I'm hoping I don't lose the few green tomatoes I have to the late blight. See Joe Bollman's info on the UW-Extension web-site. I put in an herb garden this year in a sunny spot just outside my kitchen door. I had high expectations. I did not fence in the area. I think the rabbits ate my greenery as it came up. Then when I fenced in the area, I had a mole or ground squirrel wreaking havoc with the little I had left. The only thing that continued to grow well were the morning glories I planted along the edge. My backyard shrubs went untrimmed this year. So it's pretty secluded in my backyard right now. The hosta and flowers, grew and bloomed beautifully. Although for some reason my peonies never did bud this year, thick, full foliage but no flowers.

I know how much work my own yard is, then I see some of our Master Gardeners who have huge, multiple garden areas and I'm amazed and in awe! If you managed to make our August meeting at Becky's, you know what I'm talking about. The vegetable garden, the flower garden, the blueberries, the shade garden, the "ditch" garden, the fruit trees and flower and plant landscaping next to the house. This was our first meeting since April. In May we were at Link's helping the 4H kids with their planters; June at Sassy Cow for a very educational tour; July at the fair setting up our booth. So we had a lot of old business to catch up on. We started the sign up sheet for our part of the MG State Convention in October. We need greeters, ticket takers, and room moderators to introduce speakers and facilitate questions. If you haven't already signed up, please contact Becky or Sarah (welcome back!) and let them know when you can help.

After we wind up the MG convention in early October and start putting our gardens to bed, we'll want to start getting busy, making plans to fulfill our commitments (local food brochure info updated by February 1; scholarship applications for 2010, due in by April 1), fund raisers (compost bins, pre-orders due about March 15; rain barrels, educational event & workshop) and our Spring Educational Event. I'd like to see us all work hard on our MG projects during the late fall and

winter, before we get too busy with our own yards and projects in the spring. Keep in mind, in the past we've not had a December meeting due to the holidays and our January meeting is usually elections and our holiday get together. So if we're thinking of moving our Spring Event closer to mid to late March, we've got to start thinking now. If you have any ideas, please bring them to our next meeting on September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the UW-Extension in Portage. Tentatively we have scheduled an educational speaker on Heirloom Seeds.

Also, if you're still in need of some last minute education or volunteer hours before October 1, plan to help out at the Savor and Sample Fest at Sassy Cow Creamery on Sunday, September 20th from 1-4:00 p.m. Contact Becky if you're able to help out.

Hope to see everyone at the meeting on Tuesday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Extension Office!  
Good harvesting!

Care 'N 4 Plants,  
Karren Alden  
President Columbia Co. Master Gardeners



Call to Order, at 6:00 p.m.

Review of President's Agenda

PROGRAM- Jodi Scott of Heirloom Seeds, about 45 min- 1 hour.

Secretary's Report (Approval of August minutes)

Treasurer's Report

Old Business

---MG state convention

---any other old business

New Business

---MG reporter-Kerri Frisch unable to fulfill her duties; nominations/  
volunteers

---any other new business

Committee Reports

-Scholarship

-Speaker

-Local Foods

-Rain Barrels

Adjournment

## ***Volunteer Hours Needed***

**You need to turn in your reporting form by October 1st to Sarah Drew in Extension office. These reports are very important to state program leaders as they tell the story of how UW-Extension benefits local communities. Be sure to keep a copy of your timesheet for your records.**

**If you need a copy of the timesheet, you can find it on the web at:**

**<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cty/columbia/ag/MasterGardener.html>**

**Or:**

**Call Sarah Drew  
(608) 742-9688**

## ***2009 WIMGA Conference***

This conference has been in the planning stages for a couple years, but it will soon be here! Countless hours have been put into organizing speakers, arranging meals, raffle items and the silent auction, and recruiting vendors. Many dedicated volunteers from Adams, Sauk, Juneau, Marquette, and Columbia County have worked to make this a success: so far, we have over 270 people registered! There will be 24 vendors of garden art, crafts, and must-have garden tools. Many MG groups will be setting up displays, where you'll get ideas for more MG projects.

Thanks to our group members who are volunteering to help with sessions and speaking at the conference. If it all sounds like it's going to be too good to miss (it will be!) you can still get a registration in. If you misplaced your form, please check the state website <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/> for another copy. You can attend just Friday evening or just on Saturday if that fits your schedule better.

# Columbia County Master Gardener Association Minutes of August 25, 2009

Columbia County Master Gardeners met at Becky Gutzman's house for their August meeting and enjoyed a tour of Becky's flower and vegetable gardens, including her newest project: blueberries. She has some plants established and is planning to expand the area and eventually have enough blueberries to sell. Her gardens are augmented with red rocks of various sizes that her family finds and brings home to settle in appropriate places in the gardens. Following the tour we had a delicious pot luck supper featuring the bounty from members' gardens and local farmers' markets.

After the supper, president Karren Alden called the business meeting to order. Treasurer Mae Seib reported that the checking account has a balance of \$2102.76.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Historic Indian Agency House has indicated that there has been a 'vision shift' for landscaping on the property and instead of planting trees for an orchard, they have decided to have a garden patio. Edgewater Greenhouse has designed the patio to be relatively low maintenance, or 'self-sustaining.' The HIAH wants to know if we are satisfied with the donation made by CCMG being used for the patio project rather than the more ambitious orchard. Anna Krause said she would contact HIAH director Destinee Udelhoven about the new plans.

Becky reported that CCMG is responsible for providing volunteers for the breakout sessions at the annual conference. Three people (greeter, room host and moderator) are needed for each breakout session, of which there are 15. She passed a sign-up sheet around the room so members could sign up. She also reported that 68 spots have been sold to date for the tour. Tickets will go on sale to the public after September 1st.

Columbia County Tourism committee has volunteered to print the local foods brochure and update as changes are made.

All the compost bins have been sold, many of them to Sauk County. It was suggested that we begin earlier next year to market the bins and start taking orders earlier. The price is still not known.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion about having an educational session on rain barrels in the spring: Terry and Rita Socha, Doug Klapper and Jane Considine volunteered to be on a subcommittee to start planning. Gardener's Choice awards at the County Fair were Mike Endres, Scout Barr and Kathy Wendt. The superintendent has suggested that next year we have an awards ceremony separate from the Parade of Champions.

'Savor and Sample' is the theme for the local foods event at Sassy Cow Creamery on September 20 from 1-4 pm. There will be cooking demonstrations, etc., and CCMG will have a display. Volunteers are needed.

The next meeting will be September 22 at the Annex Building. Jodi Scott from Sauk County will give a presentation on heirloom seeds.

Those attending the meeting were: Mary Beth Seib, Karren Alden, Jane Considine, Becky Gutzman, Ardyce Piehl, Steve Kaczecka, Doug Klapper, Anna Krause, William and Jean Damm, Terry and Rita Socha, Mae Seib, Tammy Smith, Emily Seib and Lynn Groeschel. Mae Seib won the door prize.

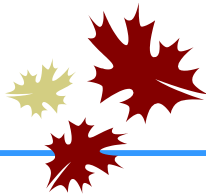


"Dear Master Gardeners,  
Thank you for awarding me your scholarship. I will be using it to further my education at Platteville. I appreciate your confidence in me.

Thanks again,  
John Gutzman"

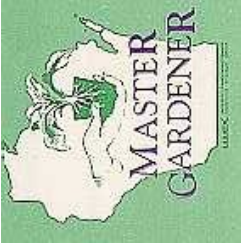
## Calendar of Upcoming Events

September	22nd	Monthly Meeting
September	25th	Brown Bag: Composting: how to Make and Use; 12:00 p.m. Columbia County Annex
October	2nd & 3rd	State Master Gardener convention in Wisconsin Dells
October	23rd	Brown Bag: Raspberry Selection and Management; 12:00 p.m. Columbia County Annex
October	27th	Monthly Meeting
November	13th	Brown Bag: Landscaping to Attract Wildlife; 12:00 p.m. Columbia County Annex
November	24th	Monthly Meeting
December	18th	Brown Bag: Fruit Crop Pest Management Tactics; 12:00 p.m. Columbia County Annex
December	22nd	Monthly Meeting



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MASTER GARDENER NEWS**  
PO Box 567  
Portage, WI 53901

«FIRST\_NAME» «LAST\_NAME»  
«ADDRESS\_NUMBER» «STREET\_NAME»  
«STREET\_TYPE»  
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

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