

DEMETER NEWS

• FOCUSING ON OUR COMMUNITY & THE UW-MADISON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES •

President's Message

by Candee Craven, president, Demeter

Welcome Fall! I just returned from Denver where the temperatures were in the 80s, but it was nice to put on a sweatshirt this morning. Demeter members have been very busy this fall.

The Corn Roast Picnic was a great success. We welcomed new faculty members and their families, met several of the scholarship and grant award winners, and reconnected with friends we haven't seen since last fall.

The food was delicious, and Mother Nature provided a beautiful afternoon/evening. If you missed it, please mark your calendar for Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025. The picnic will again be held at Lakeview Park in Middleton.

Our next board meeting will be held Thurs., Jan. 9, 2025, via Zoom. Any Demeter member may attend. Please send me an email at ccraven@uwalumni.com if you'd like a link to the meeting.

As the end of 2024 approaches, please remember Demeter if you're considering making donations. Please read Sharon Brantmeier's article in this newsletter for details on how to donate without paying additional taxes. If you prefer not to donate financially this year, a donation of your time would be very much appreciated. Demeter is a 100% volunteer organization, and new ideas/suggestions are always welcome.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



Demeter Education Committee Report

by George Shook, chair, Demeter Education Committee



Demeter welcomed 20 undergraduates in the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CAL S) at the Demeter Corn Roast Picnic, held Sept. 4. The undergraduate group was comprised of:

- leaders of student clubs that are receiving grants to partially support professional-development activities this academic year;
- students who had Demeter-supported internships during the past summer at Allen Centennial Garden or the West Madison and Arlington Agricultural Research Stations; and
- students receiving Demeter scholarships.

The students' attendance at the picnic was facilitated by Demeter Education Committee members: Alison Duff for interns, Dave Thomas for club leaders, Tonia Peters for scholarships, and Megan Lauber for transportation.

The Corn Roast Picnic is always a golden opportunity for members to visit with and learn from the students as well as for students to learn about Demeter. We will highlight the students and their Demeter-supported activities in the March 2025 Demeter newsletter.

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Demeter Education Fund Memorandum of Agreement

A memorandum of agreement for the Demeter Education Fund was signed Oct. 8, 2024, by Demeter President Candee Craven, UW Foundation CEO Michael Knetter, and CALS Dean Glenda Gillaspay. This concludes an effort that began more than two years ago at the suggestion of our then-historian, Judy Stang. Her concern was “What happens to our Education Fund should Demeter cease to exist?”

The memorandum of agreement includes an attachment drafted by Judy, which outlines Demeter’s history. Several discussions among members of the Demeter Education Committee as well as input from Brooke Mulvaney at the UW Foundation enabled us to complete the document, which was approved by the Demeter Board in September.

The Demeter Education Fund was established in 1979 and, through the generosity of Demeter members, has since grown to more than \$100,000. It currently generates about \$4,500 annually.

The essence of the memorandum of understanding is that management of the fund will continue under the leadership of Demeter’s officers. If, at some time in the future, Demeter should cease to exist, it directs that the Foundation and the CALS Dean’s office will continue to use earnings from the endowment to support undergraduate students in CALS.

Student Support

Demeter is providing a total of \$38,000 to support CALS students during the 2024-25 academic year. The sources of these funds are:

- Allen Endowment, \$14,000
- Named Endowments created by Demeter members, \$11,000
- Demeter Education Fund, \$3,000
- Daughters of Demeter (DoD) checking \$10,000

This support is provided in these forms:

- Scholarships: \$25,000
- Undergraduate Research: \$3,000 (an annual award to a student doing a research project involving plants and/or microbes in CALS)
- Internships: \$6,000
- Student Organizations: \$4,000

Needs, Opportunities for Student Support

Through the long-time generosity of its members, Demeter supports CALS undergraduate students in three ways.

Scholarships comprise more than 70% of Demeter’s awards to students. Funds for these awards come from seven endowments created at the UW Foundation (UWF). These endowments generate about \$25,000 annually.

Summer Internships are partially supported at Allen Centennial Garden and the Arlington and West Madison Agricultural Research Stations. They constitute about 15% of the student-support budget. Funds for these internships come primarily from the Demeter Education Fund at UWF and the Demeter checking account.

Grants to Student Clubs are awarded to assist with career and professional development activities. Examples are intercollegiate contests and attendance at regional or national professional meetings. About 10% of student-support funds are allocated to

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these grants. They come from the Demeter checking account (about \$4,000 per year).

One of the Education Committee's goals is to increase these awards, especially for internships and club grants. Funds for these are awarded from the DoD checking account and the UWF Demeter Education Fund. Intern supervisors recruit and select their interns. The clubs describe their planned activities in applications submitted to the Education Committee. The Committee evaluates the proposals and makes recommendations to the Board for awarding club grants. For the 2024-25 academic year, the Committee awarded less than 50% of the requested funds.

Contributions to the Demeter checking account are primarily used to support internships and club grants. They may be sent to Douglas Maxwell, Treasurer, 11691 Mid Town Road, Verona, WI 53593. Please make checks payable to DoD, Inc. Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law. Donations also can be made at <https://demeterwi.org/donate/>.

Qualified Charitable Distributions

By Sharon Brantmeier

Did meeting students at the Corn Roast inspire you to donate to the Demeter Education Fund? A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows people aged 70.5 years and older to donate money directly from their IRA to a charity such as the Demeter Education fund, without paying taxes on the amount. This is a great way to support students' education while also reducing your taxable income. It can also help you meet your yearly required withdrawals from your retirement account. Giving through a QCD is a simple and meaningful way to make a difference in students' lives while enjoying tax benefits. Consult a financial expert to ensure everything is done correctly.

DONATIONS FOR GENERAL SUPPORT OF DEMETER ACTIVITIES

Julie and Francisco Arriaga, Judy and Darrell Barth, Dorothy and Larry Binning, Keith Kelling, Sally Leong, Martha and Doug Maxwell, Judy Stang, Lynda and Dave Thomas

DONATIONS TO STUDENT SUPPORT—CHECKING

Julie and Francisco Arriaga, Tom and Mary Breunig, Joyce Bringe, Candee and Scott Craven, Betty-Jo Dahlman, Ted and Sandy Halbach, Marcy Heim, Molly Jahn, Jan Martin, Mary Trewartha, Mary Webster

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF:

- Henry and Harriet Ahlgren by Peggy Ahlgren
- Cynthia Benevenga by Norlin Benevenga
- Fred Buelow by Karen Goebel, Virgene and Dick Vathauer
- Al Ellingboe by Ann Ellingboe, Gerald and Priscilla Thain
- Laverne Forest by Betty Forest
- Dwight and June Forsyth by David Forsyth
- Chrystie Jackson by Linda Harvey
- Jeff Martin by Virgene and Dick Vathauer
- Kenneth Munkres by Ann Zenner
- Norm Olson by Karen Goebel
- Art and Betty Pope by David and Lynda Thomas, Virgene and Dick Vathauer
- David Stuiber by Mary Stuiber
- Emil Truog by Natacha and Peter Rayne
- Leo Walsh by Carrie and Abe Aberle, Judy and Darrell Barth, Hanna Boekhoff-Walsh, Sue Cowan, Nan Field, Marcy Heim, Sally Leong, Mimi and Ken Shapiro, Kate VandenBosch, Virgene and Dick Vathauer

DONATIONS IN HONOR OF:

- Candee Craven by Gail Schaefer, Virgene and Dick Vathauer
- Laura Hernandez by Lynn Grooms, Martha and Doug Maxwell, Kate VandenBosch
- Judy Stang by George and Nancy Shook

DONATIONS TO SEWING GROUP:

- Sue Cowan, Keith Kelling, Brenda McNatt

Demeter explores life, mounds along Lower Wisconsin River

by Judy Stevenson

Early summer in Wisconsin this year was interesting because we had more rain than usual. After two cancellations due to high water, 16 of us were finally able to take the Voyager Canoes (purchased from Canada years ago) down the Lower Wisconsin River from Muscoda to Port Andrew. It was a beautiful July day with low humidity and no bugs.

The Voyager canoes were large, steady and able to hold eight people. Mark Cupp, an employee of the DNR Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board and Executive Director since 1989, began our trip with a hardy “Pierre Marquette salute.” He guided the four-hour canoe trip, which was attended by Gail and Daniel Schaefer with their two granddaughters as well as Mary Diezel, Cathy Buege, Judy and Walt Stevenson, Sally Leong, Carolyn Smith, Carl Busjahn, Rita Hindin, Sally Severson, Lisa Hartman and Mike Mossman (retired DNR biologist).

Mark shared ancient history and stories about the section of water we traveled through. He has worked hard on preserving the waterway for future generations. He has done this by helping to establish the river as a RAMSAR Wetlands of International Importance in Wisconsin, which included conducting long-term surveys of birds and other wildlife.

The shores of the river were alive with many birds: Cedar waxwings, Blue jays, Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles, Eagles, Red-headed woodpeckers, Kingfishers, Bank Swallows, Cliff Swallows and Great Blue Herons. Common Map Turtles were resting on fallen trees along the shoreline. We stopped for a picnic lunch on a large sand bar.



Underneath the mounds at Frank's Hill was a carved sign representing a coiled snake, a beaver, a bird, a bison and a coyote. Photo: Sally Leong

Mark also serves as vice-president of Three Eagles Foundation, Inc. He drove us to a very large Indian Mound site on Frank's Hill, the ridge east of State Highway 193 with spectacular scenic views on the east/west alignment of the river valley. The mounds were covered with gorgeous prairie plants.

Underneath the mounds was a sign representing a coyote, bison, beaver, bird and coiled snake. In the distance another knoll featured circular mounds in a line.

Our trip organizer, Sally Leong, thanked Mark for his explanation about the mounds, which gave us an understanding of how — 1,000 years ago — they were used to inform native people (mound builders) about equinoxes, solstices and the dates to plant crops.

Visit Lower Wisconsin Riverway Board: <http://lwr.state.wi.us/> for a schedule of voyageur canoe trips, which are offered for different legs of the river. You may also contact mark.cupp@wisconsin.gov.

Demeter “digs” bulbs

Demeter members had a beautiful day on Oct. 17 for planting 1,350 bulbs at Allen Centennial Garden. Under the direction of Isaac Zaman, the garden’s horticulturist, and his Intern, Molly Zimmermann, the bulbs were in the ground in just an hour and 20 minutes.

Three areas were filled with a variety of tulip bulbs. They should provide a colorful display come spring, especially in the garden’s front corner bed.



Molly Zimmerman is serving an internship at Allen Centennial Garden. She’s joined in the bulb-planting effort with Isaac Zaman, the garden’s horticulturist.

Have ideas for fun, friendship-building projects, events?

Demeter encourages a spirit of friendship among members and their families. Serving on committees and participating in service projects (such as the bulb-planting day and the sewing workshop) and events is a great way to connect. Have an idea for a winter event or project? Have any suggestions for topics and speakers? Judy Barth, Events Committee Chair, would love to hear from you! You can contact her at jkbarth@wisc.edu or 608-835-7288.



Planting bulbs on a sunny October day are (from left) Gail Schaefer, a passerby, Gail Schomisch, Mary Whitmer, Molly Zimmermann, Martha Maxwell, Betty Jo Dahlman and Linda Harvey. Reba Luiken, director of Allen Centennial Garden (not pictured) also joined the group planting bulbs.

Sewing group helps cancer patients



The Demeter Sewing Workshop Group is busy creating head coverings for UW Hospital cancer patients. Standing from left are Mary Jane Gettlinger, Rita Harris, Gennie Bostian, Martha Maxwell, Betty Forest and Jan Martin. Seated clockwise are Janet Halvorsen, Mary Whitmer, Linda Harvey, Mary Stuibler, Lynda Thomas and Carol Lawler. The group meets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at Blue Bar Quilts in Middleton. Contact Lynda Thomas at 608-836-4677 or Mary Whitmer at 608-772-2858 for more information.

Corn Roast Picnic: Celebrating UW-CALS students ... and sweet corn!



Demeter scholarship recipients are (from left): Lydia Pulsinelli, Alba Lee, Brianna Meyer, Rianne Wagner, Veronica Goveas, Sophia Delgado and Sadie Goettl.



Representatives from several agricultural clubs receiving Demeter support attended the corn roast picnic. Clubs represented were the Crops Club, the Food Science Club, the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos & Native Americans in Science, and the UW-Madison chapters of the Wildlife Society, the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and the National Agri-Marketing Association.



Left: Adam Schaik and Margaux Rierson served internships that were partially supported by Demeter. Mae Moen (not pictured) also served an internship with support from Demeter. Photos: Lynn Grooms

Good company, good food and an evening in the high 70s made for a most enjoyable corn roast picnic, which was held Sept. 4 at Lakeview Park in Middleton, Wisconsin. More than 140 people attended Demeter's annual event, where they could catch up with friends, meet students from the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), and hear about the recent 16 percent increase in CALs student enrollment.

CALs Dean Glenda Gillaspay told picnic attendees that UW-Madison overall received the largest number of applicants (~ 70,000) in its history. Enrollment in CALs itself increased by 16 percent over 2023. This was due in large part to the new Animal and Veterinary Biosciences major, which has grown dramatically, she said.

Also new is the Dairy and Food Animal Management major. And the recently added Agroecology and Undergraduate Certificate in Soil Science is gaining traction. Gillaspay expects it will be a big draw for students. In other CALs news, the old library in Agriculture Hall recently was converted into a Student Services space.

Gillaspay encouraged Demeter members to spread the word about Bucky's Tuition Promise, which is available to first-generation college students and rural students. First announced in February 2018, Bucky's Tuition Promise is a commitment to Wisconsin resident students. UW-Madison has enrolled 61% of Wisconsin residents as undergraduates, and will now admit students from the top 5% of their high school classes, Gillaspay said.

Bucky's Tuition Promise guarantees scholarships and grants to pay for tuition and segregated fees for students whose household adjusted gross income is \$65,000 or less. First-year students will receive eight consecutive semesters of free tuition and segregated fees and new transfer students will receive four semesters.

Gillaspy also introduced Rebecca Smith, an assistant professor of translational plant science for dairy sustainability in the Department of Plant and Agroecosystem Sciences, and Natasha Rayne, who joined the Soil Science faculty as Extension soil specialist at UW-Madison.

Halei Heinzl, the 77th Alice in Dairyland, also spoke about Wisconsin's agriculture industry at the corn roast picnic. A recent graduate of UW-Madison, she earned her bachelor's degree in Life Sciences Communication. Before starting at UW-Madison, she graduated from the Farm and Industry Short Course program with certificates in Agribusiness Management and Dairy Farm Management.

A native of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, she wasn't raised on a farm. But she has shown a passion for Wisconsin agriculture. She held internships with the Farm and Industry Short Course and the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. She also worked with the Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Promotion Board.

George Shook, chairman of the Education Committee, talked to members about how Demeter awarded \$38,000 in scholarships, internships and grants this year. A total of \$28,000 was awarded to 18 students for scholarships. Demeter also provided \$6,000 for partially funding three student internships. And finally, the organization granted a total of \$4,000 to eight student organizations to support educational activities. Shook also thanked members of the Education Committee.



Doug Maxwell and Linda Harvey (seated) register and welcome Corn Roast Picnic attendees. Photo: Nan Field



Teamwork makes for a great corn roast. Photo: Nan Field

"They have excelled in carrying out their tasks," he said.

- **Abe Aberle – Great source of good advice**
- **Megan Lauber – Facilitated transportation for students to attend the Corn Roast**
- **Tonia Peters – Invited scholarship recipients to attend the Corn Roast**
- **Dave Thomas – Coordinated awards to the student clubs**



DEMETER

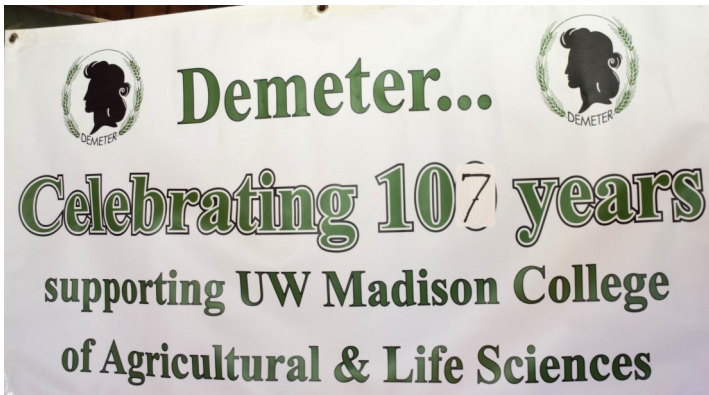
Judy Barth
1885 Briarwood Lane
Fitchburg, WI 53575-2001



Darrell Barth can attest to the sweet corn's quality.

Welcome new members. We're glad you're here!

- Troy and Kristin Runge
- Paul and Kimmie Koch
- Ted and Sandy Halbach



The Demeter banner receives a quick update. Demeter celebrates 107 years this year! Photo: Nan Field



Demeter brings together generations of UW/CALS members and students. Photo: Nan Field

Demeter welcomes all persons interested in the agricultural and life sciences.
Visit DemeterWI.org for more information.

CONDOLENCES
To the family of Chrystie Jackson, who recently passed at age 108

CALENDAR

Board Meetings
 6 p.m., Jan. 9, 2025 via Zoom

6 p.m., March 13, 2025
 West Madison Research Station

Sewing Workshop
 Blue Bar Quilts
 6333 Univ. Ave., Middleton
 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 3rd Tuesdays, Sept.– May, 2024 and 2025

Annual Meeting & Luncheon
 Beginning at 11:30 a.m., May 14, 2025
 Blackhawk Country Club



Sharon Brantmeier is corn roast co-chair. She's done a fantastic job the past few years enlisting volunteers for the annual event.