



DEMETER NEWS

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

President's Message

by Megan Lauber, president, Demeter

Thank you to all who attended the Demeter Annual Meeting. I hope you enjoyed hearing from our guest speakers, Debbie and George Crave of Crave Brothers Farm, and celebrating the installation of our new board members. I want to especially thank Doug Maxwell for his many years of service on the Demeter Board and Executive Committee.



The board met in May to discuss upcoming events and potential goals for the coming year. I hope you have enjoyed some of these events such as the Garden Party at Allen Centennial Garden. Despite the rain delay, it provided the chance to connect with Demeter members. Our community is one of Demeter's strong suits and the board's goal is to continue growing. If you know someone who may be interested in Demeter, ask them to join you for the Corn Roast which celebrates the joy and value Demeter provides to CALS and the Madison community.

I am thankful for the support and community Demeter has offered me during my time at UW-Madison. My first interaction with Demeter was as a scholarship recipient and a member of CALS student organizations that received club grant support. When asked to join Demeter, I knew I wanted to support an organization that values its community and students.

I have appreciated this support in my leadership roles within Demeter and now as I transition into the next stage of my career. In August, I will become an instructor at Utah State University within the Department of Animal, Dairy and Veterinary Sciences. I will transition into a tenure-track assistant professor position. With this move, I will be unable to give the president role the

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Demeter Education Committee Report

by Kate VandenBosch, chair, Demeter Education Committee

The shortening daylengths of late summer prompt me to look forward to the Demeter Corn Roast in early September. Sharing a seasonal meal with friends is always an incentive, as is the opportunity to meet some accomplished CALS students.



Two years ago in the run-up to the corn roast, George Shook, then chair of the Demeter Education Committee, called upon Demeter members to volunteer to help host student guests. My husband Tom and I signed up to be hosts. We had a marvelous time meeting some of Demeter's student awardees – so much so that I joined the Education Committee and succeeded George as Chair.

The committee's role of deciding how to allocate Demeter funds for student support is both a challenge and a pleasure. It's a challenge because we always want to stretch our dollars to have the greatest impact for scholarships, internships and club grants. Once we make those decisions, it's a pleasure to hear from the award recipients about the impact that support has on their educational experience and professional devel-

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the attention it deserves. Sue Cowan has graciously agreed to transition from vice president to president and has the support of the Demeter Board.

I will miss being able to connect with you all in person, but plan to keep my connection with Demeter. Thank you all again for your support. I am excited to see all the great things Demeter accomplishes this year.



Doug Maxwell, outgoing Demeter treasurer, spoke at the annual meeting. He was recognized for his many years of dedicated service to Demeter's board and executive committee.

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opment. The corn roast is the most important venue for us to hear their stories.

You may recall from the last newsletter that we have allocated \$64,000 for student support this year. This equates to more than 20 scholarships, three internships and funding for 14 student organizations. This is our largest allocation to date, which means we will have a larger number of students to invite to the corn roast this year, and an even greater need for Demeter members to help host students.

If you are interested in helping host students, you may be asking, "what responsibilities would I have as a host?" You would welcome students at the registration table, then help them connect with other students and meet some Demeter members. When you have interesting people, it's a simple task to get the conversation rolling. That's why it's so much fun!

If you are interested in helping host students, please check the bottom of the corn roast registration form enclosed in this newsletter or send me an email at vandenboschkate@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing everyone in September.



George and Debbie Crave take questions after their presentation about Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese. Milk from their dairy herd is pumped underground to their cheese factory where they make award-winning mascarpone, mozzarella and Oaxaca. The operations employ six full-time family members and 90 full-time non-family members.



New officers elected

Demeter members elected officers for 2026-2027 at the Demeter Annual Meeting held April 29. Laura Hernandez, far left, will serve on the board as past president since Sharon Brantmeier, standing next to Hernandez, has transitioned from president (in 2025-2026) to treasurer for the new term. Hernandez served as president in the 2023-2024 term. Megan Lauber, in red, was elected president. Sue Cowan, third from right, was elected vice president. Since Lauber is taking a new job as an instructor at Utah State University, Cowan will serve as president for 2026-2027. Linda Harvey, second from right, has been re-elected as recording secretary. Demeter members re-elected Jan Martin, far right, as corresponding secretary.

Annual Meeting highlights

The Demeter Annual Meeting was held April 29 at the Blackhawk Country Club in Madison. Sharon Brantmeier, who served as president the past year, welcomed members and guests. She also shared that Demeter is awarding \$64,000 in scholarships, internships and club grants to support students during 2026-2027. This is the largest amount ever awarded by Demeter, a fact of which members should be very proud – \$44,500 will be allocated for student scholarships, \$10,500 for internships, and \$9,000 for club grants.

Liz Henry introduced our guest speakers, Debra and George Crave, co-founders of Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, a nationally recognized farmstead cheese compa-

ny based in Waterloo, Wisconsin. Debra served as Alice in Dairyland from 1981 to 1982 and has lent the valuable marketing experience she gained there to the family cheesemaking enterprise. She discussed how the business has created a clean product label, emphasizing its mission and values. Crave Brothers has adopted various sustainable farming practices, including planting cover crops that help reduce erosion as well as contribute to soil health. The farm's manure digester provides 630 kW per hour. In addition to powering the farm, the digester provides renewable energy to the surrounding community. It also provides organic fertilizer for 3,000 acres of crops and tons of dry bedding for the cattle herd.

The next annual meeting will be held April 28, 2027.



Garden Party shines through

Due to inclement weather and unexpected construction to the alternate location, the eighth annual Demeter Garden Party at Allen Centennial Garden was rescheduled from June 10 to June 18. Weather on the new date turned out to be beautiful and about 40 Demeter members attended.

Attendees enjoyed a social hour with beverages and snacks followed by dinner catered by Main Street Kitchen of Stoughton. Allen Centennial Garden staff and interns once again set up tables and awnings in the English Garden. They also greeted guests and gave tours of the gardens.

Ryan Dostal, program and events coordinator for Allen Centennial Garden (lower lefthand photo), introduced the student interns:

- Michael Bebile-Kogh
- Eileen Herrera Carballo
- Avary Ojstrsek
- Natalie Ryan
- Lily Wood

Next year's Demeter Garden Party is scheduled for June 9, weather permitting!

— Judy Barth,
Garden Party Chairperson



Donations for general support of Demeter activities

Donations to Student Support- Checking:

Dorothy and Larry Binning, Randy Shaver and Sharon Brantmeier, Joyce Bringe, Tom and Mary Breunig, Sue Cowan, Gennie and Lloyd Bostian, Betty-Jo Dahlman, Peggy and Rick Daluge, Ruby Dodson, Ann Ellingobe, Mary Jane Gettlinger, Nan Field, Wava Haney, Laura Hernandez, Kathy Knox, Sally Leong, Jodi Wickham, Daphne Holterman, Ester and Birl Lowery, Doug and Martha Maxwell, Mike and Tonia Peters, Natasha and Peter Rayne, Leone Suttie, Kate VandenBosch, Eve Wilkie, Mary Whitmer, Ann Zenner

Donations in Memory of:

- Henry Ahlgren by Peggy Ahlgren
- José A. Arriaga by Julie Arriaga
- Cynthia Benevenga by Ben Benevenga
- Janet Bruhn By Mary Kay Reinemann
- Fred Buelow by Lois Buelow
- Al Ellingboe by Ann Ellingboe
- Laverne Forest by Betty Forest
- Dwight and June Forsyth by David Forsyth
- Thomas German by Mary Diezel
- R. Gordon Harvey by Sue Cowan, Linda Harvey
- Neal Jorgensen by Darlyne Jorgensen
- Andrea Kelling by Keith Kelling and by Elton and Carrie Aberle
- Everett Nelson by Aleta Murray
- Jeff Martin by Jan Martin
- Art Pope by Dave Thomas
- Elden Stang by Judy Stang
- Friends that have gone by Mary Tibbits
- Leo Walsh by Sue Cowan

- David Stuiber by Mary Stuiber
- Mary Worf by Gayle Worf
- Kenneth Munkres by Ann Zenner

Donations in Honor of:

- Sharon Brantmeier by Martha and Doug Maxwell
- Judy and Darrell Barth by Martha and Doug Maxwell
- Gary and Sandy Bubenzer by Amy Lorimer
- Candee Craven by Liz Henry
- George Shook by Jennifer Van Os
- Linda Harvey by Beverly Schrag
- Douglas Maxwell by Judy Barth, Jan Martin and Gayle Worf
- George Shook by Sally Leong
- Kate VandenBosch by George Shook

Donations to Sewing:

Carrie and Abe Aberle, Julie Arriaga, Dorothy and Larry Binning, Gennie and Lloyd Bostian, Jackie Bowe, Karen Bradley, Joyce Bringe, Sue Cowan, Betty-Jo Dahlman, Ann Ellingboe, Betty Forest, Janet Halverson, Rita Harris, Keith Kelling, Amy Lorimer, Carl and Sherry O'Connor, Beverly Schrag, Judy Stang, Mary Stuiber, Mary Whitmer, Coe Williams

Sewing Donations in Memory of:

- Betty Pope by Lynda Thomas

Welcome new members!

We're glad you're here!

- Sarah Botham
- Paul Fricke
- Sandy Larson
- Carl O'Connor



Bulb-planting project marks 25 years

Demeter established the bulb-planting project at Allen Centennial Garden in 2001 as a way to give back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Each October since then volunteers meet one afternoon to plant bulbs. Thanks to the help of the garden's staff, the work goes quickly and about 1,500 bulbs are planted in just an hour or two. It is always a learning experience as the staff explains the theme and garden plan for the upcoming spring. Mark your calendars for 1 p.m., October 21 and hope for a nice day of planting with a trip afterward to the Babcock Ice Cream store! Contact Jan Martin at jan.martin539@gmail.com for more information.

CONDOLENCES

*Gary Bubenzer and family on
passing of Sandra Bubenzer*

*Lynn and Rich Grooms on pass-
ing of his mother, Barbara
Grooms*

GET WELL CARDS

Cards sent to

Judy Stevenson

Aleta Murray

LIFE EVENTS

*Please send news of life events
to*

Jan.Martin539@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

*Please send news items to
groomslynn@gmail.com*

Visit us on Facebook

facebook.com/CALSDemeter

or on our website

<https://demeterwi.org/>

CALENDAR

West Madison Agricultural Research Station Garden Tour

Beginning at 5 p.m., August 12
8502 Mineral Point Road, Verona

Corn Roast Picnic

Beginning at 5 p.m., September 9
Lakeview Park, Middleton

Sewing Workshop

Third Tuesdays, September 2026-May 2027
Blue Bar Quilts
6333 University Ave., Middleton

Tour of Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese

October 8
Time/ride sharing to be determined
Tour to begin at 1 p.m.
Waterloo, Wisconsin

Bulb Planting

Beginning at 1 p.m., October 21
Allen Centennial Garden, Madison