

# HCE CONNECTION

## Wood County

### Home and Community Education

April 2023



Are we ready for spring or what? Mother Nature is once again having fun with us; as I write this in mid-March, we in the midst of another snow storm! I don't know about you, but I have decided to get a head start on my spring cleaning inside, so that once our spring weather is here to stay, I can truly enjoy being outdoors while concentrating on some warmer-weather projects!

Our hats are off this month to Denise Mancl and Nicole Mancl, as they hosted our HCE Craft Day on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at McMillan Library. I was one of the lucky 24 people who registered and took part in this enjoyable activity! The WELCOME sign and the bird feeder that we participants made will be beautiful additions to our spring décor!

Please be sure to register for our April 6 lesson by Horticulture Educator Janell Wehr entitled "Multiply Your Joy with Fragrant Herbs." (More information on this follows.) I personally am excited to attend this – I like to plant herbs around the outside of my garden so that I can enjoy their beautiful scent while gardening!

Rudolph Pines HCE will be hosting County Day on Tuesday, May 2. Janell Wehr will give a presentation on "Plants that Attract Pollinators." Registration and information on County Day can be found as you read on in this publication. I look forward to seeing everyone at County Day!!

Happy Easter; Happy Spring!

Peggy

Please note: We very recently lost one of our dear members, Mary Weber. Mary was a faithful member of Club 51 – Wood County HCE for several years. Our hearts are with Mary's son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren in their loss.

**Some things to look for in this edition:**

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**Flyers Enclosed:** Cultural Arts Entry Form. (Pink).  
County Day Registration Form.

# Wisconsin Bookworms Donation Request

Fundraising efforts for Wisconsin Bookworms is under way for the current school year. Once again, Wood County HCE members who are able, are asked to support this worthy cause by purchasing a set of books for the 2023—2024 school year. Each set contains eight books at a cost of \$25.00.

- W** is for **Wisconsin Bookworms**
- I** is for **Interest**. I'm interested in all kinds of books.
- G** is for **Good**. Be a good listener when someone reads to you.
- G** is for **Great**. Books can be great friends.
- L** is for **Love**. I love to read.
- Y** is for **You**. I love all of you!

Submitted by: Faith Kettner Wausau, Wisconsin

To make a donation, make check payable to **Wood County HCE** and mail to:

**Wood County HCE**  
**c/o Christine Goodness**  
**1194 Kimball Avenue**  
**Nekoosa WI 54457-1556**

You can purchase a set of books in honor of someone. We will send them a notice of your donation. Include your name and the name and address of the person you are honoring.

A notice of your donation will be sent to them.



YES! I would love to support the Wisconsin Bookworms project by purchasing a set of books for the 2023—2024 school year. I have enclosed payment of \$25.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Brain Exercises (Not for Mind Control)

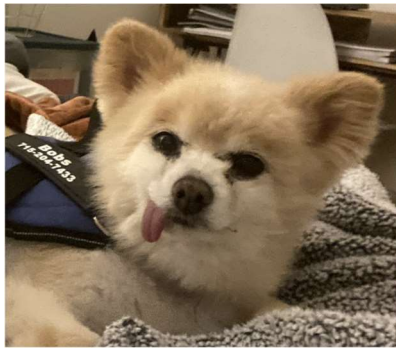
**Dr. Carl's  
Corner**

Dr. Carl DeLuca, DPT, OCS  
Roberts Physical Therapy  
621 8th St. S Wisconsin Rapids  
715-529-3487

A couple of minutes a day of any of these can help keep the mind sharp!

1. **Play Chess** - Either on a computer, phone, or actual board.

Even though it is fantastic, watching *The Queen's Gambit* on Netflix does not count.



2. **Solitaire** - Again with real cards or digitally.

I tried to teach Bobs, but he just looked at me confused.

3. **Learn Something New!** - Currently, I'm working on playing a new song on the piano and trying to learn how to juggle.



Some people call me the next Elton John....

Okay....nobody calls me that.



**Wood County  
Association For Home & Community Education  
Officers & Coordinators**

<b>Name</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Carol Grorich	grorichf@tds.net	Marketing	(715)884-6598
Connie Eisch	ceisch@boku.net	Treasurer	(715)325-3255
Pat Klein	klein145071@gmail.com	Club 51 President	(715)886-3665
		Scholarship	(715)886-3665
Agnes Langeberg	langberg@wctc.net	Rudolph Pines President	(715)424-1517
Jackie Carattini	jackie.carattini@wisc.edu	Family Living Educator	(715)421-8437
Jim & Diane Nickel	denickel@solarus.biz	International	(715)886-4230
Sandra Oleson	roleson@wctc.net	Family & Community Outreach	(715)886-3219
Christine Goodness	acgoodness@yahoo.com	Wisconsin Bookworms	(715)886-5294
Denise Mancl	deedeemancl@gmail.com	Membership	(715)886-5727
		Cultural Arts	(715)886-5727
Peggy Wettstein	dpwettstein@wctc.net	Scholarship	(715)886-5518
		Wood County President	(715)886-5518
Linda Hobbs	clhobb@wctc.net	Secretary	(715)435-3267
Linda Reber	preber7593@solarus.net	Historian	(715)421-9668
		Scholarship	(715)421-9668

**No E-mail:**

Judy Steinert 402 North Section Street Nekoosa WI 54457-1556		Family & Community Outreach	(715)886-4165
Linda O'Donnell 5096 Creamery Road Nekoosa WI 54457-1556		Program	(715)886-3351
Nicole Mancl 2503 County Road G Nekoosa WI 54457-1556		Cultural Arts	(715)451-8151

# Club News

## WOOD COUNTY HCE CHRISTMAS PARTY MINUTES DECEMBER 6, 2022

President Peggy Wettstein called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM, with the Pledge of Allegiance and HCE Homemakers Creed, at the Nekoosa Lester Library.

Secretary's Report: Linda Hobbs read the minutes from the November 15, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurers Report: Connie Eisch gave the treasurers report and it was put on file. A discussion was held about the clubs finance's, and funds were sufficient for the present time. Two scholarships and a donation to Book Worms are items to be paid out yet this year. An audit of the Wood County HCE books was suggested, Marilyn, Connie and Jacki were tasked to do the audit.

### Committee Reports:

Membership: There are 2 new members. Denise Mancl will write an article about the Christmas Party and membership to be published in the Wisconsin Rapids City Times.

Historian: Linda Reber will put together an article for the HCE Connection.

Program: Linda O'Donnell reported on programs for 2023. Lessons will be the first Thursday's at McMillan Memorial Library in Wisconsin Rapids from 1:00 to 3:00PM. The dates are February 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, October 5<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>. The May lesson will be at County Day, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Rudolph. Fall Kick off will be September 12<sup>th</sup> at Nekoosa, and the Christmas Party will be December 5<sup>th</sup> in Rudolph. September 18<sup>th</sup> will be the State Conference at Wintergreen Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Craft Days will be in the spring and fall and may be on a lesson date.

Book Worms: Christine Goodness reported books are read on Wednesdays, 2 readers in the morning and 1 in the afternoon. Additional readers are needed in the winter months. Books are purchased from Scholastic and a \$25.00 donation buys a set of books. Left over books has been donated to various 4K and preschool programs in the area. Christine has an article in every HCE Connection.

### New Business:

A Brat Fry will be planned for the Nekoosa Piggly Wiggly in the spring.

Get Well Cards were signed and will be sent to Judy Steinert and Mary Weber.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 until after lunch and entertainment by Assumption Choir.

Meeting was called to order at 1:00

A motion was made by Marilyn Cournoyer and seconded by Linda Reber, to make a donation to Assumption High School Choir. The motion was approved.

Christine Goodness presented Bookworm awards to readers: Pat Klein, Connie Eisch, Nicki Jarosinski, Judy Steinert, Sandra Oleson and Linda O'Donnell.

Service awards were given to Shirley Fuller (15 years) and Clara Grosskreutz (10 years).

President Peggy Wettstein, announced the Member of the Year Award Winners. The award went to James and Diane Nickel, for all their work as Co-Presidents for the last few years and their accomplishment's for Wood County HCE.

Meeting was adjourned with the Homemakers Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Hobbs, Secretary

### **Minutes of Rudolph Pines Meeting 11/8/2022**

Vice President Marilyn Cournoyer opened the meeting at 1:45 with the Homemakers Creed and Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held at Linda Hobbs home. 7 members were present.

The previous meeting notes from 10/11/2022 were read and approved.

Ardell gave the treasurer's report and Pennies for Friendship were collected.

Planning for County Day 5/2/2023 to be held at the Rudolph American Legion Hall was discussed.

The Wood County HCE Christmas party will be held December 6, 2022 at the Nekoosa Library from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Rudolph Pines will have a Christmas Party December 13, 2022 at Perkins Restaurant at 1:00. Bring a \$5.00 donation to Bookworms and a white elephant exchange gift.

The Wood County HCE Board of Directors Meeting will be 11/15/2022 at 9:00 at the Nekoosa Library.

Our next meeting will be in March.

Ardell made a motion to close the meeting and Clara seconded the motion.

Marilyn closed the meeting with the Homemakers Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Hobbs Secretary.



Denise Mancl



Nicole Mancl

### **Title: HCE Craft Lesson**

On March 2nd a craft lesson was enjoyed by 24 members of our community.

There were HCE members as well as a large representation of the general public. We had a great time crafting but it was also nice to get to know some new people.

Nicole Mancl taught the guests how to make a welcome sign. They could choose their color scheme as well as their choice of stencils for their sign making them each unique.

Denise Mancl taught the guests to make a rustic bird bath / feeder. These were constructed using a grapevine wreath and flower pot saucer. Guests could decorate their bird bath as they wished. One person chose to use pine cones which really gave it a rustic look. Ropes tied to the wreath make it easy to hang from a shepherd's hook or a tree branch.

We have plans to have another crafting day on October 5th at the McMillan library. So, keep looking in future issues of the Connection as well as the City Times newspaper for details.

We had quite a few people show interest in our organization and pamphlets were handed out.

Hope to see you at the next craft day!

Respectfully submitted  
Denise Mancl and Nicole Mancl  
Cultural Arts



# Wisconsin Bookworms



Christine Goodness  
Bookworms Chairperson  
(715)886-5294

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Here are some reading tips for adults to use when reading to children.

- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading a book becomes natural like eating and sleeping.
- Browse through books to help children become familiar with books and how to handle and treat books.
- While reading the story, have children point to the pictures. Repeat interesting sounds and repetitive word patterns and distinctive word features.
- Read the book to the child. Retell the story together and talk about the characters and plot.
- Make trips to the library or bookstore for a fun activity.

Volunteers of Wood County HCE encourage literacy by reading books aloud to preschool children. Children are prompted to listen to stories. They talk about the story and relate what they are hearing and seeing to new words in the story. They are learning and expanding and life experiences.

The reading experience is fast coming to a close. April will be the last month for books. We have read to over 152 children and donated books to them this year. I will be ordering books in May for next fall. If anyone would like to donate to this worthy cause please mail the Connection form with your donation to me. Again thank you for making this a great program for our community.

Keep Reading!  
Christine Goodness  
Wood County Bookworm Coordinator

**April Lesson at McMillan Library.** Multiply your Joy with Fragrant Herbs. April 6, 2023. 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Ask any gardener and they will tell you gardening is good for the soul. We now have evidence that nurturing plants supports our wellbeing in ways like increasing memory and concentration, and reducing stress. Plant propagation is the method of generating multiple plants from a parent plant. In this program, we will cover plant propagation techniques using fragrant herbs and learn a bit about the therapeutic effects of gardening.

**Janell Wehr**  
Horticulture Educator  
UW-Madison Division of Extension  
Marathon County & Wood County





The FTC received fraud reports from 2.4 million consumers last year, with the most commonly reported being imposter scams, followed by online shopping scams. Prizes, sweepstakes, and lotteries; investment related reports; and business and job opportunities rounded out the top five fraud categories.

### What are some classic warning signs of possible fraud and scams?

There are several signs that indicate you might be dealing with a scammer.

They include contact from someone:

- Calling or emailing you, claiming to be from the government and asking you to pay money.
- Asking you to pay money or taxes upfront to receive a prize or a gift.
- Asking you to wire them money, send money by courier, or put money on a prepaid card or gift card and send it to them.
- Asking for access to your money-such as your ATM cards, bank accounts, credit cards, or investment accounts.
- Pressuring you to "act now" or else the deal will go away. Or someone who seems to be trying hard to give you a "great deal" without time to answer your questions.

To report a scam, you can [submit a complaint](#) with the Federal Trade Commission. You can also contact your local police or sheriff's office or your state attorney general's office to report the scam.

**Tip:** Remember that if something doesn't seem right, you can always hang up or walk away. Scammers often want you to make a quick decision without thinking about it. Slow down, do your own research about the offer, or consult with someone you trust.

### *Jackie L. Carattini*

Jackie L. Carattini  
Associate Professor  
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UW Madison- Division of Extension



# A Scammy Snapshot of 2022

(based on reports to Consumer Sentinel)

#FTCTopFrauds  
ftc.gov/data  
ReportFraud.ftc.gov

## Top Frauds



**2.4 million** fraud reports



**\$8.8 billion** reported lost

The number of reports is down.  
The amount lost is up.  
(2021: 2.9 million fraud reports, \$6.1 billion lost)

Losses to investment scams more than doubled.



**\$1.8 billion**

2021

**\$3.8 billion**

2022

Losses to business imposters soared.



**\$196 million**

2020

**\$453 million**

2021

**\$660 million**

2022

Scammers contacting people on social or by phone led to big losses



**\$1.2 billion** total lost

**Social media:** Highest overall reported losses



**\$1,400** median loss

**Phone calls:** Highest per person reported losses

## **COUNTY DAY 2023 INVITATION**

The members of the Rudolph Pines HCE Club would like to invite you to attend County Day May 2, 2023 at the Elmer Blonien American Legion Hall from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, located at 1584 Main Street in Rudolph.

Our business session will start at 9:00 am.

The Guest speaker for our lesson will be Janelle Wehr, Extension Horticultural Educator serving Marathon and Wood Counties. The lesson will be on pollinators. Did you know that pollinators are responsible for 1 in 3 bites of food that we eat? Pollinator decline is a serious problem and habitat loss is one of the major causes. We will learn ways to help these necessary pollinators survive and thrive.

Other activities for the day include judging of your Cultural Arts entries.

Pastries and drinks before the business session.

A Basket Raffle to support HCE programs, please bring a basket for the raffle.

We are bringing back a used book sale to also support our HCE programs, please bring any books you no longer need for the sale.

Our menu is something different for lunch. We are serving a Baked Potato Bar with various items to load on top of your hot potato, salads, rolls and desserts.

Look for the Registration form in this HCE Connection, deadline for registration is April 19, and can be sent to Marilyn Cournoyer, 6208 Chapel Road, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495

Hope to see you there!  
Linda Hobbs, Secretary Rudolph Pines

# Membership

**Title: HCE is Fun, Friends and so much more.**

As the membership Chairperson for Wood County Home and Community Education I'm always trying to think of new ways to encourage you to join our group. I always come back to the same three things. First, is fun. We all need to have some fun in our lives. We have jobs, family responsibility, and other things that we need to take care of. We don't always make time for fun!

Next is friendship. I'm 64 years old and I've developed some wonderful friendships over my lifetime. But let's face it. You can never have too many friends!

The next idea is education. We all went to school and many of you have college degrees but there is always something new to learn.

The best part of belonging to HCE is that we combine all three things into one experience. We gather for lessons on so many different topics. Sometimes it's learning a new way to cook a wonderful meal. It may be a lesson on how to reduce stress or a craft day like we had recently.

All of these experiences are shared with fellow members who might become lifelong friends. Three times a year we gather to celebrate Fall Kickoff, our Christmas party, and County Day in the spring. The food and fellowship is awesome.

If you are interested in trying something new and think that this might be fun, you can contact me and I will be happy to help you out. You can email me at [deedemancl@gmail.com](mailto:deedemancl@gmail.com). I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

Denise Mancl  
Membership Chairperson  
Wood County Home and Community Education