



Kiwaniis®

Kiwaniis Club of Madison West – Kiwanogram

Guest: Karl Lettner, guest of Ed Reisch

Program: "UW Madison's Agricultural Research Stations – Living the Wisconsin Idea"
- Mike Peters, College of Agricultural & Life Sciences, UW, Director of Ag Research Stations



Mike Peters

Mike Peters provided us with the history and purpose of the Agricultural Research Stations in Wisconsin. There are twelve sites around the state. While the Madison site was the first one, it has relocated

several times due to urban growth and is now the 510-acre West Madison Agricultural Research Station off Mineral Point Road just west of the Beltline. There are four stations that are over 100 years old, including Hancock, Marshfield, Peninsular, and Spooner.

The 12 sites cover 8,442 acres with 284 buildings (the average age of the buildings is over 50 years) and 45 miles of roads. There are 175 permanent full-time staff and 353 researchers conducting 1,300 research projects each year. The stations have about 15,000 visitors each year.

February 13, 2026

Presiding:	Dwight Gribble
Greeter:	Art Stauffacher
Checkpoint:	Joseph Tevaarwerk
Opening Word:	George Skupniewicz
Setup:	Tom McCrill

While the official (long) mission statement can be found on their website (ars.wisc.edu), Mike boiled it down into three areas: Research, Outreach, and Education.

He described the types of research conducted and the uses of the stations across the state with their unique soil types and environs.

He also discussed the outreach programs and invited everyone to visit any of the stations. Most of them have public gardens, and all can provide tours by appointment.

But he particularly focused on the educational mission, describing how the stations impacted the lives of three students who eventually attended UW Madison.

Date	Event
Feb 20	Foundation Trustees Covenant, 1:00 pm
Mar 6	MWK Board of Directors Covenant, 10:00 am

Up Coming Programs

Date	Program	Greeter	Check In	Opening Word
Feb 20	Centennial of Madison Symphony Orchestra - Michael Allsen, MSO Historian & UW Whitewater Emeritus Professor, Music	TBD	Aspinwall	TBD
Feb 27	How Cows Convert Grass Into Milk - Michel Wattiaux, UW-Madison, Animal & Dairy Sci Dept., Emeritus Professor	TBD	TBD	Skjervem
Mar 6	Dr. Carol Ryff, UW Institute on Aging, Director & Psychology Professor	TBD	TBD	TBD

Meeting Time and Location

Every Friday, 11:45 am
Covenant Presbyterian Church
326 Segoe Road, Madison, WI 53705
Web site: www.madisonwestkiwanis.info
Email: lebaker@chorus.net
Facebook: facebook.com/madisonwestkiwanis

Club Officers (2025-26)

President:	Dwight Gribble
President-Elect:	Cody Kramschuster
Secretary:	Leroy Baker
Assistant Sec:	Thomas DuVal
Treasurer:	Randy Grobe
Past President:	Ken Saville
Board of Directors:	
John Busby	Harley Skjervem
Jim Danner	Joseph Tevaarwerk
Ed Reisch	

Mark Your Calendar – Middleton Kiwanis Pancake Day – March 7th!

Dwight Gribble reports that member Bill Batista passed away on February 5th. Visitation and Memorial Mass will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Visitation will be held in the church gathering space from 10 - 11:30 a.m. with the Memorial Mass immediately following. For the full obituary, [click here](#).

Jim Danner reports next date for volunteering at **Second Harvest** is February 26th.

Dwight Gribble reports the Midvale School **Lunch Buddies** met on February 12th. **Ken DeSantes, Emma** and **Dwight Gribble**, and **Ed Reisch** attended.

The **Midvale School Book Fair** is coming up at the end of February. We have contacted the school to volunteer and are awaiting a reply.

George Shook reports our next work date at **Habitat ReStore** is February 19th, 9:00 am to Noon. Six members are signed up, leaving two vacant slots. Contact George if you need help signing up.

The ad hoc technology committee is reviewing our use of the systems available to the club.

George Skupniewicz reviewed a few of the online tools available to members and/or the public at our Feb 13th meeting. These included our Facebook page, our Member Portal, and our public website. He also found mentions of us on other pages, such as Habitat for Humanity and Madison West Little League.

Kiwanis Amplify is hosting an informational Zoom meeting on February 19th. Contact President Gribble for more information or to sign up.

The **Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Kiwanis District Midyear Conference** is coming up. Contact President Gribble if you would like to attend.



Kiwanis
CLUB OF MADISON WEST