

January

HOME, REMODELING, AND GARDEN SHOW at UWRF Knowles Center—Jan. 10-11—**Pauline Goerd** gave 3 talks on **Moles, Voles and Gophers, Oh My**. Her interactive game, "Are You Smarter than a Rutabaga?", was a big hit for both adults and kids. Winners received stickers, "I'm Smarter than a Rutabaga". Pauline altered Polk Co. MGV's game, "Are you Smarter Than a MG?" Nine MGVs staffed the complimentary booth.

TWELVE of the **38 original members** are still active in SCVMGA since mid-1997--17 1/2 yrs. ago. Thanks and appreciation for preparing the groundwork -- Carolyn Barrette, Debbie & Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Daphne & Tom Brackley, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell!

NEW VICE PRESIDENT—**Barb Peterson** replaced Linda Bertram, who served only year #4 of Jerry Olson's two terms. Barb was new to the board, but not to committee work. Weeks after her 2008 MG class, Barb took charge of Hospitality where she served three years (2009-2011).

JANUARY OPEN HOUSE was postponed until March 27th meeting because of the severely cold weather. Members were notified by email and a phone call by an impromptu calling committee.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP CONTACT is Treasurer, **Jackie Daharsh**. Thanks to **Kerry Christopherson** for drawing up the guidelines in 2011 for our UW-RF Foundation \$1000 scholarship awarded every other year.

February

FEBRUARY (Open House) MEETING canceled due to cold weather and speaker canceled. Email & Calling Committee notified members. St. Croix Co. Rep, **Paul VanDenMeerondonk** arranged a future calling plan.

AUDIT COMMITTEE reported Treasurer Jackie Daharsh's 2013 records to be well organized & documented. THANKS to Coordinator Kathye Beebe, Connie Klecker, Pat Tremaine, and Peg Wastell!

COMITTEE SURVEY -sent by **Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA Rep**, gave MGVs a chance to express opinions, likes & dislikes of committees & to suggest improvements. **Deb Pederstuen** provided a descriptive list of the committees. Only seven surveys were returned. BOD will address committee structure in 2015.

NEW WEBMASTER—Ellen Montgomery, a 2013 MGV intern, dug right in to making website improvements after training with Lisa Dembouski-- a CALENDAR of events, 'CONTACT US' link to sign up for volunteer opps online, and password (**Daisy**) protected *Sprinklings* issues. Over 100 hits on a mid-October day is a good indication of website usage. Weebly costs are \$71.80 every two yrs. **Reminder:** Members who object to their **PHOTOS** on the website or digital photo frame must contact president in advance.

NEW TOUR COMMITTEE COORDINATOR- Ron Campbell, recruited two MGVs to locate & schedule both private and public garden tours. Check out SCVMGA website for **NEW** section on Events/Garden Tours.

March

13TH ANNUAL GARDEN U on Mar. 15th drew 156 attendees at Ready Randy's in New Richmond (3rd year). Three sessions plus lunch was a great value for \$30. **Emilie Justen - What's New in Invasive Plants; David Zlezak - What's the Best Trees to Plant, and Dave Paulson - Woody Plant Samples w/Q & A session**. Profits of \$587 were applied toward grants. Special thanks to **Carolyn Barrette**, our STAR Garden U Coordinator, and all her volunteers for a job well done!

STEVE GONZALEZ—PAST PRESIDENT OF ORCHID SOCIETY, shared growing tips and demonstrated how to repot an Phalaenopsis orchid at the Open House March 27th meeting. Only 52 members attended due to poor road conditions. **SIX 2013 interns** met board members/coordinators, enjoyed Domino's pizza (6:30pm) and **Brad Kincaid's** 2013 SLIDE SHOW. Open House expenses were \$148. Diana Alfuth presented MGV certificates, including **Carolyn Barrette's** special recognition for 2500 lifetime volunteer service hours. **Donna Davis, Deb Pederstuen, and Peg Wastell** received 1000 hour lifetime awards.

April

LISA DEMBOUSKI, SCVMGA WEBMASTER, gave a tutorial on "**How to Navigate the Website**" at the River Falls Public Library for 64 members on 4/24/14. Step by step, she demonstrated how to access and share news & photos. We're forever grateful to her for creating our website, initially called, THE WEEBLY, in **April, 2012** and maintaining it the past three years. Lisa transferred to MN for a teaching position this summer.

14TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM—awarded \$2,285 in grants to 11 applicants. Lowest no. of applications (14) may be due to Jan. & Feb cancellations and/or Hudson paper failed to print article. THANKS to **6th yr. Coordinator Dianne Wright, Carrie O'Connell, Phyllis Jaworski, and Sue Klatt**. Missing Kathy Hartmann, another fantastic team player in our grant committee, who moved to Green Bay end of February.

5th ANNIVERSARY at Unitarian facility SE of River Falls where only four meetings were held due to Jan. & Feb. cancellations, two field trips, and three offsite meetings during the year. Our first meeting was 4/22/10.

MASTER GARDENERS, Barb Bear and Sheila DeRosier – introduced 19 Somerset Middle School students, grades 1-6, to FAIRY GARDENS at "Clover College"- 2nd Annual 4-H Program on April 12th. Sheila assisted in preparing supplies and Barb guided students in making their own fairy garden dishes with a choice of plants, fairy or gnome, and assorted decorations to take home with an informational handout.

May

HEIDI DOERING, UW-Ext Horticultural Educator- St. Croix Co., discussed **PLANTING FOR POLLINATORS** with 52 members at the Unitarian on May 22nd. She discussed the need to plant pollinators, the beneficial insects that pollinate our plants, and the need for developing a habitat for pollinators.

SECOND YEAR SEED TRIALS GARDEN GROUP—Coordinator **Peg Wastell** reported 40 MGVs tested cilantro, sweet bell peppers, beets, kale, romaine lettuce, zucchini, radish, and nasturtium in their gardens and in 5 community gardens. Heavy rains and a cool spring reduced germination. Seed trial program & results were featured in the Eau Claire-Leader Telegraph, on the SCVMGA website and at both county fairs.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY with a SEED EXCHANGE OPTION -**Diana Alfuth** recruited MGVs to join her in offering free seeds and basic gardening information in the Little Free Libraries in urban areas and neighborhoods. A means of introducing families to grow their own fresh healthy produce.

THIRD YEAR UW-EXT DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN (DLG) in River Falls- Coordinator **Diana Alfuth** recruited Ellsworth HS students to plant seeds in early spring. MGVs plant & maintain the gardens. A "tea garden" of herbs and a "soup garden", plus annuals to attract pollinators. First year for running water and fencing. The garden gate & sign crafted by MGV **Leroy Clark** welcomed the public at the Sept. Garden Walk where 14 varieties of cherry tomatoes were sampled. Grow to Share harvest the produce.

June

TENTH ANNUAL PLANT SALE held at the Octagon House Sat., 6/07/14 (9am-1pm) -Plant sale coordinators, **Corky Weeks** and **Heather Lane**, and volunteers didn't allow the cold, wet soggy day to dampen their successful \$3,100 which supports the grant program. Camp St. Croix and grant recipients scooped up leftover plants. For use of property, a \$100 donation was made to the St. Croix Historical Society.

TED ANDRLE passed away at the Comforts of Home in River Falls on June 14, 2014. A very likeable guy who proudly earned volunteer hours tending the Clifton Town Hall gardens and manning the Pierce Co. Fair MGV booth. A nine-year member (2003-2011) who served 2004-2005 as Pierce Co. Rep on the BOD.

HEIDI DOERING, UW-Ext Hort. Educator, co-hosted on June 26th with Byron Gjevre, co-owner of Goldfinch Farms, a commercial cut flower producer, east of Baldwin for 55 members. Colorful varieties of plants are sold to local & metro florists spring to fall. BovineBasics- a mulch to suppress weeds was highly recommended.

NEW RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET COORDINATORS---**Rick & Kari Hussey** reported 7 MGVs answered about 4 questions per Saturday - 8am to noon from June-October. THANKS to Bev Hoppe in 2013 and to the Husseys for serving 13 Saturdays due to lack of volunteers. Coordinator position is available.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET- Plaza 94 – 2nd Year Coordinator, Janet Jones, reported eleven MGVs answered an ave. of 6-7 questions per week on Thurs. July-Oct & sold 10 cookbooks. Yippee! THANKS to **Jackie Daharsh's donated umbrella and stand** which resolved the sun/asphalt heat safety issue.

SECOND JUNIOR GARDEN U, with 4-H Program & Public Health, was held at the River Falls DLG Garden on Sat., June 28th (9am-12noon). Four mini-courses on plant pollination, roots & shoots, and the role of water in plant growth were taught by Coordinator Diana Alfuth and five MGVs. The hands-on gardening experience was enjoyed by all 23 students, ages 6-12.

ARTFUL GARDEN TOUR IN HUDSON—June 28 & 29—**JoAnn Ryan's** landscaped gardens and raised vegetable beds were back on tour (first time in 2010). Away on an errand, she was disappointed to learn she missed meeting Tom McKlusick, publisher of *The Northern Gardener*. Eleven SCVMGA members prepped gardens or served as guides. Also featured were gardens of Christine McGinnis, past SCVMGA member.

CAROL WILCOX resigned from her position as Sprinklings Editor to pursue other kinds of volunteer service. She was an awesome dedicated Editor. THANKS to Carol for keeping us informed the past three years.

WESTERN WISCONSIN WINTER DIEBACK SURVEY –**Marilyn Gorham**, SCVMGA State Rep., compiled results to determine plants in our area most able to withstand & recover from the 2014 severe winter.

July

NEW SPRINKLINGS EDITOR- Colleen Callahan, a new 2013 intern, was excited to take over for Carol Wilcox. Being a retired journalism professor, she's "having fun" designing, gathering ideas, and interviewing Master Gardeners. Diana Alfuth's interview highlighted her first issue in July. Other MGVs featured were Carolyn Barrette, Corky Weeks, and Deb Pederstuen and scholarship recipient, Nicholas Peter.

FIRST ASSISTANT EDITOR for SPRINKLINGS & WEBSITE - Suzy Naschansky- a new 2013 intern with computer expertise who assisted both Editor Colleen and Webmaster Ellen. Also helped revise the SCVMGA brochure. Suzy volunteered for the Editor's position just hours after Colleen was given the position.

HEIDI DOERING, UW-Ext Hort. Educator, hosted the July 24th meeting for 53 members & 5 guests at her home NW of Roberts. A walk through her gardens to see curly willow and dogwood fields, unique tomato trellis system using old willow branches and succession plantings of peas. She discussed her basket weaving processes. Originally scheduled Straw Bale Garden Tour at Roxanne Kiekhofer's will be offered another year.

SCVMGA BROCHURE AND BUSINESS CARDS, were updated, since last printing in 2011, with our website address, new photos, logos, and activities specific to SCVMGA. Copies are available from Jackie Daharsh.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS Garden Group-- 3rd year Coordinator, **Pat Tremaine** & five MGVs charted phenological records for 2014; toured native woodlands and prairies, including Prescott's Freedom Park, Carpenter Nature Center and the Outback Nursery near Hastings, MN.

NEW ST. CROIX CO. FAIR COORDINATORS –**Brenda Bodelson, Yvonne Koch-Proctor, & Norma Rudesill** recruited 22 MGVs. **Jerry Bridge**, 2013 intern/certified MGV, brought his exclusive collection of Insects & Fungi Samples & two electric microscopes which were a big drawing feature. Also had **Peg Wastell's** Plant Trial Results & **Yvonne Koch-Proctor's** sensory potted herbs, **new** kid's drawing board, & a kid's critter box.

August

CR STEPHENS at STILL H2O, Stillwater shared requirements shared the requirements and science of hydroponics with 45 members on Aug. 28th. Don Edison discussed his project of growing 100 % edible fodder for livestock w/o soil. And third speaker, Pat Cleary, offered wine samples after explaining the process and tools for wine-making. Fun to see the smiles of those tasting the sweet flavor of the dandelion wine!

PIERCE COUNTY FAIR - JoAnn Nielson & Doris Schmitt, 2012-2013 Coordinators, discontinued because of family commitments. **NEW 2014 Coordinators Helen Fryer & Susan Wallin** stepped in to recruit 25 MGVs. Highlighted was Jerry Bridge's electric microscopes and display of insect and fungi and heirloom roses in addition to other activities offered at St. Croix Co. Fair. **THANKS** to Helen and Susan who retired after their first

successful fair. **2015 Fair Coordinator Leroy Clark** began recruiting volunteers in October, accepting "any help he can get". **New ladder and foot stool**, purchased for \$105, are stored with the UW-Extension Tent.

September

ANDREW SANKEY of CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND, a popular SCVMGA presenter, drew 54 members & 18 guests on the Sept. 18th meeting at the United Methodist Church in Hudson. At his fourth visit, he pointed out landscaping design tips he used in creating the beautiful cottage gardens around his England home.

GLADIOLUS FARM School Bus (\$10) TOUR to Jim Madson's in Clayton was canceled on Sept. 6th due to heavy rains which left fields muddy and glads infected with botrytis, an unsightly gray fungal mold.

FLOWER GARDEN DESIGN GROUP (4th Yr)- Coordinator **JoAnn Ryan** shared basic design information and handy lists of perennials useful to MGVs when answering questions. A few MGVs in the class of 17 shared experiences and fun they had meeting more members. The 2015 class still has openings.

NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR TEAM - Lisa Mosbey and Deb Schommer – both are 2013 MGVI interns who teamed up to organize our volunteer projects. Together, they'll update the website and have sign up sheets ready at the January Open House.

NEW RICHMOND SCVMGA COMMUNITY GARDEN- Coordinator Carolyn Barrette reported 27 MGVs spent 349 hours and donated 1700 lbs. of produce. With 75 hrs. from students on New Richmond Service Day & 65 hrs. from St. Anne's Summer Stretch kids, about 500 total volunteer hrs. were spent. The new finer shredded corn stalks for a weed block was ineffective. Grass has taken over the whole plot and solutions are needed. The utility shed purchased last year for tools was very appreciated.

MGV CLOTHING SALESPERSON Kathy Beebe sold \$1480 worth of SCVMGA labeled clothing in many different styles and colors from Imaging World since Sept, 2013. There's no excuse for not being identified at events. Proceeds of near \$400 are designated for education- speakers and materials.

WESTERN DISTRICT SPECIALIZED MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER WORKSHOP—was **not** held this year. Other Master Gardener Associations in the district were invited to host, but there was no response.

October

TRENT KOWALCHYK –presented the **BASICS of FOOD PLOTS for Wildlife** and their importance to Master Gardeners. On October 23rd, he explained steps for establishing and maintaining food plots to fifty-eight members. Three grant recipients reported on their projects.

RURAL & FARM SAFETY DAYS- UW-Ext Horticulture Educator, Diana Alfuth and MGVs Colleen Callahan, Sheila DeRosier, and Heather Lacke held 15-20 minute mini sessions about the **Dangers of Perilous Plants** on Oct. 2-3 to 571 Pierce County fourth graders. to discuss the dangers of wild parsnip, buckthorn berries, etc.

MANDATED CHILD ABUSE REPORTER ON-LINE TRAINING- To be certified in 2015, all MGVs need to complete on line training to receive a certificate of completion and turn in to Diana before October 1st with their Education/Volunteer Service Hours. The 30-60 min. session counts as 1 hour of continuing education.

November

NOVEMBER 20 ANNUAL MEETING - Election of officers, budget approval, five grant recipient reports, and Diana Alfuth's annual wrap-up will be covered.

WIMGA EDUCATIONAL GRANTS are available annually to MGVI associations. We received \$250 for 2015 Junior Garden U educational supplies and \$400 for Garden U speakers. THANKS Grant Committee!

SECOND SCVMGA UW-RF Biennial \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP —was awarded to **Nicholas Peter** of Athens, WI. Nicholas, a junior Horticulture major with greenhouse/landscaping experience, has a career goal to become "the head of landscaping at Walt Disney World in Florida". Hope our funds will help him reach his goal.

SPECIAL THANKS TO PRESIDENT DUKE O'BRIEN for serving the past two years (2013-2014). Having

never served on the BOD, it wasn't an easy task. He learned how much we "need on our volunteers".

MEETING SECRETARIES, Sandy Madsen, Mary Pat Finnegan, and Ellen Montgomery did a fantastic job of documenting business meetings and speaker presentations for *Sprinklings*.

JOB DESCRIPTONS for 26 BOD and committee coordinator positions are completed.

COOKBOOKS & FIELD GUIDE FUNDRAISERS—Just a few cookbooks available from **Jackie Daharsh**, after we sold 19 cookbooks @ \$12 and 15 field guides @ \$4 this year for a total of \$288 in gross sales.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP is 202 members—23 of 35 (66%) 2013 MGV class interns joined in addition to 4 new members and 175 renewals. Twenty-four members discontinued their membership after 2013.

For FIFTEEN YEARS, we've been very fortunate to have our faithful friend, instructor, and mentor, **Diana Alfuth**, Pierce County UW-Extension Horticulture Educator for our advisor. She's bright, very knowledgeable, and a joy to have at our meetings.

My apologies if I failed to include your event in this Year in Review.
