

**January**

**NEW PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT—Barb Peterson and Trent Kowalchyk**, both 2008 MGVs who volunteered several years together at the SCVMGA Community Garden. In 2015, they did an awesome job of efficiently organizing both board meetings and monthly meetings. Barb's first leadership role was hospitality coordinator (2009-2011), then Vice President in 2014. Trent was new to the Board of Directors. He was a program speaker in 2012 "Genetically Modified Organisms" & in 2014 "Food Plots for Wildlife."

**NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS - Lisa Mosbey and Deb Schommer** – 2013 MGVs teamed up to organize our volunteer projects. Much appreciation to **Pauline Goerd**t, Coordinator in 2013-2014.

**HOME, REMODELING, & GARDEN SHOW** at UWRF Knowles Center—Jan. 16-17 Six MGVs with Coordinator **Barb Peterson** engaged attendees with "Are You Smarter than a Rutabaga?" game, **Trent Kowalchyk's** "Food Plots for Wildlife" and **Peg Wastell's** landscape design, "Real Solutions to Real Problems". More sessions are planned for our "free 2016 booth" due to significant interest.

**JANUARY OPEN HOUSE/PIZZA PARTY – Debbie Lonne**, manager at Bailey's and Horticulture Editor of *Northern Gardener* magazine, revealed "**New Plant Introductions**" for 88 members/5 guests at Hudson's Methodist Church. Diana Alfuth distributed MGV certificates and we welcomed 14 of 19 - 2014 MG interns.

**ELEVEN** of **38 original members** are active in SCVMGA since mid-1997--18 1/2 yrs. ago. We appreciate the groundwork prepared by-- **Carolyn Barrette, Debbie & Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Daphne Brackley, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell!**

**NEW - MGV INTERN NAME BADGE**, included in MG class fee, is awarded upon MG certification. Associations pay intern's WIMGA dues as MG training fee no longer includes a year's membership.

**NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION** Committee, aka "calling tree" was arranged by St. Croix Co. Rep, **Paul VanDenMeerondonk**, to notify members when meetings are cancelled in bad weather.

**February**

**DR. DAVID ZLES**AK, UW-RF Hort Prof, informed 61 members/3 guests about "**Lilies**" on February 26th, **first meeting at First Covenant Church** in River Falls. A larger, brighter space with improved parking conditions for the same rental fee as U. Unitarian Society House where we met 5 years -2010-2014.

**FINANCIAL REVIEW** (Audit) Committee, **Kathye Beebe, Pat Tremaine, and Peg Wastell**, found **Jackie Daharsh's** records well organized & documented. WIMGA sample form, modified by **Deb Pederstuen**, was implemented. Jackie acquired **New State of WI Certificate of Tax Exempt Status** prior to Garden U.

**NEW MEETING SECRETARY COORDINATOR** is *Sprinklings* editor, **Colleen Callahan**. Thanks to **Lisa Bigaouette, Annie Blide, Sandy Madsen, Donna Cadenhead, Trent Kowalchyk** for excellent summaries of program speakers and to **Kathy Williams**, for coordinating secretaries 2013-2014.

**3rd Yr. WEBSITE/ 2nd Yr. WEBMASTER—Ellen Montgomery** added MG Bulletin Board to advertise horticulture/gardening jobs; Events/Garden Tours; Accomplishment Reports; Scholarship Requirements; Forms--reimbursement, WIMGA time sheets, & photo permission. Password protected are the Membership Directory, Year in Review, and Volunteer Opportunities.

### March

**16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GARDEN U** on Mar. 21st (9am-3pm) drew 140 attendees/16 vendors at first year Hudson House Grand Hotel. Lise Wolff - *Herbal First Aid*; Lee Frelich - *Climate Change and Forests*; & Janna Jonely - *Need for Prairie Restoration*. Thanks to Coordinator Carolyn Barrette --favorable comments on location, topics, speakers and profits nearly \$1,000 were applied toward grants & scholarships!

**CATHY OLYPHANT**, St. Croix Valley Bird Club member, advised 65 members/3 guests to draw **Birds of St. Croix Valley** by planting native seed-bearing flowers & grasses & trees for food and shelter.

**EDUCATION CLASSES** offered: Dr. Brian Hudelson - Mar. 18-" The Science & Art of Plant Disease Diagnosis"; Diana Alfuth - March 23- "School Garden Safety and Success" & April 2- "Getting the Most from Your Vegetable Garden".

**WAYNE PETERSON**, former President (2001-2002) and 13-yr. member, passed away on February 28, 2015. A very generous and active Glenwood City community member, known for his farm's summer concerts and donating floral containers at the St. Croix Co. Fair.

### April

**JONI GARBE**, **MGV** and amateur mycologist, shared her **MUSHROOM** expertise with 74 members/17 grant recipients at the April 23rd meeting, including ID, safe vs. non-safe, places to look, & cooking ideas. Her new role as **Hospitality Co-Coordinator** began at the March 26th meeting.

**ST. CROIX VALLEY MAGAZINE'S** April issue, following its March debut, promoted SCVMGA and Diana Alfuth's MG classes after phone interviews with **Diana Alfuth**, and MGVs **Carolyn Barrette**, **President Barb Peterson**, and **Deb Pederstuen**.

**STATE OF WI POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS TO UW-EX-** prompted Dr. Susan Mahr, WIMGA Coordinator, to request MGV support of UW- Extension prior to April 30th Capitol Connections Day.

**15th ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM - NEW** Coordinator, **Phyllis Jaworski**, and four MGVs recommended awards of \$4,475 to 20 applicants--17 MGVs involved in these projects. Thanks to **Dianne Wright** for her 6 years of dedicated service. Acquired **\$125 St. Croix Electric Grant** was applied toward two new canopies.

**ONLINE GOOGLE SURVEY** revealed need for more youth-oriented activities and new member mentoring from 62 responses (31%). Special thanks to Project Manager **Suzy Naschansky**, **Diana Alfuth**, **Barb Peterson**, **Colleen Callahan**, **Ellen Montgomery**, & **Deb Pederstuen** for their input.

### May

**JERRY BRIDGE**, **MGV** presented "**The Fascinating World of Insects**" for 74 members/1 guest at May 28th meeting, highlighting common insect pests, ID info, and insect resource lists. He also contributed **Common Insects in St. Croix/Pierce Counties** and **Managing Insects in June** for June *Sprinklings*.

**OCTAGON HOUSE DONATION OF \$500** was given for the building of a new restroom. MGVs will benefit as our Annual Plant Sale has been held at Hudson's Octagon House for past 11 years!

**NEW "HELPING HANDS" Project Coordinator, Gail Behr**, recruits Helping Hands MGVs to assist active MGVs who are ill or incapacitated to do their own gardening. **MGVs Pat Tremaine and JoAnn Ryan** were first year beneficiaries. A very worthy project and volunteers receive community service hours!

**NEW PROJECT: Collection of Old Garden Books**--Project leader **Joni Garbe** is accepting your old garden books. Suggestions for redistributing or selling them are most welcomed.

**MATT SCHMITZ**, **WIMGA VP/At-large Director** & **Marilyn Gorham**, **WIMGA Rep**, are on planning committee for Midwest Regional Gardener Conference scheduled Sept. 14-17, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells.

## June

**11th ANNUAL PLANT SALE** at Hudson's Octagon House Sat., 6/06/15 (9am-1pm) -**New Committee of Equipment Mgr. Tim Wilson** and **Education & Display Coordinator Donna Davis** assisted Plant Sale Coordinators, **Corky Weeks & Heather Lane**, in making all-time high profit of \$4200. Grant recipients and other non-profits accepted leftover plants; \$100 donation was given to St. Croix Historical Society.

**COLLEEN CALLAHAN, *Sprinklings* Editor** & retired UW-RF journalism prof, presented **Through the Lens: The Beauty of Horticulture** for 60 members/2 guests at June 25th meeting. She focused on lighting, composition, distance, angle, and timing techniques for capturing unique plant photos.

**4th Yr UW-EXT DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN (DLG)** in River Falls- Coordinator **Diana Alfuth** recruited Ellsworth HS students to start seeds again and held three public garden classes. Using **Pat Tremaine's** design, MGV planted vegs., herbs, native plants, and seed trial (cherry tomatoes) gardens. In Pat's memory, the scarecrow was redesigned in her image with a clipboard in its hand.

**RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET New Coordinators---Bev Hoppe & Elaine Baker**, appreciated MGV coverage June-October Tues. 3-6pm/Sat. 8am-12, updated UW-Ext materials, created a **MGV Volunteering Guide** & bought a new folding table. Our best to Elaine in 2016 and thanks to Bev for her 2 years of dedicated service.

**HUDSON FARMERS MARKET- Plaza 94 – 3rd Yr Coordinator, Janet Jones**, reported 10 MGV had approx. 8 questions/week on Thursdays June 25-Oct 1st with 90% of questions answered with help of **two new resource books** (\$100). Only one cookbook sold in 14 weeks despite sales efforts!

**3rd JUNIOR GARDEN U**, held Sat, June 27th, (9am-noon) at River Falls DLG Garden for 20 kids, ages 5-12. **MGVs Lisa Mosbey, Laurie Green, Dot Seebach, Maria Scheidegger, Marilyn Gorham, Cindy Gleason, Deb Andazola**, and **Susan Mooney** taught three 45-minute stations on good and bad bugs, composting & transplanting. Kids took home plants, magnifying glass, lighted bug, and bug stickers.

**ARTFUL GARDEN TOUR IN HUDSON**—June 27 & 28—Houlton Elementary School gardens, coordinated by **MGVs Sandy Madsen and Julie Weinberg** since 2008 for grades K-5 include: one-acre prairie garden, rain garden, plant seed trial garden, vegetable gardens/grade, weekly noon garden club, after school flower group, greenhouse, & composting. **Donna Davis & Jane Hanson** were tour guides. **Daphne Brackley**, who designed our SCVMGA sprinkling can logo, created the 2015 Artful Garden poster for sale.

**NEW PHOTO PERMISSION FORM**, needed for photographing children or non-members at events, was created by **Suzy Naschansky, *Sprinklings* Assistant Editor**, and is available on the website. **Webmaster Ellen Montgomery** keeps a file of completed photo permission forms.

## July

**MIKE HICKS, "Afton Garlic Guru"**, explained **Growing and Storing Garlic** on his one-acre plot to 57 members/1 guest at July 23rd meeting. Hand planting of 1,000 cloves begins in October for a July harvest.

**2nd Yr SPRINKLINGS EDITOR & ASSISTANT- Colleen Callahan and Suzy Naschansky** created fun, interesting & informative issues, plus profiles of **Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, and Peg Wastell**. New Active Hyperlinks for easy website access and email addresses; **BUG OF THE MONTH** by **Jerry Bridge**, MGV; **KARALYN'S KITCHEN** by **Karalyn Littlefield**, MGV & UW-RF Food Science & Animal Science Prof, features information/recipes for seasonal fruits and vegetables; **Herbs** by **Lisa Mosbey**, MGV; **What's Happening--Phenology of First Blooms, Insects, Birds, Fruit, etc.**

**2nd Year ST. CROIX CO. FAIR COORDINATORS –Brenda Bodelson, Yvonne Koch-Proctor, & Norma Rudesill**-- 14 MGVs from Wed- Sat. a.m. after Friday pm storm destroyed UW-Ext tent. **Theme: Tomato Varieties** (Norma's posters), **Peg Wastell's** Plant Seed Trial Info; & Yvonne's drawing board & critter box.

## August

**MIKE MILLER** impressed 38 members/2 guests at his **Pure Prairie Seed Co.** at Aug. 27th meeting with native grasses tour, excellent prairie seed cleaning demo, and Virgin's Bower seedlings & figwort seeds.

**PIERCE COUNTY FAIR - 2015 Fair Coordinator Leroy Clark** reported a full schedule of MGVs, great weather and a **UW-Ext. replacement tent** arrived in time. Highlighted **Theme: Tomato Varieties**, plant seed trials program, kids' drawing board/critter box, and Pierce Co. Biggest Veggie/Weed Contest.

**PAT TREMAINE, 2nd term Pierce Co. Rep**, passed away on Aug. 31, 2015 at Hudson's Christian Community Home. SCVMGA member (2010-2015), from the Milwaukee area, was well known at the UW-Extension DLG for her garden design skills and as Garden Group Leader for Gardening with Native Plants.

## September

**NEW TOUR COORDINATOR, Maria Sanocki**, with **MGVs Sandy Madsen** and **Julie Weinberg**, arranged a Sept. 10th student-guided tour of Houlton Elementary School gardens for 14 MGVs, school board guests and students' parents. All enjoyed a nutritious treat of fresh garden veggies! Thanks to **Ron Campbell, our 1st Tour Coordinator**. Unfortunately, the 2014 Gladioli Tour was canceled due to botrytis fungus.

**DIANA ALFUTH**, UW-Ext. Hort Educator, drew 69 members/ 8 guests at Sept. 24th meeting for **Putting Your Gardens and Landscapes to Bed** talk. Early vs. late blight, spotted wing drosophila, lawn care, pruning, care of roses, clematis, and hydrangeas, and transplanting were major concerns.

**NEW BOD PIERCE COUNTY REP--Dot Seebach**, 2013 MGV, filled **Pat Tremaine's** last year of her 2nd term. Dot, one of Pat's "Helping Hands" and MGV at the DLG, will represent Pierce Co. MGVs in 2016.

**GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS** Garden Group - 15 MGVs have **NEW Coordinator, Gail Behr**, 2009 MGV, after loss of **Pat Tremaine**. They contributed phenological data of local native plants (June/July *Sprinklings*), created pollinator plot at DLG; and toured Freedom Park & Carpenter Nature Center.

**FLOWER GARDEN DESIGN** Garden Group of 9 MGVs met 3 times with **5th Yr Coordinator, JoAnn Ryan**, and **new assistant, Jane Miller**. MGVs work in pairs to solve gardening dilemmas in each other's gardens; and recommend redesigns for "ugly" landscaped houses using their acquired design skills.

**NEW RICHMOND SCVMGA COMMUNITY GARDEN- Coordinator Carolyn Barrette** reported 24 MGVs spent 306 hours and donated 2000 lbs. of produce. Students of St. Anne's Summer Stretch and New Richmond Service Day (May 28th) volunteered 145 plus hours. Blighted tomatoes & lack of volunteers were major issues.

**SCVMGA COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDE**, an invaluable MGV online resource for New Richmond garden, was created by **Suzy Naschansky**, with **Carolyn Barrette's** assistance.

**SCVMGA CLOTHING Fundraiser - Kathy Beebe** sold \$890 of SCVMGA clothing to members from Imaging World in 2015. As of Sept 2013, proceeds have generated \$800 for the MGV Education Fund.

**5th Yr. COOKBOOK Fundraiser**—Nine cookbooks at \$12 ea. sold for \$108 in gross sales. **Jackie Daharsh** still has 35 "Garden to Table Recipes" cookbooks available. Field guides all sold in 2014.

**NEW MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT, Lynn Steely**, 2015 MG student, helped Membership Director, **Deb Pederstuen** with 2016 dues collection starting at the September meeting. Lynn joined in July of 2015.

**7th WESTERN DISTRICT MG V WORKSHOP**—Coordinator Peg Wastell reported 65 MGVs (incl. 2 former mbrs) enjoyed "Seed Saving" theme on Sat., Sept. 26th, 9am-2:30pm at the Seyforth Bldg in Ellsworth. UW -Ext Hort. Educators, **Diana Alfuth** -"Beyond the Basics of Seed Saving" and **Ginny Gaynor** -"Ethics of Seed Collection" & **Ardith Beveridge, Director of Institute of Flowers**, "Dried & Fresh Floral Arrangements". **Suzy Naschansky's** origami seed packet designs and **Donna Davis & Diana Alfuth's** seed donations. Same \$15 workshop fee/Subway lunch (\$16/ft.) & donated bars, \$200 speaker fee w/other expenses; unintended \$363 profit! SCVMVA cookbooks were donated to all three speakers. Thanks to all!!

### September Continued

**TOM BRACKLEY**, one of our original members and great SCVMGA supporter, passed away on Sept. 27th, 2015. An avid gardener and beekeeper and a friend of many members who will miss him. Tom was our first St. Croix County Representative (Director 1) on the Board of Directors in 1998-1999.

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTER ON-LINE TRAINING**- qualifies for 1 hr. education and is required for new 2016 MGCV certification. MGCV certificates of completion are on file at the Pierce Co. UW-Ext. office.

### October

**Six of twenty GRANT RECIPIENTS** presented their projects for 47 members/2 guests at the Oct. 22nd meeting. Reporters were three SCVMGA members - **August Hoffman, Susan Mooney, and John Norquist**, plus Sherry Gilles, Jeanne Schmidt, and Heidi Doering, St. Croix Co. UW- Ext Horticultural Educator. **Vickie Reschke**, our new MGCV from IL, informed us about the Illinois Speaker Bureau.

**RURAL & FARM SAFETY DAYS (Sept. 30-Oct. 1)- MGVs Colleen Callahan, Mary Pat Finnegan, Heather Lacke, and Shirley Terrien** held several 15 minute sessions on **Dangers of Perilous Plants** (wild parsnip, stinging nettle, etc.) for nearly 600 Pierce County fourth graders.

### November

**1st SCVMGA LEADERSHIP RETREAT** was Sat., Nov. 14th 8:30-11:30am at President Barb Peterson's home for Board of Directors, committee coordinators, and project leaders to get acquainted and discuss member survey results, position descriptions, and seek ways to increase leadership effectiveness.

**NOVEMBER 19th ANNUAL MEETING** -drew a record number of 59 members/4 guests! We had election of officers, budget approval, acknowledgement of four outgoing BOD officers, and our 2nd Seed Exchange. Four of five 2015 grant recipients reporting were SCVMGA members – MGVs **Sandy Madsen & Julie Weinberg, Pam Keil, Romona Robinson, and Debby Walters**. Justin Townsend also presented.

**3rd Yr. SEED TRIALS Garden Group Leader, Peg Wastell**, was featured in WIMGA's Nov 2015 Newsletter. Website has 2013 & 2014 test results; 2015 tested four varieties of green beans, brussel sprouts, cucumbers, bunching onions, smooth leaf spinach, cherry tomatoes, dill, and blue salvia.

**WIMGA EDUCATIONAL GRANTS** - thanks to grant committee for getting \$250 for Plant Seed Trials signage. Including 2015, WIMGA Treasurer Byron Hacker reported we got \$1900 in 9 grants since 1998.

**SPECIAL THANKS to BOD Secretary Kathy Williams (2012-2015); Pierce Co Rep, Kathye Beebe (2012-2015); St. Croix Rep, Paul VanDenMeerondok (2011-2015); and WIMGA Rep, Marilyn Gorham (2013-2015)** for their awesome dedication and service.

**MEMBERSHIP** --202 members--130 certified MGVs for 2015 (88%). Total includes 176 renewals, 8 new members, 4 - 2015 MG students, and 14 of 19 (73.6%) 2014 MGCV interns. Nineteen MGVs (9%) discontinued membership Dec, 2014 and 3 deceased - Wayne Peterson, Pat Tremaine, Tom Brackley.

**SERVICE CONTRIBUTION** - We volunteered 178 hrs. in youth education, 444 hrs. in adult community education, and 2,882 hrs. in support service for a total of 3,504 hours of volunteer service.

**For 16 years, Pierce Co. UW-Ext. Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth**, has blessed us with her support, expertise, and friendship as our advisor. Her annual MG training class has contributed significantly to our large membership, supplying us with new and talented MGVs every year.

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