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| **SCVMGA Year in Review** **2016****Deb Pederstuen & Karen Jilek**  |
| **January****​OPEN HOUSE/PIZZA PARTY** held Jan. 28thfor the1st time at RF’s First Covenant Church-- **MGV Margaret Smith,** SCVMGA member and Exec. Dir. of Trumpeter Swan Society, shared her passion for **Trumpeter Swans and Their Survival** to a record breaking 104 attendees - 96 members/7 guests. We welcomed s**ixteen** of the 21 MG 2015 class interns and 2010 MGIntern **Sharon Grundtner. Diana Alfuth** distributed 2014 MGV certificates**,** honored **Deb Andazola**’s 1000 hrs., and announced our association’s awesome 7,000 volunteer hours in 2015! **2nd Year VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, Lisa Mosbey** overwhelmed MGVs and interns with36 volunteer projects. Her **NEW ASSISTANT Barbara Johnson** was very helpful linking project coordinators with their new volunteers. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** welcomed 3 new members -**Secretary Karen Jilek**, CPA, with secretarial experience; **Pierce Co. Rep Leroy Clark**, 2015-2016 Pierce Co. Fair Coordinator; and **St. Croix Co. Rep Julie Weinberg** who helps Houlton Elementary students maintain their flower gardens.**NEW WIMGA STATE REP, Paul VanDenMeerendonk** is a 2006 MGV with the experience to represent us at WIMGA for his three-year term, 2016-2018. He served five years on the Board of Directors as St. Croix Co. Rep.**ELEVEN** of the **38 original SCVMGA members** are still involved since mid-1997--19 1/2 yrs. ago. We’re grateful for 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**! **FOUNDING MEMBER, Anne Kerfoot** of River Falls**,** passed away Sept. 23, 2013 in Le Segundo, CA. Anne was known for her prairie gardens and for her watercolor paintings used for printing Artful Garden Tour posters & cards.**2015 State of WI Certificate of Tax Exempt Status ID#,** obtained by **Treasurer Jackie Daharsh,** is recommended for board approved purchases over $100 at local businesses, especially Menards, UPS, & Hudson House where it is on file. **February****JIM SCHRIEBER, owner and Director of Hudson’s Plantables,** informed 71 members at Feb. 25th meeting about products manufactured by his multi-abled employees to increase awareness of pollinating insects. It was our first anniversary at First Covenant Church in River Falls since February 2015.**FINANCIAL REVIEW (Audit) Committee** of **Kathye Beebe -** rep from Pierce Co, **Dot Seebach –** current board member**,** and **Dianne Wright –** rep fromSt. Croix Co.- reported **Jackie Daharsh’s** 2015 records were well-organized and documented. As Ex-Officio Treasurer, **Jackie Daharsh** joined the committee for the first time as specified in our by-laws. **NEW WEBSITE ASSISTANTS, Mari Marson & Debby Walters**, 2015 MG interns, joined **3rd Yr. Webmaster Ellen Montgomery** to do postings. Ellen’s focus is on our 4-yr old Weebly’s organizational structure. Fees are $71.80/2 yrs.In March, Board removed *Sprinklings* & Year in Reviews from Password Protection. In July, **MG** **Intern Mari Marson** included disclosure for advertising of garden related discounts and deals for MGVs in Bulletin Board section. **March****MARY ELLEN BRUE**, a local butterfly and milkweed expert, informed 85 members at the March 31st meeting how **BUTTERFLIES** rely on milkweed for their life cycle and how she breeds butterflies annually from her milkweed garden.**EDUCATION CLASSES** were held Mar. 16th at Hudson’s Willow River Elementary School. **Diana Alfuth** spoke on **Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**, **Brian Hudelson,** UW-Madison Horticulture Professor,on **Problems and Diseases that Affect Ash Trees**, and **City of Hudson Urban Forestry Rep** on **Managing EAB in Hudson**.**ST. CROIX VALLEY HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION/SCV SPRING** EXPO at UWRF Knowles Center, March 4-6th ten 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** "Real Solutions to Real Problems" on landscape design were presented twice; Peg featured our Seed Trials Display at our complimentary booth.  **17TH ANNUAL GARDEN** U on Mar. 19th, 9am-3pm, had largest crowd ever with 167 attendees/12 vendors for 2nd year at Hudson House Grand Hotel.Speakers: **Nicole Mattson**, **Japanese Gardens** at Como Park Conservatory**; Duane Otto** – UM Arboretum **- Four Seasons Gardening**; and **Soni Forsman – Container Water Gardens**. New fee of $35/person; profit of $2,118. Thanks to **Carolyn Barrette** and New Assistant Coordinator **Mitzi Roy** and volunteers!**2nd Year USED GARDEN BOOK COLLECTION – Joni Garbe, Project Leader,** displayed books at 3 events- Garden U, Plant Sale, and Fall Workshop; collecting $65 in “free will offerings.” Purchased a $15 cart for storing & displaying.**HEIDI DOERING,** former SCVMGA member, resigned as St. Croix County Horticulture Educator on Mar. 15th to be Koppert Biological Systems’ Technical Sales Representative in Hovell, MI. Recognized for service with a $55 gift card.**April****NICHOLAS PETERS, 2014 MGV Scholarship recipient**, explained his special projects and how his background led to his career goal of landscaping to 72 members/17 guests (including grant recipients)at the April 28th meeting. **16th ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM –r**eturning **6-yr. Coordinator, Dianne Wright** and 6 MGVs requested $6,000, the highest amount ever, for 33 of the 37 project applications. Original request was $8,553. Twenty-one MGVs were involved in the worthy projects. Thanks to **Phyllis Jaworski** for coordinating in 2015. **12th ANNUAL EARTH DAY** at Camp St.Croix -Sun. April 17th, noon to 4pm – lured 181 people to 63 booths, one manned by **MGV Donna Davis** and **Corky Weeks**. **Pollinator Theme**: Monarch butterfly bucket demo; kids glued carrot seeds on newspaper strips and planted Teddy Bear Sunflower seeds. **May****Aleisha Miller, St. Croix County Environmental Educator** gave 56 members/1guest a motivating presentation on **water quality and its relationship** between storm water, ground water and soils at the May 26th meeting.**2nd Year "HELPING HANDS" Project Leader Gail Behr** announced no Master Gardeners required assistance. MGVs earn volunteer hours to assist MGVs who are ill or incapacitated to do their own gardening. **UW-EXT DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN (DLG) in River Falls- 5th Year Coordinator Diana Alfuth** and 12 MGVs reported “great success” in maintaining native plant pollinator plot, herb garden, and vegetable garden. Their amazing checker board lettuce garden and Presidential garden drew lots of attention. Diana held six public garden classes; **MGV Lisa Mosbey** held 4 Herb ID classes for adults and 4 kid classes sampling lemon balm tea. **THREE NEW VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS (PHOTO) LEADERS- Deb Andazola** scheduled photographers; **Teresa Davis** and **Judi Brunner** gathered photos for scrapbooking. Teresa created our 1st Shutterfly Photo Sharing Site. Special thanks to **Barb Nelson** for her service 2011-2015 as our 2nd Visual Communications Coordinator. **June** **VAN SOMEREN GARDENS in Baldwin—Doug & Betty Van Someren** gave 50 members/2 guests/Diana Alfuth a walking & hay wagon tour of their two large vegetable farms, highlighting what varieties sell best at local Farmers markets.**12th ANNUAL PLANT SALE at Hudson's Octagon House Sat., June 4th (9am-1pm)** broke gross sales with $4,289! After $100 property use donation to St. Croix Historical Society, we profited $4,025 thanks to our 2nd yr. managers, **Tim Wilson** and **Donna Davis**, Coordinators **Corky Weeks & Heather Lane**, and many MGVs. Noon downpour dampened plants but not our spirits! Leftover plants were scooped up by grant recipients, Camp St. Croix, and other non-profits. **RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET - 2nd Year Coordinator Elaine Baker** and 10 MGVsobserved fewer customers with gardening questions on Saturdays, 8am-12pm, June - October. Tuesday’s 3-6pm market MGV coverage was discontinued due to lack of MGVs. RF Market does not permit the sale of cookbooks. Our thanks to Elaine & volunteers.**HUDSON FARMERS MARKET at Plaza 94 – 4th Yr. Coordinator Janet Jones** reported 3 dedicated MGVs, **Carolyn Hasselman, Bonnie Rohr, & Bonnie Sortland**, answered 4-6 questions on Thursdays July-Sept. 8th from 8am-noon. In four years, 24 cookbooks sold; only one sold in 2016. Our thanks to retiring Janet Jones for her dedication and service. **NEW TOUR COORDINATOR Debra Andazola & Assistant Debby Walters** arranged 3 fantastic Sunday tours; used “Signup Genius”. Sadly, no one came to July 10th River Falls “Grow to Share” & DLG; 5 MGVs toured July 31st Lynn Nehring’s Colfax, WI garden and at Aug. 21st Mpls Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. $50 donation to Lynn Nehring’s. **JUNIOR GARDEN U** was canceled due to lack of MG volunteers. **Diana Alfuth** has coordinated this event the past three years on the last Saturday in June, 9am-noon, at River Falls DLG Garden with the help of MGVs. **July** **BARB PETERSON, SCVMGA President,** hosted a lovely summer gathering on July 28th for 59 members, 7 guests, and Diana Alfuth with a delicious buffet, and self-guided tours of her beautiful home, 15+ gorgeous gardens and orchard.**3rd Yr *SPRINKLINGS* EDITOR Colleen Callahan, Assistant Suzy Naschansky,** and all *Sprinkling* contributors created another year of fun & informative issues, including Donna Davis’ interesting profile. Excellent program speaker notes from **Lisa Bigaouette, Sandy Madsen, Mary Pat Finnegan, Vickie Reschke, and Deb Pederstuen.** Special thanks to featured contributors - **Jerry Bridge’s Bug of the Month; Karalyn Littlefield’s Karalyn’s Kitchen; Lisa Mosbey’s Herbs,** and **Peg Wastell’s** updates on seed trials program, seed-sharing events, and the Fall Workshop**.** **3rd Yr. ST. CROIX CO. Fair Coordinator Norma Rudesill staffed** 15 MGVs - Thurs. & Friday MGVs endured high heat & humidity. Canopy destroyed and 2015 UW-Ext tent twisted 90 degrees in early Thurs. storms! Disassembling the tent prior to Sat. a.m. storms, convinced MGVs to seek an alternative booth in 2017. Highlighted were “**Invasive Plants**” --buckthorn, garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and crown vetch & **Peg Wastell’s** Seed Trial program. **MGV Shauna Knott’s** creativity freshened up our SCVMGA display board. Kudos to Norma for using **SignUp Genius** 1st yr. on our website! Special thanks to retiring coordinators, **Brenda Bodelson** and **Yvonne Koch-Proctor** for two years of service!**HERBERT FLORCZYK,** former eight-year member (2005-2012) of River Falls, and father of **MGV Andrea Nelson**, passed away in Hudson on July 2, 2016. We’ll remember Herbert for his passion for the Japanese style of pruning. **CONNIE KLECKER,** former five-year member (2010–2014) of Hudson passed away on July 29, 2016. We’ll remember Connie for her African Violet hobby, volunteer service at the Hudson Farmers Market and 2014 Financial Audit Committee.**August****STEVE MEYER of FUTURE FARM AND FUEL** gave a tour of his **aquaponics lettuce operation** for 50 members/5 guests at $5/person on Aug. 25th. At $250, it was highest speaker fee ever paid! Wastewater from tilapia he raises fertilizes 10% of lettuce greens grown. Very cost efficient operation; sells variety of greens to local restaurants and grocers. **3rd Yr. PIERCE CO. Fair Coordinator Leroy** Clark staffed 24 MGVs who highlighted Invasive Plants with samples and ID pictorials of buckthorn, garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and crown vetch. They also dealt with storm damage to supplies and the UW-Ext. 2015 tent. Biggest Veggie/Weed Contest was not held. **September****STARLA ENGER** drew 61 members/2 guests to the Sept. 22nd meeting to learn more about **Pre-planting Bareroot Trees in Gravel** and feeding with nutrients to promote healthier root development as opposed to the older ball & burlap method. **GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS - 2nd Year Garden Group Leader Gail Behr** and 3 MGVs enjoyed a spring ephemeral walk in Pierce Co Educational Forest. Few MGVs in the group maintained DLG pollinator plot. A resource for native plants & wild edibles was created on website at <http://rengabe.org>.**MATT SCHMITZ, WIMGA VP/At-large Director & Marilyn Gorham, 2013-2015 WIMGA Rep**, served on the planning committee for Midwest Regional Gardener Conference held Sept.14-17, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells. Our thanks!!**6th Yr. FLOWER GARDEN DESIGN** – **Garden Group Leader**, **JoAnn Ryan**, held 3 classes for 8 MGVs. Projects involved working in pairs at each other’s gardens to solve their gardening dilemmas and redesigning landscapes of “ugly landscaped houses with their acquired design skills. Two of the three meetings were held at MGs’ homes.**SCVMGA COMMUNITY GARDEN in NEW RICHMOND - New Coordinator Donna Cadenhead** reported17 MGVs and 3 student groups - St. Anne’s 2x in July and 19 NR June Service Day kids spent 382 hours and donated 834 lbs. of produce. Reduced volunteers in 2015 led to limited veggies grown—tomatoes, sun gold tomatoes, green & wax beans, and onions; 4th trial garden on the site. Renewed partnership was negotiated with landowners, Dick & Jonnna Klukas. Huge thanks to **Carolyn Barrette** for coordinating 11 years since 2005 and to **Donna C.** for taking on this year’s challenge**!!** **4th Yr. SCVMGA CLOTHING Fundraiser – Kathye Beebe** sold $468 of SCVMGA labeled clothing from Imaging World. As of Sept 2016, proceeds generated $1,000 for the MGV Education Fund.**6th Yr. COOKBOOK Fundraiser—Jackie Daharsh** reported only two $12 cookbooks sold for $24 in gross sales in 2016. She has 26 copies of 2011 “Garden to Table Recipes” cookbooks available.**8th WESTERN DISTRICT MGV WORKSHOP - Coordinator Peg Wastell** reported 72 paid MGVs, including 2 - 2016 MG interns and 10 guest MGVs, enjoyed "Growing & Using Herbs” theme on Sat., Sept. 24th, 9am-3pm at Ellsworth’s Seyforth Bldg. Presenters: UW-Ext. Hort Educator, **Diana Alfuth -"Herbalicious Herbs All Year"** and SCVMGA members, **Lisa Mosbey –** “**Aloe Vera Uses/Tea Blends**”; **Debra Andazola** – “**Herbal Tinctures**”; **Phyllis Jaworski** – “**Herbal Lotions**”; **Karalyn Littlefield** – “**Herbs in the Kitchen**”; **Gail Behr** – “**Eat Wild**”.Same $15 workshop fee included Subway sub/chips. $568 profit applied to grant program. Thanks to16 MG volunteers, to **Donna Davis’** donation of$25 My Sister’s Garden gift card, and to retiring Peg Wastell for her fabulous job of coordinating the past 5 years!**October****SEVEN GRANT RECIPIENTS**, including **3 MGVs, Donna Davis, Sandy Madsen,** and **Debby Walters,** presented their grant projectsto 42 members at the Oct. 27th meeting.**RURAL & FARM SAFETY DAYS** was cancelled, but may be held in Spring 2017. **November****ANNUAL Nov. 17th MEETING** included election of officers, budget approval, audit report, 3rd Seed Sharing, and acknowledging three outgoing BOD officers. **Nine** grant recipients including SCVMGA members, **Maria Scheidegger** and **John Ramstad** (subfor **Pat Angleson),** presented their projects to 52 members. Thanks to Nominations Committee, Coordinator **Donna Davis, Kathye Beebe, Barb Kolbe,** and **JoAnn Ryan,** for filling **five** open Board positions.**4th Yr. SEED TRIALS Garden Group Leader, Peg Wastell** and 40 participants (28 SCVMGA members) tested four varieties of carrots, eggplant, kohlrabi, lettuce, muskmelon, peas, parsley, cosmos, and milkweed. Four permanent “**Trial Display Garden**” signs, obtained with **$250 WIMGA 2015 grant,** identified our **3 trial gardens.** Lost the Baldwin site. **2016 WIMGA $400 EDUCATIONAL GRANT** and **$150 St. Croix Electric Cooperative 2016 Grant** was applied to **$406 EPSON PROJECTOR** and **$297 PORTABLE MICROPHONE.** Special thanks to SCVMGA’s Grant Committee for acquiring the grants. Available for MGVs is a **New $580 HP PAVILION 360 COMPUTER** with convertible enhanced screen; includes one-year security and a $129 software package for Excel, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word, school/home. **THIRD SCVMGA UW-RF Biennial $1000 SCHOLARSHIP** will be presented in 2017 as no qualified applicants applied in 2016. Previous recipients were Brooke Gasteyer of Elmwood in 2012 and Nicholas Peter of Athens, WI in 2014.**SPECIAL THANKS** to **BOD President Barb Peterson (2015-2016), Vice President Trent Kowalchyk (2015-2016), BOD Treasurer Jackie Daharsh (2013-2016); Secretary Karen Jilek (2016); and St. Croix Rep, Barb Kolbe (2013-2016)** for their awesome dedication and service. **MEMBERSHIP** --203 members—includes 180 renewals, 17 of 21 (81%) 2015 MGV interns, 1 - 2016 intern, and 5 new members. In 2016, 135 MGVs (67%) were certified. 19 MGVs (9.4 %) discontinued membership in Dec, 2015. Our **volunteer services** provided 147 hrs. for youth ed., 408 hrs. for adult ed, and 3,165 for support services. Total of 3,720 hrs. **For 17 years, Pierce Co. UW-Ext. Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth, has blessed us with her support, expertise, and friendship as our advisor. As an instructor, her annual MG training class has contributed significantly to our large membership, recruiting new and talented MGVs every year.****Our apologies if we failed to include your event or accomplishment in this Year in Review.** |

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