

Newsletter
of the St. Croix
Valley Master
Gardeners
Association



SCVMGA Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 23

Location: Unitarian Church

Pizza at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Madson

The public is welcome

**DIRECTIONS TO UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF RIVER
FALLS, N8010 State Hwy 65, River Falls,
WI:** From the North: Take Hwy 35 South to
just beyond River Falls. Merge onto Hwy 65
near the roundabout. The society is located just
past the roundabout on the East side of Hwy
65. It is between the old site of the humane
society and Garden Divas.

Please Note

New St. Croix Co. Horticulture
Educator, Heidi Doering, is no
longer a SCVMGA member, but
you're welcome to contact her at
heidi.doering@ces.uwex.edu if you
have questions. Her office is
located at the St. Croix County
Extension Building in Baldwin.

Important Announcements

At the January 23 meeting we greet the newly graduated Master Gardeners and welcome them to the fold. Always trying to have a glorious meeting with sun-loving flowers for the coming year, our speaker this January will be **Jim Madson on Growing Glorious Gladioli**. Madson is a northwestern Wisconsin, as well as national, expert in gladioli. He will cover the how-to's of growing techniques including hybridizing, diseases, and varieties. His garden features six acres of specialty and varietal glads and he was host to the National Glad Society 2013 convention tour last Sept. He lives in Reeve WI, not too far from Clayton.

The evening will also feature a light dinner (pizza?) and treats during a get acquainted hour starting at **6 pm**. The meeting will be at Unitarian Society Church, N8010 Hwy 65, southeast of River Falls and will be our opportunity to get together with the new MGs, and old, to talk about the coming gardening year.

The February 27 meeting will feature Trent Kowalchyk on Food Plots. Kowalchyk is a SCV Master Gardener who provides an interesting look at other aspects of raising food. This time he will talk about the basics of food plots and why they are important to Master Gardeners. A brief overview of the what, why and how of establishing and maintaining a food plot. It's not your ordinary vegetable garden for people that he will be talking about. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Society Church, starting at 6:45 pm. Please car pool.

Remember - if the weather's really bad, and schools are cancelled, the meeting will be cancelled too. SCVMGA will try to email all in the event of cancellation.

Garden U is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, 2014 at Ready Randy's - 1490 131st St, New Richmond (corner Co Rd G and Hwy 65). This year's Garden U features **David Zlesak - The best trees for your yard and how to save them**. Zlesak is a professor at UWRF and has added trees to his variety of horticultural expertise and classes. He will be highlighting a broad range of trees with an emphasis on those with fewer problems, and provide information on some of the key problems with trees and ways to avoid them. **Dave Paulson - Display of trees info, opportunity for 'hands on' and questions**. We may hear about trees, but it's always easier to recognize a problem when you see what's wrong. Dave brought his collection of trees - and other plants - to the September Advanced MG Training. We've invited him back because 'hands on' will help us see and answer questions when we're asked as Master Gardeners. Of course there will be lunch and break - plus our Garden Market Place with local garden-oriented vendors. We've found a couple new ones this year. As always, if you know of a garden-oriented vendor you would like to see at Garden U, let us know and we will try to contact them. tbarrett@pressenter.com or 715-549-6438.

St Croix Valley Master Gardener Assn. 2014 Monthly Programs

Date	Speaker and subject	Notes
Jan 23 6:00 PM	Jim Madson, Growing Glorious Gladioli , Glads, a perennial, sun-loving favorite with showy flower spikes to brighten our January. Madson, a NW Wis. expert, will cover the how-to's of growing techniques including hybridizing, diseases, and varieties. Madson's grows six acres of specialty and varietal glads and hosted the National Glad Society 2013 convention tour last Sept.	Unitarian Church, N8010 Hwy 65
Feb 27	Trent Kowalchyk - Food Plots . The basics of food plots and why they are important to Master Gardeners. A brief overview of the what, why and how of establishing and maintaining a food plot.	Unitarian Church, N8010 Hwy 65
Mar 15 Saturday 9 - 3 pm	Garden U David Zlesak - The best trees for your yard and how to save them Dave Paulson - Display of trees info, opportunity for 'hands on' and questions . Third subject: invasive plants Lunch and break - plus our Garden Market Place with local garden oriented vendors	Ready Randy's Hwy 65 & Co Rd G,
Mar 27	Steve Gonzalez - Orchids - Steve will discuss the most popular orchids, types, needed growing conditions. He'll show us how to re-pot the orchids. A past president of the Orchid Society, he judges orchid shows in Chicago frequently.	Unitarian Church, N8010 Hwy 65
Apr 24	Lisa Dembouski - SCVMGA web-master and computer guru ... will give our members a tutorial on how to use the SCVMGA website (http://scvmga.weebly.com) including how to navigate the site, how to find the information you're looking for, and other ways to access MGV information. Lisa will also show you how to share news and photos for adding to the site. Bring your laptop, tablet, or smart phone so you can follow along, plus bring any questions you have about using the technology.	River Falls Library, 105 Union, RF Change in location
May 22	Heidi Doering - Planting for Pollinators Heidi raises bees in addition to her many other talents. A first-hand horticultural look at the need to plant pollinators, and the kinds to plant.	Unitarian Church,
June 26	Goldfinch Farms, Baldwin - Heidi Doering . They are commercial cut flower growers, producing cut flowers, twigs and flowering branches located just 2-3 miles east of Baldwin on Hwy 12. Harold indicated that peony flowering time would be optimum for a visit, Van Someren Gardens, Kinnic Natives, Glover Park - tours later in summer??	Baldwin,RF
July 17-21	St Croix County Fair - Glenwood City	
July 24	Roxanne Kiekhofer - Straw Bale Gardening - tour	
Aug 7-10	Pierce Co Fair - Ellsworth	
Aug 28	C R Stephens - Still H2O - CR has a new shop in Stillwater with lots more room and information about hydroponics and indoor gardening. Just in time to start your winter garden. He also has beer and wine information.	Unitarian Church N8010 Hwy 65
Sep 18	Andrew Sankey - our favorite English Nurseryman will be back in town with a new presentation on gardens and gardening across the pond. Note date and location change.	Hudson area
Oct 23		
Nov 20	Annual meeting with grant presentations	

Meetings are always subject to change - call or look for most recent edition of meeting schedule

Hi All,

How high is your stack of seed catalogs? Before you order your seed from those pages of lush and beautiful produce please consider growing our trials this year. Master Gardener Volunteer growers evaluate and report trials. Diana Alfuth compiles information and sends it out. We all benefit from knowing what varieties grow best in our western Wisconsin areas.

I attached the order form so you can print it. (See page 4.) You will be able to find the order form on our site in a couple of days: <http://scvmga.weebly.com/garden-groups-of-the-scvmga.html>. I will have the 2014 evaluation forms on this site too by the end of January. You will get a hard copy of evaluation sheets with your order. Seeds will be mailed out by or before mid-March. Or you can come to our March meeting to pick them up and listen to our speaker for the night. Steve Gonzalez will discuss orchids.

Please note that some of our growers this past year found that the trials do take up a lot of space if you decide to grow all of them. One suggestion made was to have a container such as an old mail box in your garden to hold evaluation forms so notes can be made more easily and in a timely manner. I hope everyone has space and time for all the trials because the more trials grown increases the validity of the data collected.

Most of the trials will consist growing a 3-foot row of each variety. The evaluations for zucchini and sweet peppers will be for only one plant per variety although you will receive at least four seeds of each variety. We base the number of seeds per trials on worst-case germination rates.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thanks for offering to grow the plant trials. It is fun seeing and tasting the differences and sharing your evaluations.

Peg Wastell
Plant Trials Coordinator

I am looking for volunteer projects to share with our members. If you have any projects that you are working on or that you know about please send me some information or let me know who the contact person is. I would like to get a scope of what kind of work needs to be done, the main contact person's phone number and email, dates that the project is happening, address where project will take place and any other pertinent information that I can share. The sooner you can get me the information the sooner I can share with the membership. At our welcome meeting on January 26th I will try to have as many projects presented as possible with a chance to sign up.

Send any information to me cimicifuga2@hotmail.com or call me at 651 246 9740.

Thank You and Happy Helping

Pauline Goerd
Volunteer Coordinator

2014 St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Plant Trials

Order Form

The purpose of plant trials is to grow specific vegetable, herb, and flower varieties, evaluate, and share information. Evaluation data includes germination rate, growing habits, flavor, size, color, and texture. Results from data sheets of selected vegetable varieties will be compiled and reported in the SCVMGA newsletter, the state WIMGA newsletter and local newspapers. Participants will be sent report via email. Results will be used to recommend varieties to gardeners on what grows well in our western part of the state.

Each trial consists of four varieties of a particular type of vegetable, herb, or flower. Each trial comes with seed more than sufficient for trial and a data sheet consisting of growing directions and evaluations. You can grow the seeds in any method you wish – containers, square foot method, raised beds, or traditional garden rows.

Grow all four varieties of each trial using the same method and care so we have consistent results.

Order as few as one trial and up to all eight trials.

Please place a check mark next to trials you are ordering.

Vegetables

- _____ 1. Beet (Zeppo, Detroit Dark Red, Moneta, Red Ace)
- _____ 2. Kale (Toscano, Red Russian, Winterbor, Ripbor)
- _____ 3. Lettuce – Romaine (Annapolis, Parris Island, Flashy Trout Back, Salvius)

Orders must be placed no later than January 31, 2014

----- Agreement -----

I agree to participate in the trials I receive, and will plant and grow the seeds to the best of my ability. Working in cooperation with UW-Extension, I will evaluate each variety for various characteristics such as germination rate, appearance, yield, quality, and whether I would grow it again. Data sheets for each trial have specific evaluations that I will complete and return by the deadline approximately October 31, 2014. Completed evaluations to be sent to Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Educator, Pierce County UW-Extension, P.O. Box 69, 412 W. Kinne Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Plant trial seeds will be mailed to the above address by mid-March. Seeds and evaluation sheets can be picked up at March 27, 2014 SCVMGA meeting. The March SCVMGA meeting time is 6:45 p.m. Location is Unitarian Church, N8010 Hwy 65, River Falls, WI. Program information located on our website: <http://scvmga.weebly.com/index.html>.

To help cover the costs of this project, there is a registration fee of \$1.00 per trial plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. For example if you decide to grow all 8 trials your cost would be \$8.00 plus postage and handling. Do not add postage and handling if you plan to pick up your trials at the March SCVMGA meeting.

_____ # of tests @ \$1.00 each \$ _____
 \$2.00 for postage and handling \$2.00
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail your completed order form and check to:

SCVMGA Plant Trials Group
 Peg Wastell
 611 Laurel Drive
 New Richmond, WI 54017

November Meeting Notes

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Speaker Notes

The November meeting was held on the 21st. Attendance was lower than normal due to the nasty weather. A review of the financial audit was presented by Kathye Beebe and Peg Wastell. Everything was in order and a few suggestions for improvements were made. The budget report was presented and reviewed. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the budget. The budget was approved.

New officers for were nominated for 2013. Returning officers accepted nominations for Secretary, St. Croix and Pierce County representatives. A new nomination was presented to Barb Peterson for Vice President. A motion was made to accept the nominations. All agreed and the nominations were accepted.

Remember that membership renewals are due. This year (2013), 35 students completed the Master Gardener training. Join us at the January open house to welcome our new members and start the new year. We will be having pizza before our speaker - a local, internationally known gladiola expert.

Several grant recipients were present to the results of their projects. Sandy prepared a wonderful slide presentation of the rain garden constructed and planted at the Houlton elementary by the children and Master Gardener volunteers. Unfortunately the computer didn't appreciate the file. Sammy Schwarz presented his Eagle Scout project at Prospect Park. The project included building a retaining wall, painting the sign and landscaping the completed sign and retaining wall. Mary Finnigan updated us on the progress of the St. Pat's garden which used to be the site of an old house. Now after a semi load of soil and compost, irrigation system

and lots of work has transformed into an outdoor classroom and quiet space usable by students and teachers. JoAnn Neilson updated us on the changes made to the entrance of the American Legion in River Falls. Our grant was used to accentuate the hardscape present with native plants, mulch and soil tests. The River Falls Montessori School present on their farm-to-school project. Sid and Otto discussed their experiments with seeds, preparing gardens, borders, transplanting and why native plants are important.

Our main speaker was Brooke Gasleyer. Brooke is a UW River Falls senior and the recipient of our scholarship. She used our scholarship in conjunction with others to travel to Germany and intern at a wholesale nursery in Helbraun from February to July. Brooke learned immensely from the host family, apprentices, Polish workers and supervisors. Brooke also worked on a special project to increase the production of Goji berries. She used 8 techniques, 3 cultivars and 25,000 cuttings to help determine optimal growing conditions for the plant. Two of the cultivars had some positive results. Brooke also took advantage of the being Europe and toured many botanically important sites like Pflanzen Kolle, a major retailer that carries plant, hardware and pets. It is grower-owned and uses 100% green energy. She also visited Keukenhof spring flower show with over 7 million bulbs and the Berlin Botanical Gardens with over 22,000 species of plants and many other sites. Of course she also visited other cultural important places like Switzerland, Paris, the French River, Monaco, Pisa and Venice. She ended her trip with a sky diving event out of a helicopter.

The November meeting was a reminder of just how important our plant sale and Garden U are to our organization and our community and what that money generated from them supports. Keep growing those plants and remember to support our plant sale so we can continue funding great projects like what was presented tonight.

Submitted by Trent Kowalchyk; edited by Carol Wilcox

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Update from Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA Rep.

GARDEN EXPECTATIONS: The 2014 WIMGA conference will be held in Appleton in less than 3 months. Registration is now open. You can access conference information at ocmga.net/2733.aspx.

This site includes:

- The conference brochure.
- On-line registration.
- For those who would prefer mailing in their registration, a form is included in the brochure.
- A schedule of the breakout sessions.
- Information about the presenters.
- Lodging information.

Register now to get the early bird rate!

The raffle item this year is a beautiful Wisconsin wildflower quilt. Your state WIMGA representative has tickets available for purchase.

We are excited about bringing this conference to you and look forward to seeing you on March 28th and 29th, 2014.

Thank You,

Outagamie County Master Gardeners

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Deb Pederstuen

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome six more interns from the Fall 2013 MGVS Level 1 training class—Michelle and Tracey Ellevold and Jerry Bridge of New Richmond, Ginny Drath of Emerald, Suzy Naschansky of Somerset, and Bonnie Sortland of Hudson.

Two interns, Colleen Sutter and Marianne Leverty, and two new members, Joni Garbe and Lisa Mosbey, previously joined our group. Our total year-end membership was 211!

This fall, Diana Alfuth's MGVS Level 1 training class had 35 students. It was the first time it was held at the St. Joseph Town Hall in Houlton. Classes return to Ellsworth in 2014.

INVITATION to JANUARY OPEN HOUSE

The 2013 MGVS INTERNS are invited to join SCVMGA and attend our January 23rd Open House at the Unitarian Universalist Society SE of River Falls. We invite interns to come early to get registered before the 6 pm pizza party!

LUCKY WI MGVS OF THE MONTH

In November, Patrick McCardle was the lucky MGVS of the Month.

His name was selected at random from 3,261 eligible MGVSs. He won an extra-large, brushed aluminum travel coffee mug with the new MGVS logo. Congratulations, Patrick!

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Volunteer Opportunities



ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
ARE POSTED ON-LINE AT:

www.scvmga.weebly.com

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Pauline Goerd
(cimicifuga2@hotmail.com) if you have projects in need of help.

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His name was selected at random from 3,261 eligible MGVs. He won an extra-large, brushed aluminum travel coffee mug with the new MGV logo. Congratulations, Patrick!

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES & RENEWAL

You can still renew your 2014 membership. Don't forget to include the EXTRA \$10 RENEWAL FEE assessed after 12/31/13. Send a check payable to SCVMGA to:

Deb Pederstuen
470 Green Mill Lane
Hudson, WI 54016

ANNUAL DUES

\$10 - GRADUATE of Fall 2013 MG Class

\$15 - Individual NEW MG

\$25 - RENEWAL -Individual MG

\$30 - RENEWAL--Family (all must qualify)

If you have questions or circumstances that prevent

you from renewing, please notify Deb Pederstuen at 715-386-6681 or debnrick@gmail.com.

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

One new officer and three incumbents were elected to the Board of Directors at the November 21, 2013 annual meeting.

Barbara Peterson, class of 2008, is our new Vice President. We're already aware of her great organizational and leadership skills. She's not afraid of challenges! As a brand new intern in January, 2009, her second SCVMGA meeting, she took over as our hospitality coordinator. She served as coordinator until November 2011. We look forward to her fresh ideas as vice president.

We're thankful for incumbents, Kathy Williams, Secretary; Kathye Beebe, Pierce Co. Representative; and Paul VanDenMeerendonk, St. Croix Co. Representative who chose to serve a second two-year term on the board of directors

SPECIAL THANKS to Linda Bertram, our 2013 Vice President. She replaced Jerry Olson in his last year of his second 2-year term after serving 2 years as St. Croix County Rep. We greatly appreciate all the time and dedication our board of directors give to our organization.

We can all
dream of
Spring,
right?



HOW TO ORDER YOUR OFFICIAL WIMGA NAME BADGE



WIMGA name badges can be ordered anytime by certified MGVs, using the form below the link on the WIMGA website. You must be certified and current on hours (recertified) to receive a badge.

There is a \$2.00 charge in addition to cost of badge for individual orders. Dr. Mahr prefers group orders and doesn't place the WIMGA order until she has a large quantity of association and individual orders.

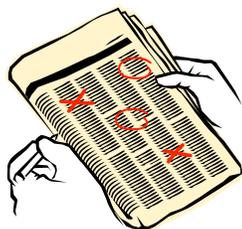
Our group order sign-up is at the January meeting. See Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA rep, at that time to place order and clearly print your name on the order sheet exactly as you want it on your badge. Payment at that time is requested.

The cost is \$6.50 per badge with no additional cost if it is included in the group order. Checks must be made payable to "UW-Horticulture". It may take some time for order to ship.

<http://wimastergardener.org/sites/wimastergardener.org/files/WiscmgFiles/MGV-NameBadgeOrderForm.pdf>

Gardener's Classifieds

If you're cleaning out and cleaning up don't forget that your junk may be a treasure for a fellow gardener. Post your trades, unwanted, and unneeded items in the classifieds for FREE!!



One Thousand Hours!

Donna Davis, Deb Pederstuen and Peg Wastell will all receive 1000 hour certificates for all their years of hard work in SCVMGA's behalf. Kudos to those ladies - they do a lot for the organization. Donna for all the many, many kinds of volunteer hours she puts in, Deb for her invaluable membership efforts and Peg for being so organized and for her original thinking on new ways to promote MGs.

“Gardens are
not made by
singing 'Oh,
how beautiful!
and sitting in
the shade.”

— Rudyard
Kipling,
Complete Verse

***Sprinklings* January/February Issue Information**

The next issue of *Sprinklings*, a publication of the St. Croix County Master Gardeners Association, will be published in March. Submissions should be received by March 7, 2014 for the March issue. Our goal is to ensure members receive their copy of *Sprinklings* prior to that month's meeting.

You are welcome to contribute articles about your favorite gardening subjects, available volunteer and training opportunities for master gardeners, book reviews, or any other gardening related topic you find of interest, including recipes, tips and ideas! Please send submissions or direct questions to Carol Wilcox at caroljeanwilcox@gmail.com or phone 715-307-3879. Email attachment submissions are preferred.