



UW  
**Extension**  
Cooperative Extension

# Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2014

## Latest updates

### Gladiolus Tour - Sept. 6

Spend a day surrounded by glorious color at Jim Madsen's gardens on Saturday, Sept. 6 in Clayton. If you'd like to join others in a chartered bus (@\$10), reserve your seat by emailing Ron Campbell at [rjc1946@att.net](mailto:rjc1946@att.net) or sign up at July's meeting at Heidi's place.

### Logo apparel ready

Be sure to pick up your orders in time for the county fairs. To arrange pickup, contact Kathye Beebe at 715-425-2015 or at [wbeebe@pressenter.com](mailto:wbeebe@pressenter.com)



### Tweets from the pro

Keep up with the latest buzz at the Extension Office on Twitter from Diana. Whether it's warning us about wild parsnip blooms or 4-lined plant bugs on mint or just sharing a great closeup of a black swallowtail chrysalis, Diana lets us in on what's happening in our area. [@DianaHortUWEX](https://twitter.com/DianaHortUWEX)



## July Meeting: 6:45 p.m. Thursday, July

Tour of basket willows, curly willow, pussy willow and dogwoods plus basket weaving demonstration, and tour of flower beds and vegetable garden based on succession planting.

**Heidi Doering's home**  
1085-100th Street  
(5 miles NW of Roberts)

**DIRECTIONS**  
<https://goo.gl/maps/GFHqW>

**NOTE:** Streets run north/south and Avenues east/west.

**PLEASE CARPOOL.** Park on the east side of 100<sup>th</sup> Street. A few handicapped parking spaces are available near the house.

## St. Croix County Fair coming soon

This year's SCVMGA fair booth will offer a host of interactive educational activities for both children and adults.

Curious fairgoers will be able to peek inside the secret world of fungi, insects, or roses through one of two microscopes, owned by **Jerry Bridge**, a MGVA from New Richmond. Jerry will also have six display boards explaining what fairgoers are seeing.

Digging into soil to find critters that help keep the soil healthy is another fun feature. The "critter box" is filled with grasshoppers, centipedes, bees, snakes, and ants for fairgoers to uncover with their hands. Even though these are plastic replicas, they can teach a valuable lesson about the importance of living organisms in the soil.

Potted herbs will give passersby a chance to touch and smell thyme, chocolate mint, cilantro, parsley, lavender and rosemary.

A sandwich board will be available for kids and adults to draw their favorite garden plant, leading to discussions about how to ensure its success. And considering all the rain we've had, a display of potted moss will hopefully lure people to find out more about this shady growth that loves a lot of water.

Volunteers at the booth plan to bring their favorite reference books to display, from butterfly identification and favorite recipes to making soap and lotions with herbs.

It's all about touching, seeing and smelling — the same things we do in our gardens!

July 16-20  
Glenwood City

*Ipomoea indica*



## New Richmond Update



PHOTO BY BARB NELSON

**MGs supervised HS student volunteers at New Richmond Community Garden.**

## Community Garden

by Carolyn Barrette

The beans are about ready to pick. We have already harvested onions and radishes and the garden is going into harvest mode. (Still means there's weeding to do, though.) A couple of events are coming up:

### Summer Stretch Program

Thursday mornings on July 10, 24 and 31, students from St. Anne's in Somerset will be coming to help us 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. If you are off on a Thursday, this is an opportunity to earn some youth education hours that Diana likes to see. We will work with the kids in the garden and they will also harvest produce and take it to Somerset's Senior Center and Grace Place. They have done an excellent job in helping us in the past.

### Tomato Tie-up Day

We will need to schedule this, although the tomatoes are not real big yet. It will be sometime after the middle of July. Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and weekends are scheduled work days, but feel free to come anytime. Be sure to sign in your hours in the notebook in the mailbox by the well house. Help is always needed.

## "To volunteer or not to volunteer" — that is the question

by Suzy Naschansky

As MGVs, we all know the importance of volunteering our time - but what about volunteers in your vegetable garden?

Volunteers are those plants that show up because of seeds that survived the compost pile or because a plant went to seed before harvest last fall. Do you let volunteers grow where they sprout, transplant them, or take them out?

If you don't like mysteries and want nice, neat rows, eliminating volunteers is your best option.

If you don't mind an occasional surprise and are willing to let nature run its course, you may enjoy letting these freebies grow, either right where they come up or in some other location of your choosing.

While garden size and space can impact your decision on whether or not to keep volunteers, another consideration is whether or not you may have hybrid seeds, which won't produce true in the next generation. Unwanted cross-pollination during the previous year can also lead to a disappointing letdown in produce such as cucumbers, squash, and melons.

On the other hand, the unplanned plant is already accustomed to your climate and soil, and adapted to



**Vegetable volunteers in the remains of the author's compost bin.**

pests in your area. Plants that are allowed to choose their own growing spaces are naturally the most hardy and vigorous. Besides, it seems a shame to destroy the results of a courageous little seed that lay outside all winter and miraculously sprouted after waiting so long for spring to get here.

Personally, I've had some horrible-tasting squash and some excellent-tasting tomatoes from volunteer plants. I enjoy finding and identifying these spontaneous seedlings in the spring. If I have the space, I usually can't resist letting them grow just to see what happens.

Rescuing vegetable volunteers is free, fun, and just feels like the right thing to do.

*Ocimum basilicum*

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

*This list is also available online at [scvmga.weebly.com](http://scvmga.weebly.com)*

## Baldwin

**Community Garden**, 1650-8th Ave.  
[philpark@hotmail.com](mailto:philpark@hotmail.com), 715-688-2851  
*Supervise, maintain, harvest, donate*

## Ellsworth

**Pierce County Fair** (Aug. 7-10)  
 Helen at [gfryer@bevcomm.net](mailto:gfryer@bevcomm.net)  
*Planning, setup, man booth, help with displays*

**VFW Post**, 154 S. Plum St.  
 Carol at [matzek@centurytel.net](mailto:matzek@centurytel.net), 715-262-5232  
*Mulch, edge landscape, perennial care*

## Glenwood City

**St. Croix County Fair** (July 16-20)  
 Brenda at [nurseonloose@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:nurseonloose@baldwin-telecom.net)  
 Yvonne at [jdproctor33@hotmail.com](mailto:jdproctor33@hotmail.com)  
*Planning, setup, man booth, help with displays*

## Hammond

**St Mary's Community Garden**, 1420 Fithian St.  
 Mike at [mandb1973@aol.com](mailto:mandb1973@aol.com), 715-386-9792  
*Sunday School garden, Grade School garden coordination or help*

**Village Community Garden**, Ridgeway Road  
 Mike at [mandb1973@aol.com](mailto:mandb1973@aol.com), 715-386-9792  
*Coordinate, help with growing community food, flowers and orchard*

## Hudson

**Hudson Hospital**, 405 Stageline Road  
 Jean at [jean.m.weiler@hudsonhospital.org](mailto:jean.m.weiler@hudsonhospital.org)  
*Indoor plant caretaker; coordinate, help with community garden*

**Octagon House**, 1004-3rd Ave.  
 Jean at [jahaut@comcast.net](mailto:jahaut@comcast.net), 715-377-0645  
*Monday workdays, general garden maintenance*

**Christian Community Home**, 1320 Wisconsin St.  
[shelly.destasio@cchudson.org](mailto:shelly.destasio@cchudson.org), 715-386-9303  
*2-5 hrs. monthly maintenance of Memory Care gardens*

**YMCA Camp St. Croix**, 532 Co. Rd. F  
[stephanie.lentz@ymcatwincities.org](mailto:stephanie.lentz@ymcatwincities.org), 612-465-0561  
*Landscape, greenhouse, flower & vegetable gardens*

## Hudson (cont'd)

**Humble Acres**, 433 East Cove Rd.  
 Diane at 612-290-5004, [www.humbleacres.com](http://www.humbleacres.com)  
*Answer questions, assist with workshops*

**Farmer's Market**, Plaza 94 (June-October)  
 Janet at [dbutler1@presenter.com](mailto:dbutler1@presenter.com)  
 Thursdays, 8 a.m.-noon

**Willow River State Park**, Cty Rd. A  
 Lauren at 715-386-9340  
*Tours and maintenance*

## New Richmond

**Deer Field Gables Care Center**, 575 Hospital Rd.  
 Carolyn at [cacraig@frontiernet.net](mailto:cacraig@frontiernet.net), 715-246-6242  
*Help plant new gardens, maintain gardens*

**Community Garden**, 2050 Hwy 65  
 Carolyn at [tbarrett@presenter.com](mailto:tbarrett@presenter.com), 715-549-6438  
*Planting, weeding, harvesting, planning*

## Prescott

**Great River Road Visitor Center**, 200 Monroe St.  
 Jessica at [jessica@freedomparkwi.org](mailto:jessica@freedomparkwi.org), 715-262-0104  
*Weeding, maintenance*

## River Falls

**Town of River Falls Parks**  
 Dan at [djrandall13@yahoo.com](mailto:djrandall13@yahoo.com), 651-775-6052  
*Entrance sign planting, maintenance at 7 parks.  
 3-4 hours per month*

**Farmer's Market**, 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and Locust St. (May-October)  
 Kari & Rick at [karnhussey@gmail.com](mailto:karnhussey@gmail.com)  
 Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Tuesdays, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.  
*Man booth, answer questions*

**Demonstration & Learning Garden**, Hoffman Park  
 Diana Alfuth at [diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu)  
 "Grow to Share Community Garden"  
*Weed, demonstrate in garden, scout for problems*

*(cont'd on next page)*

*Allium wakegi*



**River Falls (cont'd)**

**St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity**

Susan at [susan.capparelli@scvhabitat.org](mailto:susan.capparelli@scvhabitat.org),  
715-425-5623  
Working on new gardens for Habitat for Humanity homes

**Grow to Share Community Garden**, Hoffman Park

Anna at [growtoshare@gmail.com](mailto:growtoshare@gmail.com), 715-426-0826  
Weeding, planting, watering, harvesting, delivering

**River Falls Community Garden**, RF High School

Amy at 715-307-7317  
Weeding, watering, harvesting

**Roberts**

**Cross Community Garden**, 1246 Co. Rd TT

Mike at [mandb1973@aol.com](mailto:mandb1973@aol.com), 715-386-9792  
Growing community food & flowers, coordinate or help

**Somerset**

**Parnell Prairie Preserve**, 1823-45<sup>th</sup> St.

Jean at [jeanlh@me.com](mailto:jeanlh@me.com)  
Weeding, watering showcase area  
4 hrs per month (May-September)

**Spring Valley**

**Spring Valley Village Gardens**

Sue at [christensons@springvalley.k.12.wi.us](mailto:christensons@springvalley.k.12.wi.us)  
715-778-4559  
Help weed, maintain village gardens

**Anywhere**

**Sprinklings Newsletter**

Colleen at [giverny@me.com](mailto:giverny@me.com), 715-381-9683  
Newsletter items, features, ideas

**Memories of Ted Andrle**

by Deb Pederstuen

Sadly, we lost another member of our Master Gardener (MG) family in June. Ted Andrle (May 7, 1932-June 14, 2014) passed away at the Comforts of Home in River Falls.



Members described Ted as “a sweet man”. He was quiet, kind and well liked. Kathy Beebe, SCVMGA member, told me Ted was very generous and he often brought “large, delicious hot-dishes for a friend, relative or family in need.” Living near the late Mary Alice Peterson, he often carpooled with her to meetings.

Shortly after Ted joined SCVMGA, he served on the board as Pierce Co. Rep. (2004-2005).

He was a a member of SCVMGA for nine years (2003-2011). He volunteered at the Pierce Co. Fair MGV booth, but the Clifton Town Hall gardens is where he proudly earned his hours.

From his obituary, I learned Ted raised saddle bred horses to sell, and rode them in local parades. He was also a talented guitar player in his band called the Happy Rhythm Rangers. Diana Alfuth was impressed that Ted’s family included the Master Gardener Program in his obituary. It was obvious Ted was very proud to be involved in the program.

You can read Ted’s obituary at:

[www.hudsonstarobserver.com/content/theodore-r-andrle-82](http://www.hudsonstarobserver.com/content/theodore-r-andrle-82)

Condolences can be shared with Ted’s family online at <http://hillfuneralservice.com/recent-obituaries/theodore-roman-andrle/97/>



**Hemerocallis frame Clifton Town Hall’s entrance.**

# Membership News

by Deb Pederstuen

## WENDY KRAMER EARNS AWARDS

Three flower creations (left) earned **Wendy Kramer** three blue ribbons last year from the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation (WGCF). Her designs, appropriately



"The Three Ring Circus"

tyed to the theme, Under the Big Top, were featured at last year's Flower Show at the First Bank of Baldwin.

Wendy, a certified MGV in SCVMGA and member of the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club in Baldwin, is also an accredited flower show judge. After four years of courses and an exam in April she is now a National Garden Club, Inc. Accredited Judge, Level 2. Her first official judging will be at the Wisconsin State Fair in August.

Wendy will also be competing in the next WGCF, Botany Belles and Beaus Standard Flower Show, "Beauty Across America," to be held this month at the bank. Congratulations Wendy!



"On the Flying Trapeze"

## ARTFUL GARDEN TOUR

The rains held off and the weather was spectacular the entire weekend of June 28-29 for the 15th Annual Garden Tour sponsored by the Hudson Women's Club. **JoAnn Ryan's** beautifully landscaped gardens and raised vegetable beds were among the seven public and private gardens featured.

Well known for her popular flower garden design class at SCVMGA, JoAnn, certified



"Walking the Tightrope"

MGV, uses her own landscape design as an example at her first design class each year.

SCVMGA members who hosted their gardens in past Artful Garden Tours are **Peg Wastell** (2009), **JoAnn Ryan** (2010) and **Michele McElmeel** (2013).

This year's garden tour also involved Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) who answered questions at the gardens-- **Maggie Allison, Pat Angleson, Carolyn Barrette, Lisa Bigaouette, Jane Hanson, Jean Haut, Peg McKintosh, Deb Pederstuen, Matt Schmitz, and Margaret Smith.** Consider volunteering next year as it's a fun way to earn volunteer service hours while serving your community.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Need volunteer service hours? Consider joining the Nomination Committee! It involves a few meetings in late summer to establish a slate of candidates to replace open positions on the board of directors.

The committee consists of 1 board member, 1 representative from each county, and an Ex-officio-President or Past President.

If you live in Pierce or St. Croix County, you can apply! Contact Deb Pederstuen, at [debbrick@gmail.com](mailto:debbrick@gmail.com) or 715-386-6681.

## AUGUST MEETING

**by Carolyn Barrette**

August 28 meeting is another off-site trip. We will be going to C R Stephens - Still H2O - to his a new shop in the Valley Mall in Stillwater.

CR has lots of room and information about hydroponics and indoor gardening. Just in time to start your winter garden. He also has beer and wine information should you want to get into home brewing or wine making.

Go to Stillwater, west on Hwy/ 36 to Valley Mall. He's on the east side at the corner close to Anytime Fitness.

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Aristos (Mediterranean/Greek) and Aca-pulco (Mexican) are two good places to eat right around the Mall , if you want to make an evening of it.

**JUNE MEETING**



**Goldfinch Farms tour a stunning success**

by Mary Pat Finnegan

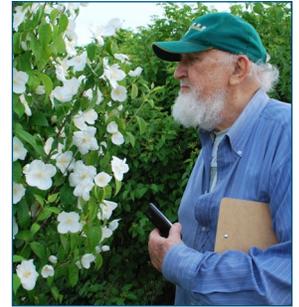
At the June 26th meeting, approximately forty master gardeners gathered for walking tour of Goldfinch Farm, located near Baldwin.

Prior to splitting into two groups for the tour, Heidi Doering, St. Croix County Horticultural Agent, and Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Educator, Pierce County UW-Extension, pointed out a few examples of wild parsnip that were growing across the road. Wild parsnip is an invasive weed that resembles Queen Anne's Lace. Contact with wild

parsnip causes a delayed reaction (usually one day after contact) with symptoms that range from red-ened, itchy, skin (like a sunburn), to red, blistering skin that feels like it's been scalded. Heidi and Diana gave tips on protecting oneself while getting rid of this highly invasive plant.

Bryan Gjevre, a co-owner of Goldfinch Farms with Harold Wilkins Ph.D., then spoke a little about the farm. It's a windy site, a little over 9 acres. He talked about

the effects of chemicals used on nearby farm fields, how they select what to grow, and the challenges from such a wet spring. One of his suppliers is Lawyer Nursery Inc. in Montana.



**W. Roy Evans from Emerald smells mock orange blossoms.**

The anaerobically digested cow bedding/manure that he uses as mulch and to suppress weeds is bought in bulk, but he suggested that gardeners who wanted a smaller quantity seek out the product BovineBasics.

Bryan is also a bee-keeper, so he talked about the importance of using organic gardening methods to ensure healthy hives.

Selling year-round includes forsythia and pussy willow early spring; peonies and tulips in the spring; a multitude of beautiful grasses, annuals, perennials, and woody stems in the summer and fall; and red twig dogwood, bittersweet, curly willow, and winterberry in late fall/early winter.

They market their plants to local and metro area florists to use in floral designs. Bryan and Harold also sell directly to the public at the Mill City Farmers Market in Minneapolis.

The flyer for the walking tour mentioned the wide variety of annuals, perennials, bulbs and woody plants grown on the farm but it did not prepare those in attendance for the profuse and stunning display!

Thank you to Heidi for arranging the tour and thank you to Bryan for being such a gracious host!



**SPRINKLINGS PROFILE**

# Diana's Gardens

by Colleen Callahan

A jade plant in Diana Alfuth's home dates back to her childhood. It's a descendant of her grandmother's plant, one with a "branch that made it look like a tree you could hang a tire swing on," Diana said. Diana was seven when her grandmother gave her a "slip" to plant on her own and she has been digging in soil ever since. In fact, planting is her favorite part of gardening: "It's always full of hope and anticipation!"

Perhaps that's why Diana loves teaching so much. She gets to plant seeds of knowledge and watch her students blossom. Having taught almost 900 adults through her Master Gardening course since 1999, her classroom garden is thriving.

That doesn't count the Sustainable Landscape Design course at UW-River Falls she teaches every spring, or all the stand-alone classes she offers to the general public on specific topics such as houseplants, berries, trees, vegetables, diseases, insects and even a class on "septic tank landscape design."

Diana teaches outside the classroom as well. On average, she replies to 60 email and phone inquiries each week. One moment she's explaining that the fuzzy plums are a result of brown rot, another moment it's how to get rid of giant ant colonies on one's grass.

She enjoys the variety of questions, and the rewarding part, she says, is how appreciative and thankful people are.

"Even if I have to tell them bad news, like their tree is dying and there's nothing they can do about it, they

still thank me and are relieved that it's not their fault," said Diana.

Diana also manages to write bi-monthly reports for the County Board, helps update the state's Master Gardening manual, author six articles a year for the Wisconsin Gardening magazine, create PPTs for classes, plan for the Demonstration Garden and participate in weekly phone meetings with her cohorts across the state. Plus, Diana is helping out the Polk County office by fielding phone inquiries from its residents for the next two years. All of this as a part-time UW Extension Horticulture Educator for Pierce County and she seems to love every minute of it.

Diana's first office task each day is to write her "to-do" list. She doesn't stress out about it. "If I get through half of it at the end of the day, I'm happy," she said.

When she arrives home, her first task is to clean out the horses' stalls.

She owns six American Paint horses and yearns for more free time to ride.

Then she'll check out her vegetable garden (she freezes a lot for winter).

Next she'll survey her fruit trees (apples, pears, cherries and peach) and blueberry patch.



PHOTO BY DIANA ALFUTH

**Diana lives on a hill and can see for miles in all directions, which is the reason she took storm-spotter training this spring. A Bristlecone pine in the foreground is among Diana's favorite plantings.**



PHOTO BY COLLEEN CALLAHAN

**Diana in her office.**



PHOTO BY DIANA ALFUTH

**One of the frogs in her pond "sounds like a laughing duck."**

*(cont'd on next page)*

(cont'd from previous page)

Then maybe she'll harvest some goodies from her "wild garden" in the woods: morels, ramps, raspberries, blackcaps and plums.

Diana doesn't plant annuals anymore. Years ago, she planted a huge bed on a slight slope, only to have heavy rains erode it all and bury the flowers in six inches of sediment. "I learned a lot from that experience!"

She learns a lot from listening to MGVs, too, she said, because "they'll have experience with a certain plant that I don't have."

Of all the things she's learned about plants, she's most fascinated by "the odd things they do to survive, like spit their seeds 30

feet away from them and create 'antifreeze' to make it through the winter."

Diana makes it through her winter surrounded by lots of succulent houseplants: "They're forgiving if you don't water regularly."

Yes, she admitted she doesn't water regularly. And she hasn't weeded much this summer.

But if she wants to spend quality time with her husband, horses, two Golden Retrievers and three kittens, she needs to prioritize her gardening chores.

People sometimes have unrealistic expectations, she said. "Just because I have a master's degree in horticulture doesn't mean I have perfect gardens. There's no such thing."

One can dream, though. If Diana had a \$1,000 garden makeover, she'd hire someone to remove and replace the shrubs lost to winter dieback (spirea, roses, etc.) and "do all the pruning," her least favorite gardening task.

And if she could wave her magic horticultural wand, she'd solve two of what she believes to be the most pressing issues in NW Wisconsin: invasive species and the loss of environmental protection.

Despite these concerns, Diana remains the eternal optimist.



PHOTO BY DIANA ALFUTH  
A twig arbor houses Diana's famous flying pig and a stained-glass centerpiece. Diana enjoys creating stained-glass designs including the one on Page 1, which hangs in her office window.

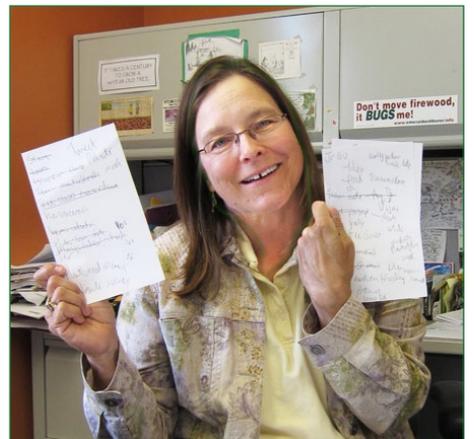


PHOTO BY COLLEEN CALLAHAN  
This day had two "to-do" lists.

"Everyday is rewarding in the life of a gardener," she said. "Every flower that blooms or vegetable that makes it on to a plate is a great feeling!"

It all begins with digging into that soil.

## CLASSIFIEDS

Looking for an item for your garden? Want to get rid of one? Wish to thank a fellow MG for their help? This is the place to announce it all. Please send your Classified info to the editor before the first Friday of the publication month at [giverny@me.com](mailto:giverny@me.com) or call Colleen at 715-381-9683.

### WANTED

SEEDS for Little Free Libraries throughout our region.

SHADE PERENNIALS. Will dig up and pay fair price. Contact Colleen at [giverny@me.com](mailto:giverny@me.com)

### FOR SALE

(Here is a spot to sell anything for the garden or gardeners.)

### FREE

(Remember, your junk may be someone else's garden treasure.)

### THANK-YOU

THANK YOU, Carol Wilcox, for all your work as *Sprinklings* editor and helping me learn the ropes as your successor. THANK YOU, Suzy Naschansky, for your eagle eye in proofing this issue! Colleen

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