

Newsletter  
of the St. Croix  
Valley Master  
Gardeners  
Association



## SCVMGA Monthly Meeting

**Date: Thursday, June 26**

**Location: Goldfinch Farm**

**Meeting at 6:45 p.m.**

**Tour to follow, given by:  
Bryan Gjevre**



## Important Announcements

The **June 26 meeting** begins the “tour season” for Master Gardener meetings. Heidi Doering has arranged a tour of Goldfinch Farm, located at 2340 Hwy. 12; 2.2 miles east of Baldwin, WI. The farm is owned by Harold Wilkins, Ph.D., and Bryan Gjevre. They grow a wide variety of annuals, perennials, bulbs and woody plants that are used by local florists in their design work. They also market local seasonal cut flowers at the Mill City Farmers’ Market in Minneapolis and to several retail florists in Western Wisconsin and the Twin Cities.

We will join Bryan on a walking tour of the Goldfinch Flower Farm. He will share insights gained from nearly ten years of using holistic and sustainable methods to produce high quality, locally grown outdoor cut flowers. The discussion will include soil fertility, variety selection, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), weed control, irrigation, crop rotation and post-harvest handling.

The meeting will start at 6:45 as usual. Space for parking is limited so **PLEASE CAR POOL**. You cannot park on Hwy. 12 and walk in. A suggestion — park in Baldwin at one of the larger lots along Hwy. 12 going east out of Baldwin, and car pool from there. You could also park at the Extension Office on the south side of Baldwin and car pool from there.

### ***Additional notes from Heidi:***

- It’s typically quite windy at the farm, so it is recommended that folks bring a sweater or windbreaker and raingear if rain is forecasted.
- The farm is about 8 acres, so people should wear comfortable shoes and plan to be on their feet for an hour or so.
- We request that people bring their own chair. BYOC!
- There is a 20ft x20 ft garage that we can get into in case it rains, but no other outbuildings, so hopefully the weather will cooperate.

Another tour is available through UW Extension. See the [attached PDF](#) for more information and to register.

The **July 24 meeting** includes a tour of Roxanne Kiefhofer’s straw bale gardens. Her home is located at 1669 220th St. in the Town of Emerald. Take Hwy. 63 N and turn east on County Road G (or 160th Ave.), turn north onto 220th St. At that meeting we’ll also have reports from all our garden groups to catch up on what they are doing.

# Effects of Climate Change Studies

By Deb Pederstuen

I found two articles in the Spring 2014 issue of the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences—*Solutions* magazine that may be of interest to master gardeners.

The first article is “What Would Warmer Look Like?” by Becky Beyers. Researchers are simulating the effects of climate change on the boreal forest near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in a project called The “B4Warmed” Project. It's led by the UM, Department of Forest Resources Regent's Professor, Peter Reich and others. The project began seven years ago at the Hubachek Wilderness Research Center and the Cloquet Forestry Center.

The warmer and drier climate is simulated in 72 plots, each ten feet in diameter, by several methods:

- Artificially warming small plots of trees, and understory with underground cables or infrared lamps to either 1.7 or 3.4 degrees warmer than the ambient temperature, eight or nine months of the year, March or April to November.
- Diverting 40-45% of seasonal rainfall into rain barrels to simulate the effect of drought.

Researchers keep track of the overall growth and performance of transplanted seedlings and volunteer herbaceous plants. They also look at how seeds establish themselves in warmer, drier conditions and compare the phenology of insects to that of the plants.

So far, researchers have learned plants are adapting even in just a few years of simulated warmer and drier air, “just like athletes adapt to warmer temperatures”. The warmer climate in spring is beneficial because plants grow faster. However, the warmer air in the fall is detrimental as plants lose moisture more quickly.

The second article, “Now You See Them”, by Sara Specht describes how researchers are using radio

collars and plants in the B4Warmed plots to determine why the moose population in northeastern Minnesota has dropped 52 percent in the past eight years.

The saying, “You are what you eat” is true for moose too. After radio collars are attached to captured moose, researchers trace the movement of the moose and see what they choose to eat. UM Ecologist, James Forester, and others can determine what a moose has eaten for the past year by analyzing the long moose hairs collected from its shoulder in early winter. Then they compare the isotopic traits in the hair to the signature of plants in the area.

The team analyzed clippings from paper birch and balsam fir (common moose foods) from the B4Warmed plots where the ground temperature is warmer. Specht stated, “as a plant grows, it develops plant secondary metabolites (PSMs) as defense against being eaten.” Some plants are developing more and more concentrated PSMs with the warmer climate and longer growing season. What they don't know is if the PSMs are making the plants taste bad or becoming harder for the moose to digest.

Plants may be benefiting from the warmer temperatures, but the moose are not. Moose look for cover or wetlands to keep cool and are more adapted to cold temperatures. Researchers continue to use tracking data to see if moose will respond to the landscape by changing their behavior so they get all the things they need –food, cover, and protection from predators. However, researchers hope to change land management practices if necessary once landscape patterns and plant composition can be linked to how a moose can survive.

Sources:

“What Would Warmer Look Like?”, Becky Beyers, *Solutions*, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota, Spring, 2014, page 11.

“Now You See Them”, Sara Specht, *Solutions*, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota, Spring, 2014, pages 12-14.

# Got Milk...weed?

by Suzy Naschansky

Have you ever heard the saying that weeds are simply good plants growing in the wrong place? Over time I've changed my mind about certain weeds, and one of those is the Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*). This perennial is a “weed” in that it grows and reproduces aggressively, but this weed is uniquely important. Milkweeds (*Asclepiadaceae*) are the only plants that Monarch caterpillars eat, and there is great concern that this beautiful migrating butterfly may be going extinct. While there is no single cause for the decline in the Monarch butterfly population – the same is true among bees, other butterflies, and pollinators in general – most experts agree that the greatest threat to the Monarch is its dwindling habitat across the Midwest. If we don't have milkweed plants, we won't have Monarch butterflies.

Common Milkweed grows 2 to 5 feet high, and thrives in full sun to partial shade. It can be grown in all types of soil, and is hardy in zones 3-8. The downy plant has large, fragrant, purplish to pink rounded flower clusters that bloom from June to August. This perennial wildflower is native to much of the US and Canada. The name milkweed refers to the milky white sap in its leaves and stems, which contains bitter chemicals to protect the plants from predators. The leaves, new shoots, flower buds, and firm seedpods are edible (toxins are removed by cooking); some describe the flavors as reminiscent of spinach, asparagus, or okra. In the fall, the flowers develop into 2–4 inch long spindle-shaped pods, which can be used in dried floral arrangements or left to provide winter interest in the garden. Most importantly, Monarch butterflies cannot complete their life cycles without milkweed.

Milkweed would be a great addition to your native garden, so why not plant some to feed the Monarchs? Gardener's Supply Company is offering free seeds in a 'Milkweed for Monarchs' campaign: <http://www.gardeners.com/how-to/free-milkweed-seeds/8608.html> (ends June 30, 2014). Plants and seeds are also often available at area nurseries that carry native plants. Or you may just find that all you need to do to start growing your own Milkweed plant is simply to resist pulling that “weed” that popped up in your yard!

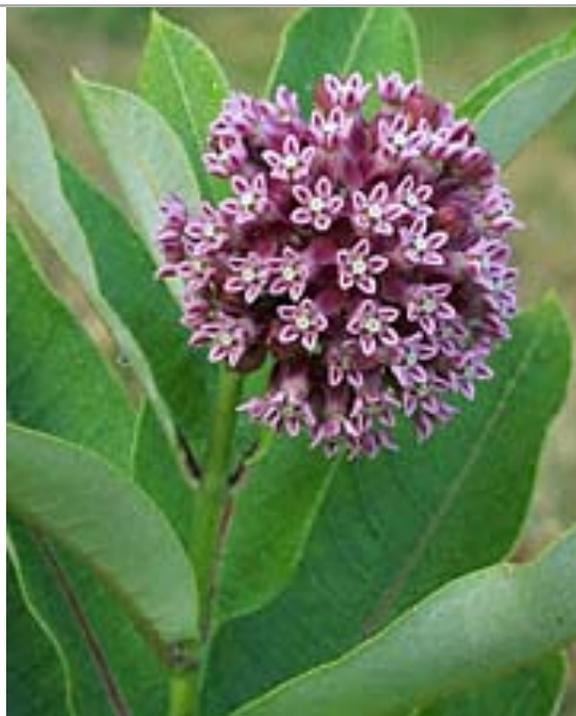


Photo from enature.com

## Additional Resources:

Monarch Watch Conservation Campaign - [www.MonarchWatch.org](http://www.MonarchWatch.org)

University of Minnesota Monarch Lab - [www.monarchlab.org](http://www.monarchlab.org)

Wisconsin Butterflies - [wisconsinbutterflies.org](http://wisconsinbutterflies.org)

## *Did You Know?*

*Monarch butterflies cannot fly if their body temperature is less than 86 degrees. They will sit in the sun or “shiver” their wings to warm up.*

*From Defenders of Wildlife website*

## Community Garden News

*By Carolyn Barrette; edited by Carol Wilcox*

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who came Saturday morning, May 31, to help plant tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and squash seeds. Our garden is in now, except for a later planting of beans to keep that harvest going. The vegetable trial garden is planted in one of the plots too.

Twenty New Richmond High School students came on Service Day to do the initial work of planting onions and seeds. They also helped spread the big piles of corn



stalk mulch we got from Chrisdhome Farms north of New Richmond. Our Master Gardener volunteers supervised the students, several of whom asked to be able to come back to work on the garden. Isn't that great! Thank you to the Service Day volunteers.

Now the work begins. Jobs still needing to be done include putting the drip hoses out and the perpetual weeding. Harvests won't start until mid-July. Right now scheduled volunteer days are Tuesday mornings, Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings (or other weekend time if people want to come). The signup book is in the mailbox next to the green wellhead building where the biffy is. Please be sure to sign in so we can keep track of the many volunteer hours required to work this garden, and supply fresh produce to senior centers, public health programs, food shelves and senior living units.

Your help is needed! Just a few hours weekly, or when you can, help in this important Master Gardener sponsored effort. Friendly people abound, and there's always something new to look at in the Garden Expressions shop.

We'll look forward to seeing you. You all garden, you know a weed when you see it; feel free to come any time day or night to work. We need your help. Questions? Email me at [tbarrett@pressenter.com](mailto:tbarrett@pressenter.com) or call.

## Volunteer Opportunities



ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE  
POSTED ON-LINE AT:

[www.scvmga.weebly.com](http://www.scvmga.weebly.com)

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Pauline Goerdts  
([pleen117@hotmail.com](mailto:pleen117@hotmail.com)) if you have projects in  
need of help.

- Baldwin** Community Garden 1650 8<sup>th</sup> Ave [philpark@hotmail.com](mailto:philpark@hotmail.com) 715 688 2851  
\*Supervise & assist gardeners \*maintain garden areas \*harvest and donate
- Ellsworth** Pierce Co. Fair Helen [gfrayer@bevcomm.net](mailto:gfrayer@bevcomm.net)  
Aug 7-10 \*man booth \*help with displays \*planning \*set up  
VFW Post 154 S Plum St Carol 715 262 5232 [matzek@centurytel.net](mailto:matzek@centurytel.net)  
\*help mulch and edge landscape \*perennial care
- Glenwood City** St. Croix Co. Fair [nurseonloose@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:nurseonloose@baldwin-telecom.net) [jdproctor33@hotmail.com](mailto:jdproctor33@hotmail.com)  
July 17-20 \*man booth \*help with displays \*planning \*set up
- Hammond** St. Mary's Community Garden 1420 Fithian St. Mike 715 386 9792 [mandb1973@aol.com](mailto:mandb1973@aol.com)  
\* Sunday school garden \*Grade School garden \*coordinate or help  
Village Community Garden Ridgeway Road Mike 715 386 9792 [mandb1973@aol.com](mailto:mandb1973@aol.com)  
\*growing community food, flowers & orchard \*coordinate or help
- Hudson** Hudson Hospital 405 Stageline Road Jean [jean.m.weiler@hudsonhospital.org](mailto:jean.m.weiler@hudsonhospital.org)  
\*Indoor plant caretaker \*Community garden \*coordinate or help  
Octagon House 1004 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Jean 715 377 0645 [jahaut@comcast.net](mailto:jahaut@comcast.net)  
\*general garden maintenance \*Monday workdays  
Christian Community Home 1320 Wisconsin St. 715 386 9303 [shelly.destasio@cchudson.org](mailto:shelly.destasio@cchudson.org)  
\*Memory care gardens maintenance \*monthly maintenance 2-5 hours  
YMCA Camp St. Croix 532 Co Rd F 612 465 0561 [stephanie.lentz@ymcatwincities.org](mailto:stephanie.lentz@ymcatwincities.org)  
\*landscaping help \*flower gardens help \*vegetable garden help \*greenhouse help  
Humble Acres 433 East Cove Road Diane 612 290 5004 [www.humbleacres.com](http://www.humbleacres.com)  
\*answer questions \*assist with workshops  
Farmer's Market Plaza 94 June – Oct Thursday 8-12 [dbutler1@presenter.com](mailto:dbutler1@presenter.com)  
Willow River State Park Cty Rd A Lauren 715 386 9340 \*tours \*maintenance
- New Richmond**  
Deer Field Gables Care Center 575 Hospital Rd Carolyn 715 246 6242 [cacraig@frontiernet.net](mailto:cacraig@frontiernet.net)  
\*help plant new gardens \*maintain gardens  
Community Garden 2050 Hwy 65 Carolyn 715 549 6438 [tbarrett@presenter.com](mailto:tbarrett@presenter.com)  
\*planting \*weeding \*harvesting \*planning

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- Prescott** Great River Rd Visitor Center 200 Monroe St. Jessica [jessica@freedomparkwi.org](mailto:jessica@freedomparkwi.org)  
 \*weeding \*maintenance \* 715 262 0104
- River Falls** Town of River Falls Parks Dan [djrandall13@yahoo.com](mailto:djrandall13@yahoo.com) 651 775 6052  
 \*entrance sign planting & maintenance at 7 different parks \*3-4 hours per month
- Farmer's Market 2<sup>nd</sup> St. and Locust St. Kari & Rick [krnhussey@gmail.com](mailto:krnhussey@gmail.com)  
 May–Oct Sat 8-12; Tues 4-6 \*man booth \*answer questions
- Demonstration and Learning Garden Diana Alfuth [diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu)  
 By Hoffman Park at Grow to Share Community Garden  
 \*weeding \*demonstrate in garden \*scouting for problems
- St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Susan 715 425 5623 [susan.capparelli@scvhabitat.org](mailto:susan.capparelli@scvhabitat.org)  
 Working on Habitat for Humanity homes and the new gardens they are planting
- Grow to Share Community Garden Anna 715 426 0826 [growtoshare@gmail.com](mailto:growtoshare@gmail.com)  
 Hoffman Park \*weeding \*planting \*watering \*harvesting \*delivering
- RF Community Garden Amy 715 307 7317  
 on RF High School property (Cemetery Rd) \*weeding \*watering \*harvesting
- Roberts** Cross Community Garden 1246 Co Rd TT Mike 715 386 9792 [mandb1973@aol.com](mailto:mandb1973@aol.com)  
 \*growing community food and flowers \*coordinate or help
- Somerset** Parnell Prairie Preserve 1823 45<sup>th</sup> St. Jean [jeanh@me.com](mailto:jeanh@me.com)  
 \*weeding and watering showcase area May – Sept @ 4 hours per month
- Spring Valley** Spring Valley Village Gardens Sue 715 778 4559 [christensons@springvalley.k12.wi.us](mailto:christensons@springvalley.k12.wi.us)  
 \*help weed and maintain village gardens
- Anywhere** We need people to write articles for the *Sprinklings* newsletter. If you have researched a topic or would just like to share your knowledge on a subject please feel free to write an article and submit it to our

## Membership News from Deb Pederstuen, Membership Director

Colleen Callahan is our new *Sprinklings* Editor! The Editor's position was advertised in the May issue of *Sprinklings* and on the SCVMGA website.

Colleen's a new 2013 MGVI intern who hasn't wasted any time getting involved! Before she even registered as a SCVMGA member, she joined the Visual Communications (Photo) Committee. At her first meeting on April 24th, she photographed all the new 2014 grant recipients. Later, she had her own photo taken with the new 2014 SCVMGA members. Following the meeting, she submitted the grant recipients' photo with an article for publicity to local newspapers for the Grant Committee.

With her background in journalism and newsletter experience, Colleen is the perfect candidate for Editor! She will train with Carol Wilcox to learn the ropes of editing and assembling the *Sprinklings*. She plans to continue the same great work of Carol who has been our wonderful Editor for nearly three years. Best wishes to both Carol and Colleen in their new adventures.

## Plant Sale Success!

On Saturday, June 7th, the many volunteers involved with the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association hosted their 10th Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Octagon House in Hudson. This event is the single largest fundraiser for the organization, which uses proceeds from the sale to fund community grants supporting school gardens, food source gardens, elder care garden projects and many other initiatives –connecting people to gardens – throughout Pierce and St. Croix Counties.

Despite a steady downpour, those who wait all year for the Master Gardener Plant Sale showed up in droves. And many first-time customers went home with plants as well. It was a soggy but successful sale. Over \$3,100 was raised for the SCVMGA Grant Program.

A special Thank You! goes out to the many committed volunteers coming together to turn a blustery, wet Saturday into a successful fundraising day for SCVMGA. Go to the website <http://scvmga.weebly.com/> for photos of the plant sale.

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## 2014 WIMGA Conference

A summary of the activities and presentations at the 2014 WIMGA Annual Conference can be found at this link:  
[http://www.ocmga.net/media/41929/final\\_special\\_edition.pdf](http://www.ocmga.net/media/41929/final_special_edition.pdf).

Please take a look and see the fun and educational events that happen at the conference. WIMGA encourages you to consider attending the 2015 conference in La Crosse.

Diane Kachel  
WIMGA Secretary

## Talented Master Gardeners

Our local Master Gardeners have a multitude of talents besides the ability to grow great plants! The below picture demonstrates that in two ways.

The picture takes place at the Demonstration & Learning Garden in River Falls, on our planting night in late May. The picture is taken behind the gate that was built and installed by Master Gardener LeRoy Clark! When we showed up at the garden, there was this AMAZING wood gate, with letters and vegetables all cut out of wood. It's a beautiful addition to the garden, and it keeps out the bunnies. (Unfortunately, it doesn't keep out the cutworms, which have reared their destructive little heads.)

The second talented Master Gardener involved is Barb Bear. You'll see her in the picture, peeking over the gate. But she was actually the one who took the picture! Then we took another picture with her in it, and she magically combined the two shots so that we were all in the picture. You'd never know it if you weren't there.

THANK YOU to both LeRoy and Barb for sharing your talents with the Master Gardener program, and THANK YOU to all the Master Gardeners who are out there in full force now that the growing season has begun. Western Wisconsin is a better place because of you ☺

*Diana*



## 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.

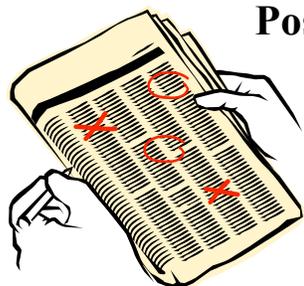
**Our group order sign-up is at the January meeting.** See Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA rep, at that time to place order and clearly print your name on the order sheet exactly as you want it on your badge. Payment at that time is requested.

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://wimastgardener.org/sites/wimastgardener.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  
unneded items  
in the classifieds  
for FREE!!**

## Upcoming Event

# Gladiolus Tour Saturday, September 6

Remember those cold winter days when we didn't have a meeting and couldn't learn about gladiolus from Jim Madsen, the premier glad grower in this area? Master Gardeners have the opportunity to visit his beautiful glad gardens outside Clayton WI, on Saturday, September 6. Jim did attend Garden U so some of us could buy his gladiolus corms and meet him. The National Glad Society visited his gardens last year— this year is our chance!

MGs can arrange for a bus to visit Madsen's garden. For approximately \$10 each, at least 40 could ride a bus to the gardens at Clayton. If you are interested in the bus ride, please let Ron Campbell ([rjc1946@att.net](mailto:rjc1946@att.net)) or a member of the Board of Directors know. MG Paul VanDenmeerendock can arrange for a Hudson School bus to help us save gas and have a fun trip north. We do need to get an idea of how many would be interested in the bus, and where we could park and ride. Thoughts? Let us know. Thank you.

### ***Sprinklings* June Issue Information**

The next issue of *Sprinklings*, a publication of the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association, will be published in July. Submissions should be received by July 4, 2014 for the July 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 Colleen Callahan at [giverny@me.com](mailto:giverny@me.com) or phone 715-381-9683. Email attachment submissions are preferred.