



Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

June 2017



Plant sale breaks record – again!

by Corky Weeks

SCVMGA had another spectacular plant sale on Saturday, June 3. It was a hot and sunny day, in spite of the rainy forecasts earlier in the week and it brought crowds of plant bargain hunters.

The gross proceeds this year were just over \$5,000 which shattered our old record of \$4,300. This will be more than enough to fund the community grants we awarded last month for 2017.

Many thanks to all the 30 MGVs who donated plants, and the 60 MGVs who participated, both in the Friday night set-up and the Saturday sale.

A special thanks to **Christine McGinnis**, co-chair; **Tim Wilson**, equipment manager and all around plant wrangler and **Donna Davis**, “Ask a Master Gardener” table and special projects manager.

In addition to the many wonderful plants our members donated, we got unsold plants from the Washington County Master Gardeners plant sale, the Polk County Master Gardeners plant sale, and the plant sale of the Trillium Chapter of the Perennial Garden



A sunny morning greeted MGV volunteers as they prepared for the 13th Annual Plant Sale at the Octagon House in Hudson. (more photos on page 3.)

Club of Stillwater, plus wheelbarrows full of hostas from the Octagon House gardens. Thanks to them for contributing to our success.

Some of our past and current grant recipients came at the close of the sale to get free plants for their projects. Extra plants were given to Boardman Meadows in New Richmond and to the YMCA Camp in Hudson.

We ended up with an abundance of daylilies, which will be available to the public through a free-will offering at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Roberts, 801 Wagner Drive, this Father’s Day.



Stock up on daylilies this Father’s Day at Habitat for Humanity Restore in Roberts.

JUNE MEETING

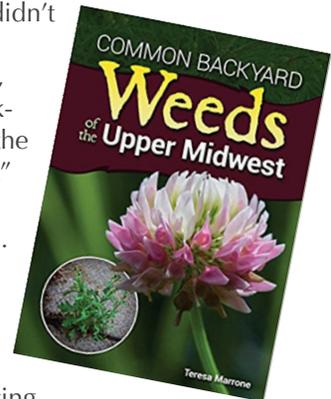
All about weeds

by Carolyn Barrette

On Thursday, June 22, we’ll hear again from Teresa Marrone, our Garden U speaker on fruits and berries. This time she’ll tell us about the weeds in our gardens. How can we not want to hear about that pesky vegetation we didn’t plant?

Her latest book, “Common Backyard Weeds of the Upper Midwest” was just published in March.

The meeting will be at First Covenant Church in River Falls, starting at 6:45 p.m.



Volunteers needed at St. Croix County Fair

Our theme this year is “Feed the World, Start at Home,” and will feature intensive gardening and containers for small spaces. MGVs will create a new outdoor booth site at the Home and Community Education Building with lawn improvements and a new floral garden.

To volunteer, email [Norma Rudesill](mailto:Norma.Rudesill@scvmga.org) or call her at 715-688-2160. A SignUp Genius form will also be available soon on our website. A great way to add to your volunteer hours!



President's Message



Trent Kowalchuk

May and June are busy months. The transition between spring and summer can be quick. It seems to happen overnight sometimes. All of those spring projects need to be completed before the summer heat gets here. The nice weather has dried out things enough that I have been able to complete planting my garden. This year I have found a new helper. My little doxie Mater has decided he is a gardener. He loves running down the rows packing down the seed bed, jumping over the row strings to verify they are the correct height and sniffing everywhere to make sure things are in order. He is also fascinated by the process of placing seeds in the soil and then covering them up. So far he hasn't uncovered any to check if they are growing. He doesn't even mind the bath that usually is needed after being in the garden. My last

doxie would viscosly protect the garden from toads. I tried my best but no toad was safe. Mater has yet to find a toad but sooner or later he will.

I just returned from the boundary waters canoe area, trying to catch a walleye for dinner. Sometimes macaroni and cheese ends up being on the menu. A few years back a fellow camper came back from the ranger box (a pleasant term for the rustic sanitary facility at each boundary waters campsite) and asked about a plant near the box. Having never seen one before, we both agreed it looked like a lady slipper not yet in bloom. In plain view as one sits on the facilities. You never know where and when you will see interesting plants.

There are no guarantees in fishing but I can guarantee that after a week of not working in the garden there will be weeds. Luckily Tesera Marrone will be speaking about her new book on weeds and how to deal with them at our June 22 meeting.

What's happening?

New Richmond Community Garden Update

Service Day for the New Richmond High School on May 29 accomplished its goal. Twenty-one students and two teachers joined eight master gardeners to plant beans and onions. We also spread newspapers and cardboard underneath corn mulch. The students helped lay the sprinkler hose and connections. Several boys put in the stakes to tie up the tomatoes in June. The students arrived at 8:45 and left at 11:45. Master gardeners met afterward for a potluck in the new green house at Garden Expressions Nursery.

Thanks to 11 Master Gardeners, the tomatoes, peppers, and Trent's bunching onions were planted on Saturday, June 10. Beginning as early as 6:30 a.m., they finished by 9:30 before the heat and humidity set in. Some MGVs stayed later to weed and mulch. Newspapers, cardboard, corn mulch, and free hay bales will help keep it weed free. Newspapers are no longer needed. Fortunately, early Sunday morning storms didn't affect the plants.

Attending were **Sue Ballard, Carolyn Barrette, Gloria Bonse, Donna Cadenhead, Dick Hasselman, Helen Hegernes, Karen Jilek, Patricia Miller, Bonnie Rohr, Margaret Smith, and Nikol Shirts.**

The areas where **Trent Kowalchuk** planted oats last year had significantly less weeds, so he will plant oats on another unused area this year.

SCVMGA-sponsored tours

Our next garden tour will be at Donna Davis's home in Houlton, on Tuesday, July 18, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Reservation deadline is July 10. Click [here](#) to add your name to the SignUpGenius form on our website. For a preview, check out [Donna's gardens](#) in the June 2016 issue of Sprinklings.

The final event this year will take us behind the scenes at Como Conservatory and Japanese Gardens on Saturday, Sept. 16. Keep your calendar open!

Thanks to **Debby Walters** and **Anita Austin** for arranging the tours. Remember, they count toward education hours.



Donna holds a seedhead of *Carex grayi* grass.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Deb Pederstuen



Deb is a 1999 MGCV class graduate and our first Membership Director, beginning in 2000. Her mission has been to welcome and inform every new Master Gardener Volunteer.

MGV **Helen Heggernes** of New Richmond is our 197th member! She's a four-year SCVMGA member who rejoined after a brief year in Eau Claire. Helen praised our group saying she's very happy to be back.

Notice a new greeter at the May meeting? It's **Helen Fryer** of Hager City. Pierce County MGCVs should recognize Helen. She's a seven-year member who co-coordinated the 2014 Pierce Co. Fair with **Susan Wallin**. We're delighted to have both Susan and Helen on our Welcome Committee.

NEW HOMES FOR GARDEN TREASURES

MGV Peg McKintosh of Hudson won a cute ceramic cottage, perfect for a fairy garden, and 2016 MG Intern, Karen Nork of New Richmond got the charming garden wreath for her backyard. Both treasures were compliments of Barbara Johnson, our former Volunteer Coordinator Assistant.

NEW VOLUNTEER PROJECTS COORDINATOR

MGV **Mitzi Roy**, our Assistant Garden U Coordinator, is eager to begin her new role as Volunteer Coordinator. Following some training with Lisa Mosbey, Mitzi will be ready to answer your questions about our volunteer projects.

NEW GARDEN U ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

After enjoying two fantastic Garden Us in 2016 and 2017, MGV **Lisa Esselman** of Houlton wants to be more involved. Mitzi Roy, past will introduce her to Brittany at Hudson House Grand Hotel to begin 2018 Garden U plans with longtime coordinator **Carolyn Barrette**.

Current employees, retirees of Ecolab

Ecolab grants available to SCVMGA

The Ecolab Foundation offers two types of grants to qualifying non-profit organizations:

- "Doers for Dollars" – The foundation will donate \$200 to an organization where an employee or retiree volunteers 25 hours of service annually.
- Board Leadership program – The foundation will donate \$500 each year to an organization where an employee or retiree serves on the board.

SCVMGA is an approved organization. If you're a current Ecolab employee or retiree who would like to participate in the grant program, please contact [Barb Peterson](#).

Plant sale gets new coordinator



Beginning next year, Tim Wilson (right) will take over the helm of the Annual Plant Sale from Corky Weeks (right). After 11 years of planning and growing the event into a major fundraiser for SCVMGA Community Grants, Corky will stay on as "coordinator emeritus." Thank you, Corky, for your outstanding contribution and dedication!



(Top left): Christine McGinnis, assistant coordinator; (Bottom left): Mitzi Roy; (Top right): Karen Jilek; (Bottom right): Trent Kowalchuk

Flea Beetles

by Jerry Bridge

Flea Beetles are common insects in the garden but are often not observed because of their small size, frequently no more than 2–3 mm (1/12 inch) in length, although a few species are somewhat larger. However as pests their activity is known by the numerous small holes adults leave in leaves from feeding. They often have enlarged hind legs for jumping, hence the name. There are about 500 species in North America with something like 60 species in Wisconsin, 10 to 12 species being common here in gardens. Many species have quite a narrow group of plants they feed on: some feeding on members of the mustard family, some on the potato family, and so on. Flea beetles overwinter as adults usually under plant debris and are some of the earliest emerging insects in spring. They may have one or two generations per year.

Two common species in Wisconsin are the Potato flea beetle (*Epitrix cucumeris*) and the Grape flea beetle (*Altica chalybea*). The first feeds on potatoes, tomatoes and eggplants; the second on grapes and Virginia creeper. Many of the features used for identification to species are microscopic. The potato flea beetle is black with puncture marks arranged in rows and has fairly long hairs on the back. The



(left) **Potato flea beetle**
NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
(above) **Grape flea beetle**
USDA PHOTO

grape flea beetle is bluish-green with no apparent punctures and no or little hair, and is larger. Both species are native insects.

Flea beetles can appear to do much damage but often the plant does not show any obvious stress, so control methods are often not necessary. Some management tools one may use when significant damage appears or to prevent large numbers of flea beetles from developing are: control weeds to reduce habitat for

larvae and food for young adults, fall clean up to limit overwintering sites, row covers, planting a trap crop (radish or pac choi), insecticides (many are available) for foliar spray treatment. Since most damage is done in spring (especially on seedlings) sticky cards can be used to monitor flea beetle presence and relative population numbers. Cole crops seem to be more susceptible to harm than other crops. The white larvae of flea beetles feed on roots and usually do little damage; an exception at times is the potato flea beetle.

Jerry has been a SCVMGA member since 2013. With a background in biological sciences and mathematics, he was an education consultant in a former homeland of South Africa. His interest in insects began many years ago in subarctic Canada.



Karalyn's Kitchen

Karalyn Littlefield, a MGVA since 2013, teaches classes in Food Science and Animal Science at UW-River Falls. After receiving a master's degree in Food Science, Karalyn worked in the food industry.

Potato Salad

It is the season for gardening as well as a time to gather with family and friends. It's a time for picnics and one of my favorite foods is potato salad. My Mom, Karen, credits her mother-in-law, Mathilda, for teaching her how to make potato salad. Grandma taught Mom by pinch and squirt and taste. That is how we made this salad for many years, including when we did catering for large gatherings.

One day, my cousin, Julie, asked Mom for the recipe. She would not settle for a pinch of this and a squeeze of that until it looks right. So, the next time we made potato salad, we measured every squeeze, pinch and dollop and wrote down this recipe. Enjoy!

Potato Salad (serves 25)

- 5 lbs. potatoes
- 1 dozen eggs (hard-boiled and diced)
- 1 cup finely chopped onions

Scrub potatoes. Place in a pot and cover with water. Add 1 Tbls salt. Bring to a boil and cook until tender when pierced with a fork. Drain and cool. Peel potatoes and cut into 1/2"-3/4" dice.

Put potatoes, eggs and onions in a large bowl.

Dressing

- 3 cups white salad dressing
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/4 cup yellow mustard
- 2 Tbls salt
- 5 Tbls sugar

Mix dressing ingredients until smooth. Pour over potato mixture. Mix well. Right, after mixing, the flavor will be slightly salty and slightly sweet. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have a project that you would like to include on this list, please contact [Mitzi Roy](#), Volunteer Coordinator.

Note: click on underlined names for direct email links.

BALDWIN-WOODVILLE

Baldwin Community Garden

[Wendy Kramer](#)

B-W Giezendanner School Forest

[Debby Walters](#)

control invasive species

Viking Middle School

[Debby Walters](#)

maintain prairie restoration project

ELLSWORTH

Pierce County Fair (Aug. 10-13)

[Leroy Clark](#)

plan, setup displays, staff booth

Pierce County Fairground Gardens

[Karen O'Brien](#)

Ellsworth Ambulance Hall

[Kevin Ballman](#)

ELMWOOD

Personal Property Plant ID Project

[Teresa Davis](#) *Work as a team to identify plants in people's yards*

GLENWOOD CITY

Glenwood Community Garden

[Barb Nelson](#)

Glenwood City "Welcome Cows"

[Bonnie Walters](#)

help 4-H club with maintenance

St. Croix County Fair (July 19-23)

[Norma Rudesill](#), 715-688-2160

plan, setup displays, staff booth

HUDSON

Hudson Farmers Market (Plaza 94)

Tuesdays 8 a.m.-noon (June-Oct.)

[Maria Scheidegger](#)

Volunteers will set up, tear down table, answer questions

Lakefront Park (April-Oct)

[Ramona Robinson](#)

Octagon House (Mondays)

[Janet Haut](#)

Willow River Elementary School

[Ramona Robinson](#)

Willow River State Park

[Melissa DuPont](#)

Hudson Middle School

[Mike Deneen](#)

Birkmose Park Indian Mounds

[Marianne Leverty](#), 715-549-5528

maintain native plantings

Homestead Gardens, Perch Lake

(April-Oct.) [Justin Townsend](#)

plant annual garden, bring ideas for beautifying park

Christian Community Home

[Deb Pederstuen](#) *Weekly 2-hour maintenance of courtyard gardens*

Healing Waters Health Center

[Nancy Lawton-Shirley](#)

NEW RICHMOND

New Richmond Community Garden

[Donna Cadenhead](#)

plant, weed, harvest, donate produce

Deerfield Gables Care Center

[Carolyn Craig](#)

Cancer Center of Western Wisconsin

[Julie Walsh](#), 715-246-9999

Leadership Trust Initiative

[Kristin Thompson](#)

PRESCOTT

Great River Road Visitor Center

[Deb Kittilson](#)

Prescott Public Library

[Danielle Welch](#)

planting community garden for Summer Reading Program

Downtown Prescott Flowers

[Miranda Green](#)

watering flowers Mon, Tues, Wed.

RIVER FALLS

Boulevard Flower Plot

[Donna Reuter](#)

Demonstration and Learning Garden

(Hoffman Park) [Diana Alfuth](#)

plan, weed, give demonstrations, scout for problems

Junior Garden U (Hoffman Park)

[Diana Alfuth](#)

Grow to Share Community Garden

(Hoffman Park) [Megan Loga](#)

need board member, coordinator

Grow to Share Herb Garden

(Hoffman Park) [Heidi Nemcek](#)

Environmental Stewardship

(Grow to Share Gardens) [Kristin Wilson](#)

Have a Heart Farm

[Bobbie Kuhn](#)

River Falls Farmers Market

Tuesdays and Saturdays

[Elaine Baker](#)

staff booth, answer questions

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity

[Dennis Schmidt](#)

Westside Elementary Garden

[Becky Cunningham](#)

guidance on seed, plant selection, coordinate student garden work

Westside Elementary Science Showcase

[Becky Cunningham](#)

VFW-Greenwood Cemetery

[Kathee Beebe](#)

City of River Falls

[Crystal Raleigh](#)

ROBERTS

Cross Community Garden

[Mike Deneen](#)

SOMERSET

Parnell Prairie Reserve (May-Sept)

[Jean Hoffman](#)

ANYWHERE

Hospitality Committee

[Trina Frank](#)

bring treats to monthly meetings

Sprinklings Newsletter

[Colleen Callahan](#)

contribute articles

Garden Book Collection

[Joni Garbe](#)

donate used gardening books

Visual Communications Team

[Leslie Holt](#)

take photos of SCVMGA events

MGV "Helping Hands"

[Gail Behr](#)

help fellow MGVs in time of need

Native Plant Study Group

[Gail Behr](#)

maintain demo garden, integrate native plants into SCVMGA sites

Sun & Country Messenger, Osceola

[Suzanne Lindgren](#), editor

write monthly garden column

Volunteer Opportunity

Mitzi Roy, the new coordinator for Volunteer Opportunities, is looking for two assistants. Please contact Mitzi for more information.

July meeting

Tour of landscaping, hosta gardens in Baldwin

Rock Landscape and Gardens, Inc, will be the venue for our July 20 meeting. The gardens contain thousands of hosta varieties and hundreds of landscaping ideas.



Name this plant
CONTEST

Native to North America, this plant is grown more for its foliage than its flower shown below.



Go to "Contact Us" on our website to enter the contest. You must give the genus name. **Deadline is midnight, June 20.** All correct answers will be entered in a drawing to be held at the June 22 meeting. This month's prize is a SCVMGA t-shirt (\$15 value).

Clarification on Cutworms

The May issue of Sprinklings showed photos of the adult black cutworm and adult variegated cutworm, neither of which cause damage. Below are photos of the larvae. It's the larvae that do the damage and are seen by gardeners.



Black cutworm larva (*Agrotis ipsilon*)
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Variegated cutworm larva (*Peridroma saucia*)
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

SCVMGA is listed on 3M's Matching Gifts

Each year the 3M Foundation will donate \$250 to an approved nonprofit organization for each employee or retiree who volunteers at that organization. An employee must volunteer 20 hours a year; a retiree must volunteer 25 hours.

Thanks to MGV **Barb Kolpin**, SCVMGA has been accepted into the "Volunteer Match" program. Barb submitted the necessary nomination information.

If you are a current or retired 3M employee, all you have to do is register your volunteer hours by logging on to www.3mgives.com. Near the bottom of the page is a link to Employees and Retiree Matching Gifts.

Sprinklings

Sprinklings is a newsletter publication of the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association and is published eight times a year: monthly issues in May, June, July and August; and bimonthly issues in September/October, November/December, January/February, and March/April. It is emailed to members in PDF format, and archived on the association's website at http://scvmga.weebly.com

All SCVMGA members are welcome to contribute articles, information, book reviews, or ideas on any horticultural topic. Submission deadline is the first Friday of the publication month. The next deadline is **Friday, July 7** for the July issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to giverny@me.com.

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