



Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

[SCVMGA Website](#)

MARCH-APRIL 2015

Wall of
Plants

p. 8

President's Message

As I write my article for the March Sprinklings, winter is very much in control. But, if the weather people are correct, spring will be in charge when you read this. Starting seeds and bulbs for the coming growing season is one way to enjoy gardening this month.

Another way is education. See Page 5 for a bounty of opportunities available to expand our horticultural knowledge, to learn about new perennials, shrubs and trees, to consider ways to improve our garden landscapes, and to be more adventure-some in our use of the land.

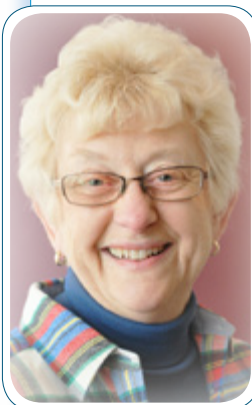
At our February meeting, Diana Alfuth listed a number of classes. They include Brian Huddleston, UW-Extension plant pathologist on "Plant Disease Diagnosis," Diana Alfuth on "Public Grounds Care and Maintenance," Diana Alfuth on "School Garden Safety and Success," Diana Alfuth on "Getting the Most from Vegetable Gardens," and Diana

Alfuth on "Flower Garden Design."

There are also some wonderful Saturday conferences with great speakers, horticultural vendors, and opportunities to socialize with others who love to garden. Our own **Garden U**, organized by Carolyn Barrette, will take place March 21 at the Hudson House. Plus, two events are occurring on March 14: **Spring Fling**, sponsored by the Washington County Horticultural Society at the Woodbury Minnesota High School, and **Garden Expo 2015** sponsored by the UW-Extension Master Gardeners and UW- Manitowoc on the Manitowoc campus. In just two days you could have all your education hours for the year, have a wonderful time, and be ready for spring.

Although I will miss our March meeting (*I will be flying to Greece that day*) I hope you will be able to hear Cathy Olyphant, St. Croix Valley Bird Club, talk about the birds in our counties and how to attract them. I know Trent Kowalchuk, VP, will ably lead the meeting.

Read on! Learn on! See you at Garden U!!



Barb Peterson

What birds are in our backyards?

Cathy Olyphant, a popular speaker from the St. Croix Valley Bird Club, will tell us about the many kinds of birds to be seen in Pierce and St. Croix counties and give hints on attracting them to our backyard.

Our regular meeting will start at 6:45 p.m., Thursday, March 26 at [First Covenant Church in River Falls](#).

Please note there is no entrance from Main Street. The entrance is via Quarry Road on the corner of Kwik Trip.

Cathy's presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m.

The public is invited.

Herbs, Forests, Prairies

With a new location and timely topics, Garden U has moved to the [Hudson House](#) this year.

Back by popular demand is Lise Wolff discussing herbal first aid. Lise will explain how taking care of yourself and your family is possible using the common weeds in your yard. Lise has studied herbalism for 18 years and is a professional member of the American Herbalist Guild.

Next will be Lee Frelich, Ph.D., Director of the U of MN Center for Forest Ecology. Among his areas of expertise are the global warming impacts on forests and animals. Expansion of grasslands and savannas at the expense of forests, and loss of species from the boreal biome (*St. Croix Valley is located at the biome's southern tip*) are likely to occur by the end of the 21st century, he says.

After lunch, Janna Jonely of Prairie Restorations will talk about the importance of restoring the prairie. By their nature, agricultural fields and turf landscapes are comprised of very few species. This lack of diversity not only makes them more susceptible to disease, it provides little in terms of wildlife habitat. However, a green space rich in native species encourages the presence of a myriad of wildlife. Janna is Director of Retail Operations at Prairie Restorations.

Garden U

Saturday, March 21

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Still time to sign up!

Email [Carolyn Barrette](#) or call her at 715-549-6438

Updates

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Our SCVMGA family tree continues to grow! We're 196 members strong with 180 renewals and 16 new members.

At our January Open House, we welcomed 13 interns from the 2014 MGCV Class, eager to start on their volunteer hours. They hail from all corners of the two counties: **Susan Ballard** and **Donna Cadenhead** of New Richmond; **Teresa Davis** of Elmwood; **Susan Mooney** of Ellsworth; **Melissa Duden** of Maiden Rock; **Shirley Ellingboe** of Prescott; **Denise Flaherty** of Hammond; **Ramona Robinson, Chao Yang** and **Frank Yang** of Hudson; **Donna Reuter** and **Maria Scheidegger** of River Falls; and **Mary Saunders** of Woodville.

Three new members unable to attend in January were **Teresa Anderson**, 2014 MGCV intern, of Hudson, **Judith Coyer**, 2002 MGCV, of Emerald, and **Gail Behr**, 2009 MGCV of Spring Valley. Hope you get a chance to meet all our new members. – *Deb Pederstuen*

MGV STATE NEWS

The Wisconsin Master Gardener Association (WIMGA) is holding its 2015 Annual Conference in La Crosse July 31-Aug. 1, 2015.

The Bluff Country Master Gardener Association is hosting the event. We welcome all Master Gardener Volunteers and anyone who wants to learn more about gardening. More information is available [here](#).

The International Master Gardener Conference, "Horticultural Horizons in the Heartland,"

will take place Sept. 22-25, 2015 in Council Bluffs, IA. You can join the mailing list to get regular updates by texting "IMGC2015" to 22828. You can also check out its [Facebook](#) page.

Planning has begun for the next Midwest Regional Gardener Conference, scheduled for Sept. 14-17, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells. WIMGA is hosting the event with assistance from MGCV



organizations throughout the state.

Matt Schmitz and Marilyn Gorham are serving on the planning committee on behalf of the St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Association, and will be needing additional volunteer help as planning goes into full swing. – *Marilyn Gorham*

PLANT-SALE STARTERS

It's not too soon to remind you all about our 11th annual plant sale on Saturday, June 6 at the Octagon House in Hudson. While you're watching your seedlings grow on the kitchen window or anxiously wondering which plants made it through the winter, also consider what you can donate to the plant sale and how you can help this year.

We're asking people to start seedlings for the plant sale. We've identified some plants that we'd like to have available. If you're interested, please contact [Heather Lane](#). She has seeds available and will mail them to you.

Some people signed the volunteer sheet at the January meeting, but we can always use more. We especially need volunteers to help out before the sale date by digging plants from other people's gardens, hosting drop-off sites in various places in the two counties and delivering plants to the Octagon House. If you can do any of these tasks, contact [Corky Weeks](#) or [Heather Lane](#). You'll be hearing more about the plant sale in future newsletters and at the monthly meetings. – *Corky Weeks*

SCVMGA IN AREA MAGAZINE

Our group will receive area-wide publicity in the upcoming April issue of [St. Croix Valley magazine](#).

The magazine made its debut in March. The publication covers arts, culture, health, food, and business throughout the St. Croix River Valley.

The print version is available through subscription only at \$12/year. Copies of one issue may be obtained through its [Circulation Department](#).



NEW, IMPROVED WEBSITE

Want to know who's in charge of a particular committee, when and where the next meeting is, or how to get some continuing education hours? You will find the answers on our [website](#).

Since assuming the role of Webmaster one year ago, Ellen Montgomery has made some significant improvements. In addition to reorganizing and expanding the content, Ellen has greatly increased the ease of finding information about our organization. In particular, the 'About Us' page now has links to our monthly programs, major service projects, garden groups, and much more.

Don't miss the 'Calendar,' which includes local gardening-related events, in addition to the ones we sponsor.

A project still in the works is an interactive map of the location of SCVMGA gardens we tend, so you can find volunteer opportunities closest to your location in a visual format, or check out gardens while traveling through our counties.

The Membership Directory, Volunteer Opportunities, and 'Sprinklings' newsletters are also all available on the website, but are password-protected because they contain personal contact information of our members. The password to access these items is **Daisy**. You can also contribute information (e.g., blog links, photos, recipes), ask a question, or just leave a comment using the 'Contact Us' form on the website.

Thank you, Ellen, for your dedication and great work! – *Suzu Naschansky*

SURVEY COMING SOON

A membership survey will be arriving in your email sometime in April. The purpose is to share interests, learn how to better meet members' needs, and gather information about communication preferences. The electronic survey will be anonymous and take only a few minutes to complete. We look forward to your feedback!





Karalyn's Kitchen

Karalyn Littlefield, a MGV 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 for several years.

Rhubarb: a first taste of spring

Humans have used rhubarb for at least 5,000 years. In the beginning, rhubarb was used medicinally for its purgative qualities (that is, as a laxative). Only the stalk is eaten, as the leaves contain the toxin oxalic acid. One would have to consume about five kilograms of leaves to reach toxic levels, but it is advised to refrain from eating any amount. The best use of the leaves is to mulch around the rhubarb plants to control weeds.

There are no known records of rhubarb in culinary dishes prior to the 1880s, when it was a popular ingredient in desserts and wines. Rhubarb consumption increased until World War II, when sugar rationing dramatically reduced rhubarb use, as anyone who has tried unsweetened rhubarb knows it requires sugar. Now, rhubarb is on the rise again. Home gardeners mostly grow it, though there is commercial production in Washington and Oregon.

One of the lures of rhubarb is that it is harvested well before other vegetables and is a welcome fresh food after long winters. Rhubarb can be forced by covering the plant with a light-blocking container in early spring to enjoy its freshness even earlier. Though it is a vegetable, it is classified as a fruit in the U.S. as a result of politics and tax codes, and is mostly eaten as a fruit.

Today, rhubarb is showing up as a component in savory dishes often paired with meats and cheese. Even so, I will stick with dessert options.

This recipe is from my Mom. Precooking the sugar and cornstarch adds a dimension to the dessert that makes it well worth the extra effort and additional kettle to wash.

Happy spring and happy rhubarb eating.

RHUBARB CRUNCH

4-5 cups rhubarb washed and cut into 1/4- 1/2 inch slices. Set aside.

CRUMB MIXTURE

Combine the following and set aside:

- 1 c. flour
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. melted butter
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 c. uncooked oatmeal

COOKED MIXTURE

Combine the following in a heavy-bottom saucepan. Cook until thick and clear, stirring often:

- 1 c. sugar
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 c. water
- 1 tsp. vanilla (add after cooking)

ASSEMBLY

1. Put half of crumb mixture in bottom of 9 x 13 pan.
2. Add rhubarb and pour cooked mixture on top.
3. Top with remaining crumb mixture.
4. Bake 1 hour in preheated 350° oven.

RECIPE FROM KARALYN LITTLEFIELD, SCVMGA SPRING 2015



Easy Herb Gardens

By Lisa Mosbey

I was thrilled to see Herbalist Lise Wolff on the agenda for Garden U this year. Lise will be talking about wild plants for first aid. If you're not ready to go hike and wildcraft your own, how about some ideas for an herb garden at home?

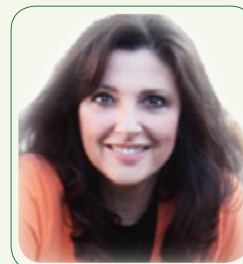
Not even "Webster" knows the true definition of herbs vs spices, it's changed so many times. We herbalists have a more broad definition: herbs and spices are the leaves, flowers, seeds, bark, and roots of woody or herbaceous edible plants. This includes ginger roots, garlic bulbs, pine needles, and other nutritive foods that are all bundled together to create "herbal remedies."

A home culinary herb garden can double as a tea or medicinal garden. The difference is the quantity and preparation of the plant material. Culinary uses are either fresh or dried and generally used in small quantities of 1-2 tablespoons. Most budding herbalists open the door to herbalism starting with herbal teas. A traditional cup of tea is often made with a teaspoon of dried leaves or flowers. A basic herbal tea "remedy" may contain the same ingredients as a traditional cup of tea with a higher quantity of plant material, steeped for a longer time to extract the plant's medical constituents.

Creating your own culinary-herbal-tea-remedy garden is easy. Whether you're using a container or a backyard garden bed, some of the easiest herbs to begin with are peppermint, lemon balm, sage, thyme, basil, cilantro, parsley, and rosemary. I will be doing some in-depth articles on each of these herbs in future *Sprinklings* editions.

Another way to get some great hands-on experience with herbs is to visit or volunteer at our Medicinal Herb Garden Project in River Falls. In the past, the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Grow to Share has had a small space with herbs for a tea garden. Last year we created a much larger "trial" medicinal tea garden, and this year Grow to Share has voted to make this a permanent addition. If you are interested in learning more about growing and using herbs both culinary and medicinally, I hope you'll join us for the **Grow to Share Medicinal Herb Garden Project**. Sign-up sheets are available at the monthly SCVMGA meetings.

Precautions: Because many herbs are potent, small amounts used regularly may be safest. Anything beyond culinary amounts may be too strong for certain individuals, such as women who are pregnant or nursing; individuals with some health conditions (e.g., liver disease); or those taking medications such as blood thinners and blood sugar-lowering drugs. For the science and studies on herbal remedies visit www.Pubmed.gov.



Lisa, who received her MG training in Nevada, is a Holistic Health Practitioner, Herbalist and Aromatherapist whose mission is to educate and empower people to use herb and essential oil plant remedies to aid their health and well-being. She writes a [blog](#) on herbs, gardening tips and recipes.

Getting ready for spring with 'proven winners'

By Sandy Madsen

Debbie Lonnee, Planning and Administrative Manager at Bailey Nurseries, is a well-known local horticultural speaker. She is horticultural editor for *Northern Gardener Magazine* and writes a "Plant to Pick" monthly article.

Debbie gave us an enthusiastic presentation of beautiful slides that was well received on a blustery, cold January evening. She included information on trees, shrubs, fruits, perennials and annuals. The hand-out is posted on our [website](#).

We learned about the Bailey category of "Proven Winners," which represents a history of success above and beyond others in its category. We also learned about some "First Editions" releases, which designate the plant's first year of public release. The woody varieties that Debbie highlighted include birch, magnolia, nine bark, elm, barberry, hydrangea, potentilla, azalea, spirea, weigela and rose. Some new fruits from Wisconsin include apple, cherry, blueberry and raspberry.

Her list of new outstanding perennial varieties include lamb's ears, coral bells, speedwell, hosta, bugloss, astilbe, baby's breath, sedum, catmint and Shasta daisy. Her annuals include a few Easy Wave, Supertunia and Crazytunia petunias, a New Guinea impatiens, a few begonias, calibrachoa, verbena, euphorbia and digiplexis. Just for good measure she highlighted one vegetable: a tomato variety named Indigo Ruby, with its dark maroon flesh.

Debbie's special insight into the unique growth qualities of the presented varieties was invaluable. Her information will help simplify the creation of our plant shopping list.



PHOTO BY BARB NELSON



PHOTO BY ELLEN MONTGOMERY



PHOTO BY ELLEN MONTGOMERY

January's Open House Kickoff event brought 88 members and four guests together for a night of celebrating accomplishments and preparing for this year's gardens. Kathy Beebe (top left) displays SCVMGA apparel for sale. Debbie Lonnee (top right) prepares her presentation on 'proven winners' and 'first editions.'

Lilies rank fourth in cut flowers with \$58 million in annual sales

By Trent Kowalchuk

The February SCVMGA meeting was held at the First Covenant Church in River Falls. This was our first meeting at the facility and it provided plenty of room for the 61 members present, as well as room for displays of volunteer activities, grant proposals and SCVMGA apparel.

Following announcements and a break with wonderful treats, David Zlesak, Associate Professor of Horticulture at UW-RF who researched lilies for his Ph.D., provided a talk filled with great information and humor.

There are five classes of lilies: Asiatic, Oriental, Martagon, Trumpet and Aurelian, with between 85-100 species growing between 10 and 60 degrees latitude mostly in South Korea. There are seven sections, and hybridization can occur with one of those sections.

All lilies are herbaceous plants

with scaly bulbs and have six stamens, three sepals, and three petals. Lilies rank fourth in cut flowers with \$58 million in sales annually; Easter lilies account for \$35 million in sales and 11.5 million bulbs. Most are cultivated from clones, but seeds are still a cheap, virus-free source.

Asiatic lilies are very durable with a wide variety of colors and are minimally fragrant; they bloom mid season. Aurelian lilies are more tubular and fragrant late-bloomers, but don't like heavy soil. Martagons have pendant-like flowers; they are a woodland plant and prefer shade or wooded settings. Oriental hybrids are fragrant, big-bloomed late season flowers and contain some of our favorites, like stargazers. Trumpet lilies are fragrant and have flowers facing out. Easter lilies are part of this group and are from Japan. New hybrid classes like Orienpet, LA and

LO are supplying more new varieties.

Fall is the best time plant, but spring is okay. Buy spring bulbs as soon as they are available and plant or keep dormant until soil conditions permit. Take care of those new bulbs, as flowers for next year may be already present depending on the variety. Resist planting that pot of Easter lilies in your garden as almost all are infected with a virus that may spread to other lilies.

April 23 meeting

Mycologist Joni Garbe will tell us how to find safe mushrooms to eat, what they look like, which are not safe, and many ways to prepare them. Joni teaches about mushrooms in the Hudson Community Ed program.



Educational Opportunities

MARCH

"Creating a Healthy Lifestyle to Last a Lifetime"

A 4-part series through Elmwood Community Education by MGV Debra Andazola. The last two sessions are still open. Participants will receive samples from class. \$15/class. Email [Debra Andazola](mailto:Debra.Andazola@mc.edu) for more info.

Monday, March 16

6:30-8 p.m., Ellsworth High School
"Healing Touch & Essential Oils"

Monday, March 23

6:30-8 p.m., Ellsworth High School
"Let's Grow Herbs"

"Spring Fling"

Saturday, March 14

8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Woodbury High School

Sessions on new plant releases, gardening for pollinators, four-season gardening and landscape design. Sponsored by Minnesota Master Gardeners and the Washington County Horticultural Society.

\$35. [More info.](#)

"Garden Expo"

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, March 14

UW-Manitowoc campus

Classes on landscaping, lawns, invasive species, organic gardening, hosta gardening and backyard wildlife.

\$12. Sponsored by UW-Manitowoc Office of Continuing Education and UW-Extension Master Gardeners. [More info.](#)

"Garden U"

9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, March 21

Hudson House, Hudson

(See front page for details)

"The Science (and Art) of Plant Disease Diagnosis"

Wednesday, March 18

6:30-8:30 p.m., River Falls Public Library

Dr. Brian Hudelson ("Dr. Death") will describe symptoms and causes of plant diseases. He will explain how to prevent diseases and how to save a diseased plant. Hudelson is director of the UW Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic. Free. Must pre-register by calling 715-273-6781.

"School Garden Safety and Success"

Monday, March 23

6:30-8:30 p.m., River Falls Public Library

Diana Alfuth will help adults who work with kids discover fun, educational and safe gardening activities.

Free. Must pre-register by calling 715-273-6781.

APRIL

"Getting the Most from Your Vegetable Garden"

Thursday, April 2

6:30-8:30 p.m., Elmwood School

Diana Alfuth will discuss planting choices, soil preparation, fertilization, and more.

Free. Must pre-register by [email](#) or call 715-639-2711 ext. 6207

"Environmental Studies School"

Friday, April 10 & Saturday, April 11

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon

Both days: \$75; One day: \$40

Classes include endangered plants and wildlife, environmental stewardship, rain forests, air ecology and environmental ethics. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. [More info.](#)

"Landscape Design School"

8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 14

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, April 15

First Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.

Both days: \$60; One day: \$45

Classes include landscape design maintenance, accessories, architectural history, urban design and native plants. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation. [Go here](#) to download Brochure 3.

"2015 Wild Mushroom Certification"

Friday, April 24 OR Saturday, April 25

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Baldwin Ag Center

Mike Kempenich, owner of Gentleman Forager, will explain how to identify, harvest, and sell mushrooms according to Minnesota regulations.

\$65 for Wisconsin residents

Pre-registration required by April 17.

Sponsored by UW-Extension.

Email [Heidi Doering](mailto:Heidi.Doering@uwex.edu) or call her at 715-531-1930.

Over a ton of produce given away each year

St. Croix Valley Community Garden nourishes area residents

By Carolyn Barrette

The St. Croix Valley Community Garden was started as a Master Gardener project in 2001 to provide the opportunity for New Richmond citizens to rent a small plot for personal gardening.

The first Community Garden was located at the Health Center, and moved to its current site at Garden Expressions Nursery in 2006. The garden is located at 2050 Hwy 65, 1.5 miles north of New Richmond on land donated by Jonna and Dick Klucas.

The Garden is run as a community service project by the St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Association. The purpose of the garden has been to provide vegetables for senior centers, senior housing, the homeless shelter and public health food programs



PHOTO BY BARB NELSON

among other recipients.

The service area has primarily been St. Croix County with occasional deliveries into Polk and Pierce Counties. Over a ton of produce has been given away each summer and fall since 2001.

While other community gardens also

serve as rental plots for locals, and give away some of their produce, the St. Croix Valley Community Garden is the only one which gives away all its produce.

The Garden also serves as an educational project; one of the plots has been devoted to the Master Gardener seed trial plot for vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Every May New Richmond high school students help plant the garden on Service Day. The high school volunteers are responsible for planting rows of onions, green beans and other seed vegetables, as well as preparing beds for tomatoes, peppers and vine crops planted later in the month.

Service Day will be May 15 this year.

Volunteer Opportunities

Coordinator: [Lisa Mosbey](#)

Lisa completed her MGV training in Nevada in 2009 where she taught herb container gardening classes. She transferred to SCVMGA in 2013. Lisa is a holistic health practitioner, herbalist, and aromatherapist.

Assistant Coordinator: [Deb Schommer](#)

Deb Schommer is interested in all things organic, self-sustaining and "green" promoting. She enjoys raising chickens, gardening (including straw-bale gardening) and learning how to work with her new greenhouse. She completed MGV training in 2014.

PLEASE NOTE: Underlined names are active links to email addresses.
This list is also available on our [website](#).

BALDWIN

Community Garden, 1650-8th Ave.
[Wendy Kramer](#) 715-684-3642
Supervise, maintain, harvest, donate

ELLSWORTH

Pierce County Fair (Aug. 13-16)
[LeRoy Clark](#) 715-273-4245
Planning, setup, man booth, help with displays

Pierce County Fairgrounds Garden (May-Oct)
[Karen O'Brien](#) 715-273-4191
Plant, maintain flower gardens

VFW Post, 154 S. Plum St.
[Carol Matzek](#) 715-262-5232
Mulch, edge landscape, perennial care

GLENWOOD CITY

St. Croix County Fair (July 16-20)
[Brenda Bodelson](#) 715-688-4434
[Yvonne Koch-Proctor](#) 715-225-2296
Planning, setup, man booth, help with displays

Glenwood City Community Garden (April-Oct.)
[Barb Nelson](#) 715-307-3821
Plant, manage seed trials

Glenwood City Welcome Cows (April-Oct.)
[Bonnie Walters](#) 715-220-6975
Aid 4-H club with planting, maintaining sign plot

HAMMOND

Hammond Community Garden, Ridgeway Road
[Mike Deneen](#) 715-386-9792
Coordinate, help with community food, flowers, orchard

HUDSON

MG Plant Sale at Octagon House (June 6)
[Corky Weeks](#), [Heather Lane](#)
Help with annual plant sale, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hudson Hospital, 405 Stageline Road
[Jean Weiler](#)
Indoor plant caretaker; coordinate, help with garden

Octagon House, 1004-3rd Ave. (Mondays)
[Jean Haut](#) 715-377-0645
Redesign gardens in 2015, maintenance

Christian Community Home, 1320 Wisconsin St.
[Jackie Daharsh](#) 715-381-6804
2-5 hrs. monthly maintenance of Memory Care gardens

YMCA Camp St. Croix, 532 Co. Rd. F
[Stephanie Lentz](#) 612-465-0561
Landscape, greenhouse, flower & vegetable gardens

Accessible Space

[Jennifer Richards](#)
Design, install gardens for residents

Humble Acres, 433 East Cove Rd.
Diane Reszka 612-290-5004
Answer questions, assist with workshops,
"Happy Gardener Tour" on July 13

E.P. Rock Elementary School

[Heidi Schimon](#) 715-222-6111
Plant, supervise school learning garden

Hudson Farmer's Market, Plaza 94
[Janet Jones](#) 715-386-9246
Thursdays, 8 a.m.-noon, (June-Oct)
Set up, tear down table, provide information, answer gardening questions

Hudson Farmer's Market, Faith Community Church
Dawn Kleinknecht 612-203-9030
Saturdays, 8 a.m. -noon (June-Oct)
Set up, tear down table, provide information, answer gardening questions

Lakefront Park (April-Oct.)

[Ramona Robinson](#) 763-412-9936
Help design, maintain, harvest, share edible landscape

Willow River Elementary School

[Ramona Robinson](#) 763-412-9936
Help design, supervise, maintain education garden

Willow River State Park, Cty Rd. A

[Lauren Brathal](#) 715-386-9340
Tours and garden maintenance near Nature Center

St. Croix County Park, Perch Lake (April-Oct.)

[Justin Townsend](#) 715-781-6833

Cont'd on next page

NEW RICHMOND

Deer Field Gables Care Center, 575 Hospital Rd.
Carolyn Craig 715-246-6242
Spring cleanup, maintenance of therapy, rain gardens, bird sanctuary

Community Garden, 2050 Hwy 65
Carolyn Barrette 715-549-6438
Planting, weeding, harvesting, planning, sharing
Supervise students on May 16

PRESCOTT

Great River Road Visitor Center, 200 Monroe St.
Jessica Bierbrauer 715-262-0104
April cleanup, maintenance, plant sale May 17

RIVER FALLS

Boulevard Flower Plot (April-Oct.)
Donna Reuter 715-821-7357
Rejuvenate flower plot

Town of River Falls Parks
Dan Randall 651-775-6052
Entrance sign planting, maintenance at 7 parks
3-4 hours per month

River Falls Farmer's Markets, 2nd & Locust St.
Bev Hoppe 715-425-8870
 (May-October)
 Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Tuesdays, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Man booth, answer questions

Demonstration & Learning Garden, Hoffman Park
Diana Alfuth
"Grow to Share Community Garden"
Plan, weed, demonstrate in garden, scout for problems

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity
Susan Capparelli 715-425-5623
Working on new gardens for Habitat for Humanity homes

Grow to Share Community Garden, Hoffman Park
Anna Zalusky 715-426-0826
Weeding, planting, watering, harvesting

River Falls Community Garden, RF High School
 Amy Field, 715-307-7317
Weeding, watering, harvesting

VFW - Greenwood Cemetery (May-Oct.)
Kathy Beebe 715-425-2015
Maintenance

Home Remodeling & Garden Show
 Jan. 16-17, Knowles Center, UW-RF campus
Barb Peterson 715-549-6798
Man booth, give presentations

Westside Elementary Science Showcase
 6-8 p.m. March 26
Linn Lawrence
Create garden displays, answer questions

ROBERTS

Cross Community Garden, 1246 Co. Rd TT
Mike Deneen 715-386-9792
Growing community food & flowers, help with new trees, perennials, teaching garden

SOMERSET

Parnell Prairie Preserve, 1823-45th St.
Jean Hoffman
Weeding, watering showcase area
4 hrs. per month (May-September)

SPRING VALLEY

Spring Valley Village Gardens
Sue Christenson 715-778-4559
Help weed, maintain village gardens

In Memory of Wayne Peterson

By Deb Pederstuen

Sadly, we've lost another member of our Master Gardener family. Wayne Peterson, former SCVMGA member from Glenwood City, died at home on February 28, 2015.

Wayne joined our group in November 1999 after completing Master Gardener training. He served on the Board of Directors and was Board President from 2001-02. He was a member for 13 years.



Wayne Peterson

"If you were a SCVMGA member prior to 2003, you may recall touring Wayne's farm and gardens and petting his llamas and much-loved Collie dogs," says Sue Klatt. "He hosted our June 2003 monthly meeting where we shared a potluck supper."

For many years Wayne provided beautiful flower containers at the St. Croix County Fair Grounds, including several at the Master Gardener Tent.

Many Master Gardeners enjoyed the summer Concerts in the Country at Peterson's Valley View farm, which were held in June and July for many years. The music was always provided by the Ludington Guard Band of Menominee and The St. Croix Valley Community Band.

"Wayne was a tireless champion for Glenwood City," says Diana Alfuth. "He had his hand in many, many projects to enhance the community. His yard and gardens were beautiful, and he did many beautification projects around town and had a strong interest in local history and the county fair."

I will remember Wayne as a very knowledgeable and friendly guy who enjoyed visiting even on the phone, if you could catch him at home.

Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated by his family and friends.

You can read more about Wayne in his [obituary](#).

Growing, green wall adds healthy atmosphere to classroom

By Karalyn Littlefield

Based on the wonderful benefits of houseplants and the potential to enhance student learning, the ultimate houseplant array — a living green wall of foliage — has been installed in a classroom in the Ag Science building on the UW-River Falls campus. This self-sustaining, recirculating irrigation system, where a porous material takes the place of soil, is a relatively new approach. The system covers an entire wall; horticulture students recently added the plants over winter break.

Terry Ferriss, professor of horticulture, was awarded a grant from the National Foliage Foundation, which helped fund the installation. Collaborative undergraduate research with the psychology department will focus on the academic and psychological impact of the wall on students. A pre-installation survey was conducted in fall semester and a post-installation survey will be conducted in spring semester.

Several scientific journals have published numerous examples of the benefits of houseplants. These benefits are well known by those of us who grow houseplants, one of the most important of which is their ability to clean the air. In the late 1980s, NASA and The Associated Landscape Contractors of America studied houseplants as a way to purify air in space facilities. Recently, articles in the Journal of American Society of Horticulture Science proclaim the ability of houseplants to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as formaldehyde and benzene, from the air.

In separate studies from the Netherlands and Norway, researchers found that the presence of plants in offices decreased fatigue and reduced sickness rates. Studies have also



PHOTO BY LAURA WALSH

The 8' x 12' wall houses 168 plants of eight varieties. The garden requires minimal maintenance of trimming and removing dead leaves.

proven that patients with houseplants in their hospital rooms recovered more rapidly with fewer side effects from surgery and illness. Studies at the Royal College of Agriculture in England have demonstrated greater attention and higher attendance in rooms with houseplants.

A mutually beneficial relationship exists between humans and houseplants. We consume oxygen and produce carbon dioxide while plants consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. Their ability to use one of our waste products while creating a relaxing, restful ambiance in any room makes houseplants the ultimate in functional decorating. Plus, they are beautiful.

I taught in this classroom prior to the installation, and fortunately, I have two classes there during the current semester. It has been relaxing and refreshing to walk into the room with the bright lights on the growing, green wall while it has been cold and snowy outside.

Take a look at the design and follow the Kinnickinnic River as it flows through the foliage.



CORRECTION

In the previous issue, Sprinklings misidentified a grant recipient. We apologize for the error. Following is the correct caption for this photo:

Among the grant presenters at the November meeting were [from left]: Grace Louks, Hudson Community Hospital; Lizzie Shousek, Girl Scout project; Karen Jilek, Hudson Community Hospital; and Kathy Gerats, Elmwood 4-H Club. Not pictured are Julie Hawley, Barb Nelson and Debby Walters.

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, May 1** for the May issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to giverny@me.com.

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