

Newsletter  
of the St. Croix  
Valley Master  
Gardeners  
Association



## Important Announcements

## SCVMGA Monthly Meeting

**Date: Thursday, May 23**

**Location: Unitarian  
Universalist Society Church**

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

**Guest Speaker at 7:15 p.m.:  
Karen Olson**

*The public is invited to attend.*

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

More SCVMGA information  
can found at  
<http://scvmga.weebly.com/>.

If you have content, photos, or  
other contribution suggestions,  
please feel free to send them to  
Weebly Webmaster  
Lisa Dembouski at  
[stcroixvalleymga@gmail.com](mailto:stcroixvalleymga@gmail.com).

The **May 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting** will feature Therapeutic Horticulture. Learn about therapeutic gardening, what it's all about and how you can employ the principles for a happier healthier life! **Karen Olson**, an Eau Claire area Master Gardener, will discuss current research, applied examples of therapeutic horticulture as well as specific benefits for the mind, body and spirit. She gave a statewide presentation last fall on therapeutic gardening as part of the WIMGA training. The meeting will be held at the Unitarian Society Church, N8010 Hwy 65, southeast of River Falls. The business meeting will start at 6:45 pm with speaker at 7:15 pm.

The **9<sup>th</sup> Annual SCVMGA Plant Sale** is on June 1st at the Octagon House, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Myrtle St., in Hudson. Sale hours are 9 to 1. Our plant sale is the main fundraiser and the money goes to the Community Grant recipients. Last year we made nearly \$4,000 and gave out \$4,000 in Community Grants.

You can contribute in several ways. We need your divided perennials, volunteers, annual vegetable seedlings you started, and if you are cleaning out your garage and have extra garden tools, pots, etc, donate these to the sale too. You can volunteer to help organize the sale and work during the sale day. Remember, you can count volunteer hours for whatever you do for the plant sale, including potting up your plants. Also please come and spend money.

When you donate plants, please label your plants with the name of plant, color, name of variety if known, height, and sun or shade. Use plastic or wooden sticks or paper labels. Stapling labels to the pot or wooden stick works well. We will have pots, paper labels and large craft sticks available at the May meeting.

Plants should be dropped off in the back yard of the Octagon House Friday, May 31 between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Use the side entrance by their garage on Myrtle St. You can also drop them off before 8:00 Saturday morning. If you have plants to contribute but can't get them to the Octagon House Friday evening or if you need help dividing your plants, contact Corky Weeks at 715-386-2243 or email at [cweeks@pressenter.com](mailto:cweeks@pressenter.com) or Heather Lane at [kaycei@hotmail.com](mailto:kaycei@hotmail.com). We are in need of portable banquet tables to display the plants on so if you have any you can loan for the day, please let Corky or Heather know.

Members have volunteered to help during the sale and answer questions from the public, but we can always use more help so please come join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. We will start setting up at 6:30 a.m. It's fun and you'll be able to buy some great plants. Our members always donate the best stuff!

## March Meeting Notes

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## March Speaker Notes

SCVMGA Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2013 at River Falls Public Library

### Diana Alfuth

\* Anyone signed up for emails and not getting any, let her know. Also those of you getting news via US Postal Service who have an available email, let her know.

\* The community gardens all need volunteers! Check the Weebly site for addresses.

\* Record new volunteer hours as of October 1st.

Record hours as you go noting dates, hours and topic categories. But those of you who have volunteered and haven't reported for the 2012 season may still turn in old ones so you don't become inactive. Without your hours, you are not certified.

\* Two UW Extension classes offered:

April 30 - Fertilizing

May TBD - Sustainable Landscape

### Brian Hudelson

“Dr. Death” spoke on the “Top Diseases in Vegetable Gardens.” There is a 30-screen PowerPoint handout available to cover the huge volume of in-depth information in the presentation. Please email Diana Alfuth if you would like a copy.

Dr. Hudelson spoke on the following diseases:

Damping-Off/Seedling Blight

Aster Yellows

Tomato Leaf Blights

Blossom End Rot

Herbicide Injury

Powdery Mildew

Common Smut

Common Scab

Cucumber Mosaic

White Mold

There were 102 members and two guests registered.

*Minutes submitted by Sandy Madsen*

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## EVENING SHIFT AT THE SCV HOME SHOW

Volunteering at the Master Gardener booth at the St. Croix Valley Home Builders Show on Friday, March 22, 2013 was a new experience for me, but not for Carolyn. I worked at county fairs and farmers markets, but never a home show. Actually, it was fun and easy to do with my partner, Carolyn Barrette. With Carolyn's previous home show experience, I knew we could handle it. Besides, “two heads are better than one!”

We allowed ourselves over an hour to set up our spacious booth for our 5-8pm shift. We commented how lucky we were to get two long banquet tables, perfect for our new display board, digital photo frame, handouts, cookbooks, field guides, soil test kits, and business cards. Plus, there were about ten chairs all set up in rows for Pauline Goerd's Saturday presentations on rodents.

Shortly after we set up our displays, we realized we didn't have a sign. Not a single one of our awesome SCVMGA banners to label our booth! Our phone calls went unanswered, so we put our heads together and made two handmade signs using the back of our extra Garden U handouts!

Our signs, “Voles, Moles, & Gophers-- Oh, My! Saturday--11am & 2pm” set the stage for us the rest of the night! Again and again, attendees asked, “How do we get rid of our moles?” Carolyn and I answered, “Come

# Volunteer Opportunities

ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE POSTED ON-LINE AT:

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

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

## Baldwin

Community Garden 1650 8th Ave philpark\_@hotmail.com 715 688 2851  
Supervise & assist gardeners, maintain garden areas, harvest and donate

## Ellsworth

Pierce Co. Fair JoAnn randjx6@baldwin-telecom.net Doris dschmitt53@gmail.com  
Aug 8-11 Man booth, answer questions, help with displays, planning, set up

## Hammond

St. Mary's Community Garden 1420 Fithian St. Mike 715 386 9792 mandb1973@aol.com  
Sunday school garden, grade school garden, coordinate or help

Village Community Garden Ridgeway Road Mike 715 386 9792 mandb1973@aol.com  
Growing community food, flowers & orchard, coordinator or help

## Glenwood City

St. Croix Co. Fair Gay fresh@wwt.net Dorene daisy1@wwt.net Jacque joeybrn@wwt.net  
July 18-21 Man booth, answer questions, help with displays, planning, set up

## Hudson

United Methodist Church 1401 Laurel Ave Bob 612 760 8733  
Renovation of landscape, new planting ideas

SCVHBA Homeshow 1820 Hanley Rd Pauline 651 246 9740 cimicifuga2@hotmail.com  
March 22 4-8; March 23 9-5 Set up, man booth, answer questions, give information talk on Sat.

Hudson Hospital 405 Stageline Road 715 531 6070 rosa.m.nagnus@hudsonhospital.org  
Indoor plant caretaker, community garden, coordinator or help

Christian Community Home 1320 Wisconsin St. 715 386 9003 brenda.magadanz@cchudson.org  
Memory care gardens maintenance

YMCA Camp St. Croix 532 Co Rd F 612 465 0561 susan.elmer@ymcatwincities.org  
Landscaping help, flower gardens help, vegetable garden help, greenhouse help

Birkmose Park Birkmose Park Lane Buck 715 386 7010 cmalick2@gmail.com  
Spring planting of wildflowers on Indian mounds

Humble Acres 433 East Cove Road Diane 612 290 5004 www.humbleacres.com  
Answer questions, assist with workshops

SCVMG Plant Sale 1004 Third St. Corky cweeks@presenter.com Heather kaycei@hotmail.com  
May 31 - set up and sales; June 1 - help sorting and marking; June 1 - donate plants

Willow River State Park Cty Rd A Lauren 715 386 9340 Tours, maintenance

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued from page 3***New Richmond**

Deer Field Gables Care Center 575 Hospital Rd Carolyn 715 246 6242 cacraig@frontiernet.net  
Help plant new gardens, maintain gardens

Community Garden 2050 Hwy 65 Carolyn 715 549 6438 tbarrett@pressenter.com  
Planting, weeding, harvesting, planning, supervise kids in May

**Prescott**

Great River Road Visitor Center 200 Monroe St. Margaret 715 262 0104 mhsmith@freedomparkwi.org  
Plant sale May 18, weeding, maintenance

**River Falls**

Have a Heart Farm 10356 Hwy 29 Amanda 715 425 7754  
Planting & maintaining wheel chair gardens, general maintenance

Town of River Falls Parks Dan 651 425 9881 djrandall113@yahoo.com  
Entrance sign planting & maintain at 7 different parks

Winter St. Bridge Susan 715 425 9369 susanreese1@aol.com  
Garden on City property by power plant, spring clean up, monthly maintenance

Demonstration and Learning Garden Diana Alfuth diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu  
Grow to Share Community Garden (by Hoffman Park) Planning, layout, weeding, demonstrate in garden, scouting for problems

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Pete Morsch 715 425 5623 peter@scvhhabitat.org  
Working on Habitat for Humanity homes and the new gardens they are planting

Grow to Share Community Garden Anna annazalusky@yahoo.com Weeding, planting, watering, harvesting

Community Garden Amy 715 307 7317  
Located 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  
Growing community food and flowers, coordinator or help

**Somerset**

Parnell Prairie Preserve 1823 45th St. Jean jeanlh@me.com  
Weeding and watering showcase area May – Sept @ 4 hours per month

## Membership News from Deb Pederstuen, Membership Director

### St. Croix County Fair Coordinators Resign

Dorene Deiss, Gay Froeschle, & Jacque Wilman, our three St. Croix County Fair Coordinators, resigned from their positions this week. They did a great job of recruiting and organizing all the volunteers for the fair booth and planning exhibits for the tent. We thank them for all their time and effort in representing our organization for the past three years, 2010 to 2012, at the St. Croix County Fair.

Please let us know if you are interested in coordinating this year's event.

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

The Master Gardener badges that were ordered earlier this year have arrived. I will have them available for pick-up at the May meeting.

The 2013 WIMGA Annual Conference will be held in Janesville, August 16-17 at UW-Rock. Speakers will include Mark Dwyer of Rotary Botanical Gardens, Brian Swingle (Executive Director of the WI Green Industry Federation) and several other breakout speakers including Roy Klehm of Song Sparrow Nursery and Beaver Creek Nursery; Richard Larson for the Dawes Arboretum in Ohio and local experts on organic topics and garden design. Representatives from other Volunteer programs, including Master Composter, Master Naturalist and Master Food Preservers will be at the conference to provide more information about their programs. Friday night's gathering will include an ice-cream social. Space is limited to approximately 220 people

so it is important to register early. This year's silent auction items will be all plants including some from Song Sparrow Nursery. More information will be coming out in the state newsletter and will be online by late May.

The 2014 WIMGA Annual Conference will be hosted by Outagamie County in Appleton on March 28 -29. Dan Heims of Terra Nova Nursery will be the keynote speaker. The conference will be located at the Radisson Paper Valley in downtown Appleton. Bluff County MGA will host the 2015 WIMGA Annual Conference in La Crosse July 31- August 1. The conference theme will be Garden Culture.

In 2016, Wisconsin will host the Regional MG Conference but the site location is yet to be determined. This conference includes Master Gardeners from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

## Community Garden *By Carolyn Barrette*

Will it ever quit raining snow? More importantly - will the soil be dry enough that the St Croix Community Garden can be tilled and planted this month? It's May — time to be starting work in the community garden. The **New Richmond Service Day, Friday, May 17**, will be upon us shortly. That day, 20 or 30 high school students from New Richmond come help us plant the onions, beans, broccoli and cabbage sets, and other seeds in our freshly tilled garden so SCVMGA can, again this year, grow a ton or more fresh vegetables to give away to food shelves, senior centers, public health programs and others. Our community garden exists to grow and give away summer-time fresh vegetables to those don't have the facility or wherewithal to grow their own. We have plots for rent so you can grow some for yourself too.

This year the garden will be growing one vegetable trial plot as part of the SCVMGA Vegetable Trials project separately from the big garden. We'll be running some of the veggie trial plants in the big garden too. This is part of the test project to gauge the difference in soils and growing conditions in various parts of our two-county area.

**Volunteers Needed** - We will need about 15 volunteers to guide the students as well as do a little planting and organization work that day. Friday, May 17, starting about 8 am — the students come at 8:30 or 9:00 — and finishing after our usual potluck picnic around noon. Master Gardeners work with the students — many of whom have not planted gardens before — showing them how to plant seeds or put in sets. We also need some coordinator-type people to organize projects like laying drip hose. Will you please help? Call or email Carolyn at [tbarrett@pressenter.com](mailto:tbarrett@pressenter.com) or [715-549-6438](tel:715-549-6438). Hopefully we will have a pre-service organization meeting one evening during the week of May 13.

We will have a potluck picnic for the MG workers following the planting. Brats and buns and utensils will be provided. Come join us. We're not limited to MGs that day so bring a friend to help too.

The St. Croix Valley Community Garden is located at 2050 Hwy 65, 1.5 miles north of New Richmond, at Garden Expressions Garden Center. Rental plots are available for anyone who would like a small garden for only \$30 for a 20x20 ft plot. Jonna and Dick Klukas, owners of Garden Expressions, have helped us over the years, providing not only the location, but also water, bathroom facilities and shopping opportunities.

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**Continued from page 2**

back tomorrow for Pauline’s talk.” If they were unable to attend, we explained how to use special bait on the mole traps that other attendees shared with us. After the show, we emailed Pauline’s recommendations for capturing rodents.

We kept a tally of questions people asked us. Surprisingly, the majority of the questions were based on whatever we displayed on the table. We had questions about soil test kits, field guides, cookbooks, houseplants (like the spring blooming plants on the table), and square bale gardening (copies of Joel Karsten’s Garden U handouts on the table).

Did we mention we had questions about moles? That’s right, those two simply crafted signs that we scotch taped to the wall drew about 40 people to our booth. Carolyn and I greeted each and every one with a smile and answered their questions as best we could. We may not have given them Pauline’s answer to the “mole” questions, but we did our best and agreed “Two heads are better than one!”

*Deb Pederstuen & Carolyn Barrette*

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## VOLUNTEERING 101

- Whenever you’re representing the UW-Extension Master Gardener Program, identify yourself with your name tag on your shirt or vest. Or, attach your name tag on our “Ask a Master Gardener” apron that is available from our Equipment Manager.
- Don’t be afraid to staff a booth alone. Most people enjoy talking about their gardens so you can share ideas from your own garden or other gardens. It’s a great opportunity to promote SCVMGA and the Master Gardener Program.
- If you prefer, ask a MGCV friend to join you. Sometimes two heads are better than one! Keep your conversations to a minimum during your volunteer time. People may not stop at your table for fear of imposing on your conversation.
- Identify your table or booth with one of our SCVMGA banners. Contact our Equipment Manager at least a week in advance.
- Advertise your theme or item you’re selling with a bright, colorful, easy-to-read sign to draw people in. If you’re selling cookbooks or field guides, display a few in a basket on the table.
- Be friendly, smile, and greet people as they pass by your booth or table.
- You’re more approachable when you’re standing rather than seated. So, if you’re resting when someone approaches, stand up to talk and introduce yourself.
- Display the SCVMGA brochures, Master Gardener Program brochures, and seasonal information sheets. At farmers markets, provide recipes for the fruits and vegetables in season. Check the WIMGA website for printable handouts.
- If you’re unable to answer a question, write it down. Ask the person to write down their name, phone number, or email address so you can answer it later. Give them a business card with your name on it!
- Volunteer your services at county fairs, farmers markets, or community events. See how easy it is to solve gardening dilemmas, convince gardeners to test their soil, encourage others to plant a garden, sell a cookbook or field guide, or to buy a new fruit or vegetable for the first time.
- You’ll surprise yourself with how much information you know when you start answering questions!

*Deb Pederstuen, Carolyn Barrette, & Yvonne Koch-Proctor*

## HOW TO ORDER YOUR OFFICIAL WIMGA NAME BADGE



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

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

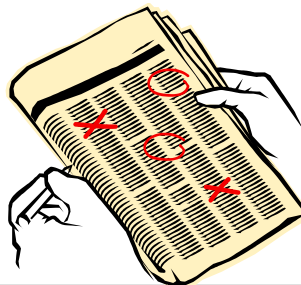
**Our group order sign-up is at the January meeting.** See Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA rep, at that time to place order and clearly print your name on the order sheet exactly as you want it on your badge. Payment at that time is requested.

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

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

## Gardener's Classifieds

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



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## My Day of Volunteering

I was excited to be invited back to speak at the St. Croix Valley Home Builders Show on Saturday, March 23, 2013. A year ago, I gave a talk on "Spring Worries". This year, I talked about rodents and described the difference between moles, voles, pocket gophers, and shrews, and how to prevent and capture them in your yard.

Since I had to be at the home show for both the morning and afternoon talks, I volunteered to work the entire 9-5pm shift with Peg Wastell. Setting up the booth Saturday morning was a matter of setting out the supplies stored under the table by the Friday evening volunteers.

Like Friday night, we got questions on the handouts, Master Gardener training, vegetable gardening, and comments on the weather. However, people asked primarily "rodent" questions after I set out the rodent traps, poisons, and packages of frozen rodents for my talk.

Before my morning session, the radio station, promoting the event, asked us to promote my talk and describe the Master Gardener Program. It was a little scary, but simple.

When people gathered for both my 11am and 2pm talks, Peg was very helpful in getting everyone seated and distributing handouts. Whenever attendance was slower at our booth, Peg and I had time to review my new book, search the internet for questions, take turns eating, and even have our picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

Overall, it was a pleasant day spent answering questions, teaching people about rodents, and chatting with a fellow Master Gardener. We both got 8 hours of "community education" volunteer service hours for teaching and answering questions. Plus, the unique experience of being on live radio!

*Pauline Goerdt & Peg Wastell*

### ***Sprinklings* May Issue Information**

The next issue of *Sprinklings*, a publication of the St. Croix County Master Gardeners Association, will be published in June. Submissions should be received by June 7, 2013 for the June issue. Our goal is to ensure members receive their copy of *Sprinklings* prior to that month's meeting.

You are welcome to contribute articles about your favorite gardening subjects, available volunteer and training opportunities for master gardeners, book reviews, or any other gardening related topic you find of interest, including recipes, tips and ideas! Please send submissions or direct questions to Carol Wilcox at [caroljeanwilcox@gmail.com](mailto:caroljeanwilcox@gmail.com) or phone 715-425-7125. Email attachment submissions are preferred.