



# Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November/December 2016

## NOVEMBER MEETING

## “3Mgives” adds SCVMGA to its volunteer program

by Jackie Daharsh

The 3M Foundation recently approved SCVMGA as a member of its “Volunteer Match” program. Each year the 3M Foundation will donate \$250 for each 3M employee or retiree who donates 20 hours (employee) or 25 hours (retiree) to an approved organization of their choice.



If you’re a “3Mer,” either current employee or retired, and are interested in registering your MGV hours, here are the necessary steps to complete the process:

- 1) Log on to [www.3mgives.com](http://www.3mgives.com) to register your volunteer hours.
- 2) Click on the “Employee/Retirees” link and log in as either Employee or Retiree.
- 3) Click on “Enter the Volunteer Match” and put in State of “WI” and click on Search.
- 4) Scroll down and choose SELECT and search for the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association. Enter your volunteer hours and fill in the information and click on SUBMIT.
- 5) Click on “Display Coupon in a new Window” and either print or copy information and send to Diana Alfuth for verification. This is an important step in the process that allows the 3M Foundation to forward the funds directly to the SCVMGA Treasurer.

Special thanks to MGV **Barb Kolpin** for submitting the nomination and providing all the needed information to list SCVMGA in the “Volunteer Match” program.

## Grant presentations, board elections, sharing seeds round out year

Election of board members for 2017 will take place during our business meeting followed by project presentations by nine of this year’s SCVMGA grant recipients: Becky McLeavey, Coordinator for River Falls 4 Children, River Falls; Sandy Long, Willow River Elementary, Hudson; Christine Reynebeau, YMCA Hudson, Hudson; Carmon Wallace, St. Croix Therapy, Hudson; Jason Brazzale, Prescott High School, Prescott; Justin Townsend, Secret Garden of Bookworm Trail in Homestead Park, Hudson; Kim Osterhues, Willow River Elementary, Hudson; Barb Krueger, Deer Park Library, Deer Park; and Patricia Angleton, CCH Gardens, Hudson. Seed-sharing will close the last meeting of the year. There will be no December meeting.

### Preparing for seed-sharing

1. Open pollinated seed only. No hybrid seed because does not breed true.
2. No patented seed collected from plants in your garden. Illegal to share these seeds.
3. Left-over seed from previous purchases okay as long as age of seed is noted on individual packets.
4. Seed is dried and ready for storage.
5. [Click here to download seed packet!](#) Provide individual seed packets labeled with name of plant, description, and any specific growing instructions. Date seed was harvested also important for storage reasons. A photo would be nice.
6. Seeds harvested within two years still have good germination for most kinds of plants. Note harvest date.
7. On seed package state that germination rate is unknown because seed is not tested. New state law states seeds shared with public need germination information.
8. Flower, herb, vegetable, tree, shrub, any seed is okay as long as labeled and dried ready for storage.
9. President/vice president will announce time for seed sharing activity.

**Thursday, Nov. 17**

6:45 p.m. Meeting  
7:15 p.m. Break  
7:30 p.m. Speakers

**First Covenant Church**  
1374 N. Main St.  
River Falls



Time to renew your SCVMGA membership

[Click here for form](#)

DEADLINE: DEC. 31

## President's Message



**Barb Peterson**

As I sit down to draft my final Sprinklings article as the President of this wonderful organization, I find it hard to believe that it is already November (the weather is way too beautiful) and that almost two years have passed since I was elected. The time has gone by quickly for a host of reasons but probably first and foremost because of each and every one of you. You all are amazing. You are knowledgeable, skilled, and talented and you are willing to share your gifts when asked. But even better you are innovative and take initiative and don't wait to be asked. SCVMGA thrives because of every member's contributions. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I am going to take a risk and thank a number of people individually and hope my 70+ memory serves me well. First I want to thank those who are completing terms of service on our Board: **Jackie Daharsh**, who has served as Treasurer for four years; **Barb Kolbe** who has represented St. Croix County for four years; **Trent Kowalchyk**, who has served as Vice-President for two years (and will be President next year – Yeah!); **Karen Jilek**, who served as Secretary this year; and **Dot Seebach** who has represented Pierce County for more than a year.

Next I want to thank those who are completing their service as Committee/County Fair/Farmers Market Coordinators: **Sara Karlson**, Equipment Manager; **Joni Garbe**, Hospitality Coordinator; **Janet Jones**, Hudson Farmers Market; **Yvonne Koch-Proctor** and **Brenda Bodelson**, St.

Croix Co. Fair Coordinators; **Barbara Nelson**, Visual Communications Coordinator; and **Peg Wastell**, Fall Workshop Coordinator.

I also want to thank those who during the year have taken on these roles: **Mitzi Roy**, Garden U Coordinator and Programming; **Deb Andazola**, Tour Coordinator and Visual Communications Coordinator; **Donna Cadenhead**, SCVMGA Community Garden; **JoAnn Ryan**, Equipment Manager; and **Vickie Reschke**, Fall Workshop Coordinator.

Finally, a “shout out” and heartfelt thank you to all those who have continued to serve admirably in your roles as Directors and Committee/County Fair/Farmers Market Coordinators. Our leadership, contributions, and dedication have resulted in a very productive year. Read the Year in Review to learn more.

Effective communications is critical for an organization of our size and I want to also thank those who are doing such a great job. Sprinklings is informative and an enjoyable read thanks to editor, **Colleen Callahan**, and assistant editor, **Suzy Naschansky**, and regular contributors **Carolyn Barrette**, **Jerry Bridge**, **Karalyn Littlefield**, **Lisa Mosbey**, and **Deb Peterstuen**. The SCVMGA Website is up-to date and easy to navigate thanks to the efforts of **Ellen Montgomery**, **Mari Marson**, and **Debby Walters**. The Facebook Page administered by **Deb Andazola** enables members to share knowledge easily.

I look forward to 2017 and returning to my previous role as Vice-President. Under Trent's leadership, it will be a great year.

## HOURS & HOURS & HOURS

by **JoAnn Ryan**

As we finish our Volunteer hours for 2016, we begin to look ahead to 2017. Tracking hours is a worthwhile task. Recording hours regularly and turning in your annual hours can become an easy job. Our year begins on Oct. 1 for the 12 months. MGVs need just 24 hours – that's less than three hours a month. It sounds like so little, yet many times we scramble to make that goal at the end of our year.

Here's a helpful hint: Create a “diary of hours” and record them as you perform your MGV activities. It makes counting total hours for the year easy. At the end of the next MGV year, it will be fun to look back and appreciate what you've accomplished. Hours and hours and hours: it's easy when you keep a diary!



## SEEKING MGVs TO TEACH NIGHT CLASSES IN HUDSON

The Hudson Community Education Program is looking for Master Gardeners to teach fun and popular gardening classes in the Spring or Fall of 2017. Topics include fairy gardening, container gardening, growing herbs, butterflies etc. If interested, contact Betsy at 715-377-3722 to find out which topics are most popular for the season. The Spring deadline is coming up in November.

MGV **Joni Garbe** teaches several mushroom and cooking classes on a regular basis and she can answer questions you may have. Email her at [jonisayshi@yahoo.com](mailto:jonisayshi@yahoo.com).

## SPRINKLINGS CONTRIBUTORS WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS

Do you have questions or comments about an article? One click on the writer's byline will give you instant access to their email.

## OCTOBER MEETING

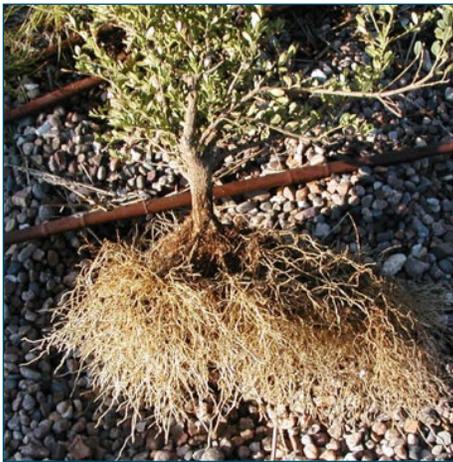
## Gravel-based beds establish strong tree roots

by **Vickie Reschke**

Starla Enger and Ken Holman presented information on the Gravel Bed Tree System the Hudson Urban Forestry Advisory Board is using to address losses caused by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Starla is from My Sister's Garden located in Hudson, a partner of the Willow River Company. Ken is from the DNR. Replacement of lost trees is part of the Annual Plan of Action which includes recommending tree treatment, pruning, removal, planting, and promoting species diversity, and EAB management. Trees were heeled in last spring and were transplanted to their new homes on the 8th of October.

Trees are heeled in very close together from April to October. Bare root trees need to be planted shortly after receiving them. The gravel bed system provides flexibility in planting. Fall is a better time to transplant – less chance of wind desiccation, flooding, drought, and heat. They are irrigated regularly with nutrients which help establish a strong root system,

increasing their rate of survival once transplanted. Bare root trees are 50% less expensive than container or ball and burlap trees. There are a wider choice of species. The root structure is visible to prevent girdling. They are lighter, so handling them is easier than container or ball and burlap trees. The gravel bed system helps the roots absorb water and nutrients better as well.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PHOTO

**Bare root boxwood ready for planting after thriving in a gravel bed.**

The community can be involved, as planting and transplanting can be done by inexperienced volunteers without extensive equipment ownership. Plan to be a part of the planting or transplanting group next year.

Components of the Gravel Bed System starts with a raised bed on a draining flat surface (they built theirs on an existing parking lot). A wood or concrete berm (to hold the gravel) with removable ends to add and remove gravel. 15 inches or more of 3/8" or smaller gravel. For trees that need more water, sand can be added to the gravel. An irrigation system, ideally with the capability of adding nutrients directly to the water as it flows to the trees. Protection from the sun or wind as both dry out the gravel quickly. The wind may topple trees.

Additional resources: [All You Need to Know about Community Gravel Beds](#), [My MN Woods](#)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by **Deb Pederstuen**

At our 2016 Fall Workshop, we were happy to welcome back 2005 MG **Joan Forsythe** of Hammond after a two-year break. Meet Joan at our Welcome table as she's a new greeter!

We also welcomed **Patricia Henderson** of Hudson, the first of 22 students from the 2016 Master Gardener class. Kudos to Patricia's neighbor, MG **Janet Quinto**, for encouraging Patricia to join the class and SCVMGA! Our membership has grown to 203!

### A NEW HOME FOR OUR STUFF

We're forever grateful to **Sara Karlson**, our first Equipment Manager. Sara has graciously stored "our stuff" at her River Falls home the past eight years. Currently, she is on a brief hiatus.

Our new Equipment Manager is **JoAnn Ryan**! She already has our equipment tucked carefully into her clean Hudson shop. To keep close tabs on inventory, JoAnn has a "check in & out" clipboard hanging near the door. Contact [JoAnn](#) if you need a table or canopy for your SCVMGA project. If you're unable to reach her, contact her back-up, Deb Pederstuen.

### FALL WORKSHOP COORDINATOR CHANGES HANDS

Since 2010, **Peg Wastell** has offered the 'Western District 'Last Chance' Fall Workshop for Master Gardeners to get volunteer and education hours before the Oct. 1 deadline. Now she wants to focus her time on expanding the seed trial program she started in 2013.

We're happy to announce **Vickie Reschke** as our new Fall Workshop Coordinator! Vickie, a 2010 MG, has three years of experience organizing a similar event for the University of Illinois MG Extension called "Nursery School" Lessons in Gardening. She transferred to SCVMGA in August 2015 and is a Sprinklings contributor, writing articles and summaries of monthly speakers. We thank Peg for creating this wonderful 'last chance workshop' the past five years and to Vickie for continuing this opportunity in 2017.

### HUDSON FARMERS MARKER COORDINATOR NEEDED

For four years, **Janet Jones** has staffed MGVs at the Plaza 94 location Thursday mornings from July through September. We appreciate all she's done for us. Janet promoted SCVMGA and the MG program, purchased new resource materials, and acquired a used umbrella/stand for weather protection. Now, she's taking a year off and we need someone to fill her position.

This is an easy way to get your volunteer hours and Janet is willing to assist you if needed. She has a short list of instructions for you. Sound interesting? Well, it is! Contact [Deb Pederstuen](#).



# Karalyn's Kitchen

by Karalyn Littlefield

Karalyn, 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.

## Apple Cake Dessert

This apple harvest season was a beautiful time to be outside enjoying mild weather and beautiful colors. Most of the apples have been picked from the orchards by now and are ready to use in the creation of some delicious deserts.

My Grandmother Tillie was a great baker and cook. My Mom learned many things from her mother-in-law. I'm very fortunate to have cooked and baked with both of them. I'm including Grandma's recipe for apple cake. It's a fall tradition around our home and has been a family recipe since my Great Grandma received it from her neighbor in the 1960s.

PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO



But first, a couple of apple related stories. The first one involves my father.

Sometimes during the harvest season on the farm, Dad would be eating a yellow apple. He told me it came from the tree up by the night pasture fence on the edge of the woods. As children, they had picked apples from this tree. The tree is quite old and is getting over crowded by the rest of the woods. A few years ago, my friend, Lindsay, collected some scions and grafted a few trees so that the "Yellow Apple of the Woods" can live on.

My second story involves MGV training. We have two unknown varieties of apple trees. I took the apples to my fall class and asked Diana what varieties I had. She did not laugh at me, however, it became clear that it is very difficult to identify apple varieties from the apples. So, when people ask me what variety, I say either "Red West" or "Red East."

### APPLE CAKE DESSERT

**SAUCE**

- 1/4-1/2 C. brown sugar
- 1/4-1/2 C. white sugar
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 C. water
- 1/4 C. butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla

**CAKE**

- 2 c. peeled and diced apples
- 3/4 -1 c. white sugar
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts (opt.)

**CAKE:** Mix apples and sugar together. Let stand 10-15 min. Add beaten egg and nuts. Stir flour, salt, cinnamon and soda together. Add to batter. Beat by hand. Pour into a well greased 9" pan. Bake 40-50 min. at 350F.

**SAUCE:** While cake is baking, make the sauce. Combine ingredients in saucepan. Boil for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour the hot sauce over the cake as it comes from the oven. Cool. Serve with whipped cream, if desired.



## Easy Herb Gardens

by Lisa Mosbey

### Chia Seeds

When I lived in the desert, we would collect chia seeds. It was a tedious task, but a great excuse to enjoy a fall day. We are coming into the time of the year to make nourishing, warm and comforting foods. Chia makes the top of the list for breakfast, hot or cold. Chia is from South America and has been a dietary staple for the Mayan and Aztec people for more than 3000 years.



PHOTO BY LISA MOSBEY

The importance is recognized in religious ceremonies and used in tribal trading. Harvest times are even listed on ancient Aztec calendars. The seed contains omega-3 fatty acid, amino acids, protein, antioxidants, and is an excellent source of fiber. Aztec warriors would sustain their body's strength and endurance with a daily spoonful of seeds on long expeditions. The word chia (*Salvia hispanica*) means strength. Ancient societies referred to seeds as "Warrior Food."

A chia seed can absorb more than 12 times its weight in water prolonging hydration, improving the body's absorption of nutrients and body fluids while maintaining the body's electrolyte balance. This tiny seed aids in joint health, heart health, weight and blood sugar management, and is an energy booster. "Grow-Your-Own" chia seeds are easy to sow in containers this winter and transplant in our spring gardens. Yes, these are the seeds from the infamous Chia Pet.

More Info can be found at [Chia](#).

### Cardamom Chia Pudding

- 1/3-1/2 cup organic chia seeds
- 1 - 13.5 oz. can of organic coconut milk
- 13.5 oz. of water
- 1 to 2 Tbsp. organic cardamom powder (start with one, add more if desired)
- raw honey or maple syrup to taste
- fruit (optional)

*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](http://www.Pubmed.gov).*



Lisa, who received her MGV 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.

## Decreasing Bumble Bee Populations

by SCVMGA Jerry Bridge

Since the middle to late 1990s there has been a dramatic decrease in the actual number of individuals and range sizes for a number of species of bumble bees in Wisconsin and other parts of the country. Officially 20 species of bumble bees are listed for Wisconsin, however a number of these are uncommon or rare.

The Rusty-patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*) was a once commonly seen bumble bee in our area that is an example of a bumble bee in decline. Its historical range is from the Upper Midwest to Northeastern North America. Its relative abundance has decreased up to 95 percent and range loss approaches 90 percent over the past 15 years. The decline varies locally across its range. This bee is a short-tongue species nesting below ground and foraging on flowers with short corollas, such as prairie clovers, goldenrods, and cherries. This early-spring emerging species is often identified by a yellow band on the first abdominal segment which surrounds a brownish patch, which can be seen in the image. Unfortunately this feature does not appear in the queen. (Having various color forms within a species is a common factor that makes some bumble bees challenging to identify.) This



PHOTO BY SHEILA COLLA, USDA

*Bombus affinis* worker bee.

bumble bee is still occasionally seen in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Possible reasons for the decline of many species are numerous: pesticides, pathogens, habitat loss, climate change, loss of preferred forage plants, etc. In the 1990s bumble bees were brought to Europe for breeding purposes to be used in greenhouses for pollination. It's believed certain pathogens were then brought back to this country that many bumble bees here do not have resistance to, hence causing such a rapid decline. Although this seems to be the best description for the decline at this time for many species, this view could change. A possible combination of factors may be involved, such as pathogens and pesticides. The primary way to determine the change in population numbers and range dimensions is to carry out systematic bumble bee surveys each year, which I am involved with in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

*Note: On September 21 of this year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it is proposing to list the Rusty-patched bumble bee as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. This is considered a major victory for native bee conservation.*

## Jan. 31 deadline for 2017 variety plant trial orders

by Peg Wastell

Attached to this issue is the 2017 order form for next year's Variety Plant Trials.

This year we have two vegetables from the brassica family and two mini selections. Take a look at the list and see if a variety trial will fit in your garden. The more people we have that grow and evaluate results, the better and more scientific the results will be.

The time taken to evaluate and fill in the evaluation form can be counted for volunteer hours. And are you not curious to find out which kind of cabbage you really like the best?

These mini forms are a perfect way to find out without overwhelming your garden. The mini pumpkin selections are all edible and decorative. Which one really produces the most fruit yet has vines that are manageable? How about trying the tomato trial? Late blight disease resistant variety versus heirloom versus best tasting – find out what works best for you for the low cost of \$1 plus shipping and handling. Our costs are able to be kept low because of sponsorship by SCVMGA. So why not try out one, two or even all eight trials this next year?



# 2016 Year in Review

by **Deb Pederstuen and Karen Jilek**

## JANUARY -----

OPEN HOUSE/PIZZA PARTY held Jan. 28 for first time at RF's First Covenant Church. MG **Margaret Smith**, SCVMGA member and Exec. Dir. of Trumpeter Swan Society, shared her passion for Trumpeter Swans to a record-breaking 104 attendees, 96 members/7 guests. We welcomed 16 of the 21 MG 2015 class interns and 2010 MG Intern **Sharon Grundtner**. Diana Alfuth distributed 2014 MG certificates, honored **Deb Andazola's** 1000 hrs., and announced our association's awesome 7,000 volunteer hours in 2015!

2nd Year VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, **Lisa Mosbey** overwhelmed MGs and interns with 36 volunteer projects. Her NEW ASSISTANT **Barbara Johnson** was very helpful linking project coordinators with their new volunteers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS welcomed 3 new members: Secretary **Karen Jilek**, CPA, with secretarial experience; Pierce Co. **Rep Leroy Clark**, 2015-2016 Pierce Co. Fair Coordinator; and St. Croix Co. **Rep Julie Weinberg** who helps Houlton Elementary students maintain their flower gardens.

NEW WIMGA STATE REP, **Paul VanDenMeerendonk** is a 2006 MG with the experience to represent us at WIMGA for his three-year term, 2016-2018. He served five years on the Board of Directors as St. Croix Co. Rep.

ELEVEN of the 38 original SCVMGA members are still involved since mid-1997--19 1/2 yrs. ago. We're grateful for groundwork prepared by **Carolyn Barrette, Debbie & Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Daphne Brackley, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell!**

FOUNDING MEMBER, **Anne Kerfoot** of River Falls, passed away Sept. 23, 2013 in Le Segundo, CA. Anne was known for her prairie gardens and for her watercolor paintings used for printing Artful Garden Tour posters & cards.

2015 State of WI Certificate of Tax Exempt Status ID#, obtained by Treasurer **Jackie Daharsh**, is recommended

for board approved purchases over \$100 at local businesses, especially Menards, UPS, & Hudson House where it is on file.

## FEBRUARY -----

JIM SCHRIEBER, owner and Director of Hudson's Plantables, informed 71 members at Feb. 25 meeting about products manufactured by his multi-abled employees to increase awareness of pollinating insects. It was our first anniversary at First Covenant Church in River Falls since February 2015.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Audit) Committee of **Kathye Beebe** - rep from Pierce Co, **Dot Seebach** - current board member, and **Dianne Wright** - rep from St. Croix Co.- reported Jackie Daharsh's 2015 records were well-organized and documented. As Ex-Officio Treasurer, **Jackie Daharsh** joined the committee for the first time as specified in our by-laws.

NEW WEBSITE ASSISTANTS, **Mari Marson & Debby Walters**, 2015 MG interns, joined 3rd Yr. Webmaster **Ellen Montgomery** to do postings. Ellen's focus is on our 4-yr old Weebly's organizational structure. Fees are \$71.80/2 yrs. In March, Board removed Sprinklings & Year in Reviews from Password Protection. In July, MG Intern **Mari Marson** included disclosure for advertising of garden related discounts and deals for MGs in Bulletin Board section.

## MARCH -----

MARY ELLEN BRUE, a local butterfly and milkweed expert, informed 85 members at the March 31 meeting how BUTTERFLIES rely on milkweed for their life cycle and how she breeds butterflies annually from her milkweed garden.

EDUCATION CLASSES were held Mar. 16 at Hudson's Willow River Elementary School. **Diana Alfuth** spoke on Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), **Brian Hudelson**, UW-Madison Horticulture Professor, on Problems and Diseases that Affect Ash Trees, and **City of Hudson Urban Forestry Rep** on Managing EAB in Hudson.

ST. CROIX VALLEY HOME BUILD-

ERS ASSOCIATION/SCV SPRING EXPO at UWRF Knowles Center, March 4-6th ten MGs with Coordinator **Barb Peterson** engaged attendees with "Are You Smarter than a Rutabaga?" game. **Trent Kowalchuk's** "Food Plots for Wildlife" and **Peg Wastell's** "Real Solutions to Real Problems" on landscape design were presented twice; Peg featured our Seed Trials Display.

17TH ANNUAL GARDEN U on Mar. 19th, 9am-3pm, had largest crowd ever with 167 attendees/12 vendors for 2nd year at Hudson House Grand Hotel. Speakers: **Nicole Mattson**, Japanese Gardens at Como Park Conservatory; **Duane Otto** - UM Arboretum - Four Seasons Gardening; and **Soni Forsman** - Container Water Gardens. New fee of \$35/person; profit of \$2,118. Thanks to **Carolyn Barrette** and New Assistant Coordinator **Mitzi Roy** and volunteers!

2nd Year USED GARDEN BOOK COLLECTION - **Joni Garbe**, Project Leader, displayed books at 3 events- Garden U, Plant Sale, and Fall Workshop; collecting \$65 in "free will offerings." Purchased a \$15 cart for storing & displaying.

**HEIDI DOERING**, former SCVMGA member, resigned as St. Croix County Horticulture Educator on Mar. 15 to be Koppert Biological Systems' Technical Sales Representative in Hovell, MI. Recognized for service with a \$55 gift card.

## APRIL -----

NICHOLAS PETERS, 2014 MG Scholarship recipient, explained his special projects and how his background led to his career goal of landscaping to 72 members/17 guests at the April 28 meeting.

16th ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM - returning 6-yr. Coordinator, **Dianne Wright** and 6 MGs requested \$6,000, the highest amount ever, for 33 of the 37 project applications. Original request was \$8,553. Twenty-one MGs were involved in the worthy projects. Thanks to **Phyllis Jaworski** for coordinating in 2015.

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12th ANNUAL EARTH DAY at Camp St. Croix -Sun. April 17th, noon to 4pm – lured 181 people to 63 booths, one manned by MGV **Donna Davis** and **Corky Weeks**. Pollinator Theme: Monarch butterfly bucket demo; kids glued carrot seeds on newspaper strips and planted Teddy Bear Sunflower seeds.

## MAY -----

Aleisha Miller, St. Croix County Environmental Educator gave 56 members/1 guest a motivating presentation on water quality and its relationship between storm water, ground water and soils at the May 26th meeting.

2nd Year "HELPING HANDS" Project Leader **Gail Behr** announced no Master Gardeners required assistance. MGVs earn volunteer hours to assist MGVs who are ill or incapacitated to do their own gardening.

UW-EXT DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN (DLG) in River Falls- 5th Year Coordinator **Diana Alfuth** and 12 MGVs reported "great success" in maintaining native plant pollinator plot, herb garden, and vegetable garden. Their amazing checker board lettuce garden and Presidential garden drew lots of attention. Diana held six public garden classes; MGV **Lisa Mosbey** held 4 Herb ID classes for adults and 4 kid classes sampling lemon balm tea.

THREE NEW VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS (PHOTO) LEADERS- **Deb Andazola** scheduled photographers; **Teresa Davis** and **Judi Brunner** gathered photos for scrapbooking. Teresa created our 1st Shutterfly Photo Sharing Site. Special thanks to **Barb Nelson** for her service 2011-2015 as our 2nd Visual Communications Coordinator.

## JUNE -----

VAN SOMEREN GARDENS in Baldwin—Doug & Betty Van Someren gave 50 members/2 guests/Diana Alfuth a walking & hay wagon tour of their two large vegetable farms, highlighting what varieties sell best at local Farmers markets.

12th ANNUAL PLANT SALE at Hudson's Octagon House Sat., June 4th (9am-1pm) broke gross sales with \$4,289! After \$100 property use donation to St. Croix Historical Society, we profited \$4,025 thanks to our 2nd

yr. managers, **Tim Wilson** and **Donna Davis**, Coordinators **Corky Weeks** & **Heather Lane**, and many MGVs. Noon downpour dampened plants but not our spirits! Leftover plants were scooped up by grant recipients, Camp St. Croix, and other non-profits.

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET - 2nd Year Coordinator **Elaine Baker** and 10 MGVs observed fewer customers with gardening questions on Saturdays, 8am-12pm, June - October. Tuesday's 3-6pm market MGV coverage was discontinued due to lack of MGVs. RF Market does not permit the sale of cookbooks. Our thanks to Elaine & volunteers.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET at Plaza 94 – 4th Yr. Coordinator **Janet Jones** reported 3 dedicated MGVs, **Carolyn Hasselman**, **Bonnie Rohr**, & **Bonnie Sortland**, answered 4-6 questions on Thursdays July-Sept. 8th from 8am-noon. In four years, 24 cookbooks sold; only one sold in 2016. Our thanks to retiring Janet Jones for her dedication and service.

NEW TOUR COORDINATOR **Debra Andazola** & Assistant **Debby Walters** arranged 3 fantastic Sunday tours; used "Signup Genius". Sadly, no one came to July 10th River Falls "Grow to Share" & DLG; 5 MGVs toured July 31st Lynn Nehring's Colfax, WI garden and at Aug. 21st Mpls Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. \$50 donation to Lynn Nehring's.

JUNIOR GARDEN U was canceled due to lack of MG volunteers. Diana Alfuth has coordinated this event the past three years on the last Saturday in June, 9am-noon, at River Falls DLG Garden with the help of MGVs.

## JULY -----

**BARB PETERSON**, SCVMGA President, hosted a lovely summer gathering on July 28th for 59 members, 7 guests, and Diana Alfuth with a delicious buffet, and self-guided tours of her beautiful home, 15+ gorgeous gardens and orchard.

3rd Yr SPRINKLINGS EDITOR **Colleen Callahan**, Assistant **Suzy Naschansky**, and all Sprinkling contributors created another year of fun & informative issues, including **Donna Davis'** interesting profile. Excellent program speaker notes from **Lisa Bigaouette**,

**Sandy Madsen**, **Mary Pat Finnegan**, **Vickie Reschke**, and **Deb Pederstuen**. Special thanks to featured columnists and contributors: - **Jerry Bridge's** Bug of the Month; **Karalyn Littlefield's** Karalyn's Kitchen; **Lisa Mosbey's** Herbs; **Peg Wastell's** updates on variety plant trials, seed-sharing, and the fall workshop.

3rd Yr. ST. CROIX CO. Fair Coordinator **Norma Rudesill** staffed 15 MGVs - Thurs. & Friday MGVs endured high heat & humidity. Canopy destroyed and 2015 UW-Ext tent twisted 90 degrees in early Thurs. storms! Disassembling the tent prior to Sat. a.m. storms, convinced MGVs to seek an alternative booth in 2017. Highlighted were "Invasive Plants" --buckthorn, garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and crown vetch & **Peg Wastell's** Seed Trial program. MGV **Shauna Knott's** creativity freshened up our SCVMGA display board. Kudos to Norma for using Signup Genius 1st yr. on our website! Special thanks to retiring coordinators, **Brenda Bodelson** and **Yvonne Koch-Proctor** for two years of service!

**HERBERT FLORCZYK**, former eight-year member (2005-2012) of River Falls, and father of MGV Andrea Nelson, passed away in Hudson on July 2, 2016. We'll remember Herbert for his passion for the Japanese style of pruning.

**CONNIE KLECKER**, former five-year member (2010-2014) of Hudson passed away on July 29, 2016. We'll remember Connie for her African Violet hobby, volunteer service at the Hudson Farmers Market and 2014 Financial Audit Committee.

## AUGUST -----

**STEVE MEYER** of FUTURE FARM AND FUEL gave a tour of his aquaponics lettuce operation for 50 members/5 guests at \$5/person on Aug. 25th. At \$250, it was highest speaker fee ever paid! Wastewater from tilapia he raises fertilizes 10% of lettuce greens grown. Very cost efficient operation; sells variety of greens to local restaurants and grocers.

3rd Yr. PIERCE CO. Fair Coordinator **Leroy Clark** staffed 24 MGVs who highlighted Invasive Plants with samples and ID pictorials of buckthorn, garlic mustard, wild parsnip, and

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crown vetch. They too dealt with storm damage to supplies and the UW-Ext. 2015 tent. Biggest Veggie/Weed Contest was not held.

## SEPTEMBER -----

STARLA ENGER drew 61 members/2 guests to the Sept. 22nd meeting to learn more about Pre-planting Bareroot Trees in Gravel and feeding with nutrients to promote healthier root development rather than the older ball & burlap method.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS - 2nd Year Garden Group Leader **Gail Behr** and 3 MGVs enjoyed a spring ephemeral walk in Pierce Co Educational Forest. Few MGVs in the group maintained DLG pollinator plot. A resource for native plants & wild edibles was created on website at <http://rengabe.org>.

**MATT SCHMITZ**, WIMGA VP/ At-large Director & **Marilyn Gorham**, 2013-2015 WIMGA Rep, served on the planning committee for Midwest Regional Gardener Conference held Sept. 14-17, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells.

6th Yr. FLOWER GARDEN DESIGN – Garden Group Leader, **JoAnn Ryan**, held 3 classes for 8 MGVs. Projects involved working in pairs at each other's gardens to solve their gardening dilemmas and redesigning landscapes of "ugly landscaped houses with their acquired design skills.

SCVMGA COMMUNITY GARDEN in NEW RICHMOND - New Coordinator **Donna Cadenhead** reported 17 MGVs and 3 student groups - St. Anne's in July and 19 NR June Service Day kids spent 382 hours and donated 834 lbs. of produce. Reduced volunteers in 2015 led to limited veggies grown—tomatoes, sun gold tomatoes, green & wax beans, and onions; 4th trial garden on the site. Renewed partnership was negotiated with landowners, Dick & Jonna Klukas. Huge thanks to **Carolyn Barrette** for coordinating the garden for 11 years since 2005 and Donna C. for taking on this year's challenge!!

4th Yr. SCVMGA CLOTHING Fundraiser – **Kathye Beebe** sold \$468 of SCVMGA labeled clothing from Imagining World. As of Sept 2016, proceeds generated \$1,000 for the MGV Education Fund.

6th Yr. COOKBOOK Fundraiser—**Jackie Daharsh** reported only two \$12 cookbooks sold for \$24 in gross sales in 2016. She has 26 copies of 2011 "Garden to Table Recipes" cookbooks available.

8th WESTERN DISTRICT MGV WORKSHOP - Coordinator **Peg Wastell** reported 72 paid MGVs, including 2 - 2016 MG interns and 10 guest MGVs, enjoyed "Growing & Using Herbs" theme on Sat., Sept. 24th, 9am-3pm at Ellsworth's Seyforth Bldg. Presenters: UW-Ext. Hort Educator, **Diana Alfuth** - "Herbalicious Herbs All Year" and SCVMGA members, **Lisa Mosbey** – "Aloe Vera Uses/Tea Blends"; **Debra Andazola** – "Herbal Tinctures"; **Phyllis Jaworski** – "Herbal Lotions"; **Karalyn Littlefield** – "Herbs in the Kitchen"; **Gail Behr** – "Eat Wild". Same \$15 workshop fee included Subway sub/chips. \$568 profit applied to grant program. Thanks to 16 MG volunteers, to **Donna Davis'** donation of \$25 My Sister's Garden gift card, and to retiring **Peg Wastell** for her fabulous job of coordinating the past 5 years!

## OCTOBER -----

SEVEN GRANT RECIPIENTS presented their gardening projects, including 3 MGVs, **Donna Davis**, **Sandy Madsen**, and **Debby Walters** to 42 members at the Oct. 27 meeting.

RURAL & FARM SAFETY DAYS was cancelled, but may be held in Spring 2017.

## NOVEMBER -----

ANNUAL MEETING on Nov. 17 included election of officers, budget approval, audit report, 3rd Seed Exchange, and acknowledgement of three outgoing BOD officers. Nine grant recipients, including MGV **Pat Angleson**, presented their projects. Thanks to Nominations Committee, Coordinator **Donna Davis**, **Kathye Beebe**, **Barb Kolbe**, and **JoAnn Ryan**, for filling five open Board positions.

4th Yr. SEED TRIALS Garden Group Leader, **Peg Wastell** and 40 participants (28 SCVMGA members) tested four varieties of carrots, eggplant, kohlrabi, lettuce, muskmelon, peas, parsley, cosmos, and milkweed. Four permanent "Trial Display Garden" signs, obtained with \$250 WIMGA 2015 grant, identified our 3 trial gardens. Lost the

Baldwin site.

2016 WIMGA \$400 EDUCATIONAL GRANT and \$150 St. Croix Electric Cooperative 2016 Grant was applied to \$406 EPSON PROJECTOR and \$297 PORTABLE MICROPHONE. Special thanks to SCVMGA's Grant Committee for acquiring the grants. Available for MGVs is a New \$580 HP PAVILION 360 COMPUTER with convertible enhanced screen; includes one-year security and a \$129 software package for Excel, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word, school/home.

THIRD SCVMGA UW-RF Biennial \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP will be presented in 2017 as no qualified applicants applied in 2016. Previous recipients were Brooke Gasteyer of Elmwood in 2012 and Nicholas Peter of Athens, WI in 2014.

SPECIAL THANKS to BOD President **Barb Peterson** (2015-2016), Vice President **Trent Kowalchyk** (2015-2016), BOD Treasurer **Jackie Daharsh** (2013-2016); Secretary **Karen Jilek** (2016); and St. Croix Rep, **Barb Kolbe** (2013-2016) for their awesome dedication and service.

MEMBERSHIP --203 members—includes 180 renewals, 17 of 21 (81%) 2015 MGV interns, 1 - 2016 intern, and 5 new members. In 2016, 135 MGVs (67%) were certified. 19 MGVs (9.4%) discontinued membership in Dec, 2015.

For 17 years, Pierce Co. UW-Ext. Horticulture Educator **Diana Alfuth**, has blessed us with her support, expertise, and friendship as our advisor. As an instructor, her annual MGV training class has contributed significantly to our large membership, recruiting new and talented MGVs every year.



**Diana Alfuth**

*Our apologies if we failed to include your event or accomplishment in this Year in Review.*

## Fall Workshop attendance makes history

by Peg Wastell

We had the highest attendance ever at our 8th Western District MGV Workshop in September! Among the 70 registrants, 10 were guests from nearby MGV associations and two were currently taking the MGV training class.

This was the first time we used all “in-house” talent. Our speakers and demonstrators were SCVMGA members **Diana Alfuth** (herbalicious Herbs All Year); **Lisa Mosbey** (Aloe Vera Uses/Tea Blends); **Debra Andazola** (Herbal Tinctures); **Phyllis Jaworski** (Herbal Lotions); **Karalyn Littlefield** (Herbs in the Kitchen); and **Gail Behr** (Eat Wild).

The hands-on activities were especially loved by everyone. It was fun-packed time with additional time given throughout the afternoon to finish making your own tea and learning from demonstrators. Our plentiful amount of door prizes were also generously donated by SCVMGA members along with basil grown for the workshop.

We had 16 MGVs sign up as volunteers with others pitching in on the day to make our event a success. **Donna Davis** donated to the drawing and we all got to enjoy making tea with her dried materials. **Jackie Daharsh** and her helpers at the registration table made everything go smoothly. **Carolyn Barrette** and her helpers kept the coffees, hot water, and tea flowing all day. **Barb Peterson** announced all the speakers and kept us on track. **Carolyn Baker, Ginny Drath, Pat Angleson, Kathye Beebe, Teresa Davis, Ken and Barb Kolbe, Kimberly Stapleton, Cherly Barker, Will and Joan Kowalchyk, Rose Kuebker** and others stepped up to make the workshop happen. Thank you all very much!

It has been a joy to coordinate five of our fall workshops.

PHOTOS BY DEB PEDERSTUEN AND COLLEEN CALLAHAN



LEFT: **Gail Behr** shared her expertise on hunting, preparing wild herbs. RIGHT: **Lisa Mosbey** revealed the secrets tucked inside Aloe vera.



ABOVE: **Phyllis Jaworski** (right) demonstrated how to create herbal lotions. BELOW: **Debra Andazola** (left) explained the process of herbal tinctures and **Karalyn Littlefield** (right) cooked pesto delights for all to taste.



## *Sprinklings*

*Sprinklings* is a newsletter publication of the St. Croix Valley Master Gardener 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, Jan. 6** for the Jan/Feb. issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to the [editor](#).

Editor: Colleen Callahan  
 Communications Coordinator: Suzy Naschansky  
 Circulation Manager: Diana Alfuth



# 2017 St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Variety Plant Trials

## Order Form

The purpose of these trials is to grow specific vegetable, herb, and flower varieties, evaluate, and share information. Evaluation data includes germination rate, growing habits, flavor, size, color, and texture. Results from data sheets of selected vegetable varieties will be compiled and reported in the SCVMGA newsletter, the state WIMGA newsletter and local newspapers. Results will be used to recommend varieties to gardeners on what grows well in our western part of the state.

Each trial consists of four varieties of a particular type of vegetable, herb, or flower. Each trial comes with seed more than sufficient for trial and a data sheet consisting of growing directions and evaluations. You can grow the seeds in any method you wish – containers, square foot method, raised beds, or traditional garden rows.

Grow all four varieties of each trial using the same method and care so we have consistent results.

*Order as few as one trial and up to all eight trials.*

Please place a check mark next to trials you are ordering.

### **Vegetables**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Bean, Yellow Bush (Carson, Gold Crop, Goldmine, Rocdor)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Cabbage, Mini (Alcosa, Tiara, Caraflex, Omera)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Mustard Greens (Florida Broadleaf, Red Giant, Southern Giant-Curled, Tendergreen0)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Pumpkin, Mini (Baby Boo, Jack Be Little, Sweet Lightening, Wee-Be-Little)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Tomato, Roma/Plum/Paste (Amish Paste, Plum Regal, San Marzano, Super Sauce)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Turnips (Gold Ball, Just Right, Purple Top White Globe, Round Red)

### **Herb0**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Basil, Unique flavors (Cinnamon, Lemon, Licorice, Lime)

### **Flower**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Zinnia, 12" – 18" tall mixes(Magellan, Persian Carpet, Profusion, Zahara)

Note: Plant Trial Group reserves right to substitute without notice any variety named above.

Data sheets with growing directions and evaluation form will be delivered with seeds.

***Ordered must be placed no later than January 31, 2017***

### Agreement

I agree to participate in the trials I receive, and will plant and grow the seeds to the best of my ability. Working in cooperation with UW-Extension, I will evaluate each variety for various characteristics such as germination rate, appearance, yield, quality, and whether I would grow it again. Data sheets for each trial have specific evaluations that I will complete and return by the deadline approximately October 31, 2017.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, WI Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Cost:

To help cover the costs of this project, there is a registration cost of \$1.00 per trial plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. For example if you decide to grow all 8 trials your cost would be \$8.00 plus postage and handling. Do not add postage and handling if you plan to pick up your trials at the March (April for plants) meeting.

_____ # of tests @ \$1.00	\$ _____
\$2.00 for postage and handling	\$2.00
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

**Make Check Payable to S.C.V.M.G.A.**

Mail your completed order form and check to:

SCVMGA Plant Trials Group  
Peg Wastell  
611 Laurel Drive  
New Richmond, WI 54017