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University of Wisconsin-Extension

Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

<http://scvmga.weebly.com>

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2014

Latest Updates

Volunteer Hours

The deadline to submit your volunteer hours to Diana Alfuth is Oct. 1. This includes **community education** (working at fairs, farmers markets, publicity), **continuing education** (attending meetings, workshops) and **support services** (helping with community gardens, organizing events). This year everyone must complete the mandated "Reporter Online Training" on suspected child abuse and neglect. See Page 6 for more details.

Invasive Plant Workshop

Here's a chance to gain some educational hours: a free presentation on invasive plants will be held at **7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17** at the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club, Baldwin Town Hall, 2399-90th Ave., Baldwin. A representative from the West Central Wisconsin Invasive Plant Management Area will conduct the workshop. The public is welcome. For more info, call MGV Wendy Kramer at 715-684-3642.

Gladiolus Tour Canceled

The gladiolus tour is rescheduled for August 2015.

Bringing English gardens to Wisconsin



Photo from Sankey's website: www.andrewsankeygardens.co.uk

by Heather Lacke

September's meeting features our favorite English nurseryman – Andrew Sankey – back to visit and tell us about English gardens.

Sankey, a garden designer/landscaper, nurseryman and lecturer comes from Cambridge, England and has included a stop in Hudson as part of his annual U.S. tour this year.

Sankey's passion is working with plants and being out in the garden. He has designed everything from tiny front gardens in England to vast turf mazes in Minnesota. He considers his specialty cottage gardens and borders where he creates harmonious drifts of color. Doesn't that sound beautiful and something that we would all like to create in our own gardens?

In previous years we have enjoyed his talks on the history of cottage gardens, companion planting, and famous English gardens. This year he will talk about how you can bring the English garden to your Wisconsin landscape. He may also have some of his books for sale at the event. The event is open to the public. A \$2 fee will be charged to non-members to help defray costs.

7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 18

United Methodist Church
1401 Laurel Ave.
Hudson



New Richmond Update

Community Garden

by Carolyn Barrette

Community Garden is almost put to bed. It was not a successful year – too much grass, too much rain, too cold weather. BUT, we still have Sun Golds and red tomatoes, and three rows of beans that are producing. While there's still an edible vegetable we can still give away, it's not over yet. We have given 1,400 pounds of vegetables to Deer Park, New Richmond, Somerset and Hudson senior centers, Grace Place, St Croix Public Health, food shelves in New Richmond, Hudson, Somerset and River Falls, and senior or low income living quarters in Hammond, Hudson, New Richmond, Osceola and River Falls. We do manage to get fresh vegetables around the counties, which is our goal.

1,400 lbs. of fresh vegetables have been distributed so far.

Counting our help from the New Richmond Service Day students and the three visits from the Somerset Stretch group, nearly 300 hours of volunteer help was contributed to our garden this year. That's 300 community service and/or youth hours contributed by Master Gardeners and friends.

There will be a couple more days of picking tomatoes and beans before the tomato posts come down or it freezes. If anyone comes to pick, please also take the onions that are in the long storage green house to where ever you are going.

One more day of work – late in Sept probably – to remove and stack the tomatoes posts. Thanks to the help of **Julie LaBarre, Julie Walsh, Barb Peterson, Karen Halvorson, Cheryl Barker, Cindy Gleason and Gloria Bonse**, the hoses and row strings were collected and put away for another year. Thanks to **Donna Davis, Sue Klatt and Marilyn Davis** who all put in over 25 hours each in the garden this summer. It's volunteers that make the garden work.

One final problem – the garden has gone to grass. How do we get rid of it other than Round-up and crab grass killer? Good ideas wanted.

SEEKING YOUR INPUT

Suggestions wanted for topics, speakers, tours for 2015 programs

by Carolyn Barrette

It's that time of year again – we're in the process of developing the 2015 program schedule for the monthly meetings as well as the special events we have, such as Garden U to be held on March 21, 2015 at Ready Randy's.

Again, we like to make the January meeting a special introduction to the year meeting for new members – and add some color in the dark days of winter. Any suggestions? Hopefully no snow storms this year.

Is there a speaker you would like to hear? A subject you want to know about? A really fantastic garden person you think ought to talk to us?

Our summer 'field trips' have been really popular in 2014. We could visit garden shops, specialty gardens, produce centers, dining areas with special gardens – the possibilities are endless. The field is wide open and the best ideas come from our members.

Gardening includes a wide range of knowledge – from planning the garden, the soil or growing medium, seed starting to final product – whether flower, vegetables, trees and shrubs, and everything in between. It's a vast subject and as Master Gardeners we have a lot of information to share or that we want to know about.

"The field is wide open and the best ideas come from our members."

Please forward the name and contact information to me at tbarrett@pressenter.com or 715-549-6438. Or let someone else know and ask them to pass on the information. I just make the phone calls – you folks are the ones who come up with the great program ideas.

Some specifics in mind for the coming year include a Garden U discussion on the effect of climate change on the plants now growing. We haven't had a speaker on medicinal plants, uses of herbs, shrubs or new garden products lately. Just a couple of suggestions to think about and forward ideas.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Coordinator: Pauline Goerdt, cimicifuga2@hotmail.com
Please contact Pauline if you have projects in need of help.

This list is also available online at scvmga.weebly.com

Baldwin

Community Garden, 1650-8th Ave.
philpark@hotmail.com, 715-688-2851
Supervise, maintain, harvest, donate

Ellsworth

Pierce County Fair (Aug. 7-10)
Helen at gfryer@bevcomm.net
Planning, setup, man booth, help with displays

VFW Post, 154 S. Plum St.
Carol at matzek@centurytel.net, 715-262-5232
Mulch, edge landscape, perennial care

Glenwood City

St. Croix County Fair (July 16-20)
Brenda at nurseonloose@baldwin-telecom.net
Yvonne at jproctor33@hotmail.com
Planning, setup, man booth, help with displays

Hammond

St Mary's Community Garden, 1420 Fithian St.
Mike at mandb1973@aol.com, 715-386-9792
Sunday School garden, Grade School garden coordination or help

Village Community Garden, Ridgeway Road
Mike at mandb1973@aol.com, 715-386-9792
Coordinate, help with growing community food, flowers and orchard

Hudson

Hudson Hospital, 405 Stageline Road
Jean at jean.m.weiler@hudsonhospital.org
Indoor plant caretaker; coordinate, help with community garden

Octagon House, 1004-3rd Ave.
Jean at jahaut@comcast.net, 715-377-0645
Monday workdays, general garden maintenance

Christian Community Home, 1320 Wisconsin St.
shelly.destasio@cchudson.org, 715-386-9303
2-5 hrs. monthly maintenance of Memory Care gardens

YMCA Camp St. Croix, 532 Co. Rd. F
stephanie.lentz@ymcatwincities.org, 612-465-0561
Landscape, greenhouse, flower & vegetable gardens

Hudson (cont'd)

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

Farmer's Market, Plaza 94 (June-October)
Janet at dbutler1@pressenter.com
Thursdays, 8 a.m.-noon

Willow River State Park, Cty Rd. A
Lauren at 715-386-9340
Tours and maintenance

New Richmond

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

Community Garden, 2050 Hwy 65
Carolyn at tbarrett@pressenter.com, 715-549-6438
Planting, weeding, harvesting, planning

Prescott

Great River Road Visitor Center, 200 Monroe St.
Jessica at jessica@freedomparkwi.org, 715-262-0104
Weeding, maintenance

River Falls

Town of River Falls Parks
Dan at dirandall13@yahoo.com, 651-775-6052
*Entrance sign planting, maintenance at 7 parks.
3-4 hours per month*

Farmer's Market, 2nd St. and Locust St. (May-October)
Kari & Rick at krrhussey@gmail.com
*Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Tuesdays, 4 p.m.-6 p.m.
Man booth, answer questions*

Demonstration & Learning Garden, Hoffman Park
Diana Alfuth at diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu
*"Grow to Share Community Garden"
Weed, demonstrate in garden, scout for problems*

(cont'd on next page)

Cucurbita maxima



River Falls (cont'd)**St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity**Susan at susan.capparelli@scvhabitat.org,

715-425-5623

Working on new gardens for Habitat for Humanity homes

Grow to Share Community Garden, Hoffman ParkAnna at growthshare@gmail.com, 715-426-0826

Weeding, planting, watering, harvesting, delivering

River Falls Community Garden, RF High School

Amy at 715-307-7317

Weeding, watering, harvesting

Roberts**Cross Community Garden**, 1246 Co. Rd TTMike at mandb1973@aol.com, 715-386-9792

Growing community food & flowers, coordinate or help



PHOTO BY SUZY NASCHANSKY

Still-H₂O wine-tasting a big hit

by Ellen Montgomery

Forty-five MGs learned about hydroponics, its history and current utilizations from Still-H₂O owner C.R. Stephens. He briefly discussed the science, process and requirements for growing hydroponically.

The second speaker, Don Edison, discussed his venture in growing 100 percent edible fodder for livestock without soil. This growth occurs in stacked trays (about 1 ft. x 6 ft.) in his barn with drip water and artificial light. It's an in-development business venture at this point and he engaged MGs with their thoughts on the business feasibility of it.

The third speaker, Pat Cleary, discussed (with colorful stories of his successes and 'misses') his wine-making techniques, tools, methods and recipes for success. This was followed by the opportunity to sample several of his wine varieties (with dandelion getting the most surprised smiles).

Somerset**Parnell Prairie Preserve**, 1823-45th St.Jean at jeanlh@me.com

Weeding, watering showcase area

4 hrs per month (May-September)

Spring Valley**Spring Valley Village Gardens**Sue at christensons@springvalley.k12.wi.us

715-778-4559

Help weed, maintain village gardens

Anywhere**Sprinklings Newsletter**Colleen at giverny@me.com, 715-381-9683

Newsletter items, features, ideas

OCTOBER MEETING**The basics of "Food Plots"**

October's meeting returns to the Unitarian Church at N8010 Hwy 65 in River Falls on Thursday, Oct. 23. The meeting will start at 6:45 p.m. and the speaker at 7:15 p.m.

Trent Kowalchyk will discuss the basics of food plots, what they are, and why they are important to Master Gardeners.

He will give a brief overview of how to establish and maintain a food plot. That's not your vegetable garden, but planning and caring for a food plot for wildlife.

October is actually when some of the food plot planning/prep work should be started. Trent says he even has some food plot pictures and results, and pictures of animals using the plot, including a couple of some fawns playing rodeo. It has been a learning process, he says.

Help 4th Graders learn about plants

Volunteers are needed to give short presentations on toxic plants, weeds and plant safety to 4th graders at "Rural and Farm Safety Days" on Wednesday, Oct. 1 and Thursday, Oct. 2. The event is sponsored by Pierce County 4-H and takes place at the Pierce County Fairgrounds in Ellsworth. If you'd like to help out, contact diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu

August Meeting

Membership News

by Deb Pederstuen

Octagon House Plant Sales**2010-2014 Report**

SIXTH ANNUAL SALE 2010 was another successful sale organized by Corky Weeks. Profits of almost \$3,000 helped fund our community service project grants. Books donated by former President Wayne Peterson brought in \$40 in sales.

SEVENTH ANNUAL SALE 2011

Sale Coordinator Corky Weeks reported \$3,139 in plant/cookbook sales.

EIGHTH ANNUAL SALE 2012 had gross sales of \$3,948 in plants, cookbooks (5), and misc.gardening items – an all-time high.

NINTH ANNUAL SALE 2013 Gross sales of \$3,545 supported the grant program. Thanks to coordinators Corky Weeks and Heather Lane. Leftover plants went to St. Croix Industries' plant sale and grant recipients. \$100 donated to St. Croix Historical Society for use of the Octagon House grounds.

TENTH ANNUAL SALE 2014

It was held in the RAIN. Gross sales of \$3,100 support the grant program. Thanks to coordinators Corky Weeks and Heather Lane. Leftover plants went to Camp St. Croix & grant recipients. \$100 donated to St. Croix Historical Society for use of the Octagon House grounds.

Echo from the past

"The first SCVMGA plant sale was a success with sales totaling \$1,349.50. It was a great day for learning, teaching, and overall fun. We will be doing it again next year, the first weekend in June."

June 2005 Sprinklings

Newest members

In August we welcomed **Deb Schommer** of Bay City as our 200th member! **Gloria Bonse** of North Hudson joined at the July meeting. Our 2014 membership now includes 22 MGV interns from the 2013 MG training class of 35 students.

5 Board positions available

Elections for the Board of Directors (BOD) will take place at the Nov. 20 monthly meeting. Currently, board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at the Hudson Public Library. All positions are two-year commitments. Open positions are:

- President – plans and conducts board and monthly meetings
- Vice President – assumes role of president when needed; oversees committees
- Treasurer – keeps financial records, oversees small fundraising projects
- Pierce County Representative – represents Pierce County members
- St. Croix County Representative – represents St. Croix County members

The benefits of being a board member include earning service hours, sharing your ideas, knowing "what's going on" and making new friends. Interested candidates may contact Nominations Committee Coordinator Deb Pederstuen at debnrick@gmail.com 715-386-6681.

Volunteer coordinator resigns

Pauline Goerdt's expanding gardening business convinced her to resign after serving two years as volunteer coordinator. She did a great job of keeping us informed of our volunteer opportunities. If interested in this position, contact Deb Pederstuen, Membership, 715-386-6681 for job details.

Revised brochure, business cards

This July the brochure and business cards were updated and distributed just in time for the 2014 county fairs and farmers' markets. With just a glance at the cover page, you may not notice any difference from our 2011 brochure, except that the WIMGA logo was replaced with the SCVMGA logo. **Karen Langfeldt** is pictured with the seed trial poster; the other photo features **Kathy Beebe** trimming flowers at the Pierce County Fair. In the background is **Pat Tremaine**. We also added the following new items: SCVMGA website, UW-Extension logo, UW-Extension Demonstration & Learning Garden, Junior Garden U, Garden Groups including Plant/Seed trials, background check for MG training course and activities.

A special "thank-you" to **Jackie Daharsh, Shauna Knott** and **Suzy Naschansky** for their time and expertise to make this all come together.

For additional copies, contact our treasurer, Jackie Daharsh, or download a brochure from the website at <http://bit.do/mg-brochure>. Tell interested friends, neighbors, or relatives about Diana's MG training class that begins in September, and offer them a brochure.

Challenging season for seed trials

by Peg Wastell, Seed Trials Coordinator

Getting the word out about our seed trials is an ongoing process. This year Diana was approached by Jennifer Schmidt, reporter for the Eau Claire Leader-Telegraph. Jennifer interviewed some of us and wrote a nice article in the newspaper magazine called "Homefront." You can link to the magazine by clicking on the website address at the bottom of this article. "Growing Wisdom" is the title of article – so apt! Let us know if you have a way of getting our results to the general public.



Peg enjoys explaining plant trial projects to county fairgoers.



PHOTO BY SUZY NASCHANSKY

Plant trial radishes

Please remember that Diana feels any information including crop failures are worth reporting on your evaluation forms. These evaluation forms are not due until Oct. 31 so get your volunteer hours in this month first and then send in your evaluations next month. Your time filling in your forms counts toward your volunteer hours so you could squeak a bit more time in this year or get a quick start on next year's hours.

The 2015 seed trial selection is coming soon! Let me know if you want to continue in this group or join us. Please send me your suggestions or any good seed source. Seed selection meeting will be late September/early October. Contact me by Sept. 20 or at our September Master Gardener meeting if you are interested in taking part and we will then set a time and place. p.wastell@gmail.com or 612-261-3892

Magazine article. After clicking on the link, go to Page 4: http://eauclaireleadertelegram.wi.newsmemory.com/special.php?pSetup=eauclaireleadertelegram_homefront&date=20140816

Tallying up your volunteer hours

Note: All websites/emails are active links in the newsletter. Clicking will take you directly to the website/email address.

An explanation of categories is on Page 2 of the PDF version. Your time spent filling in the form counts toward your volunteer hours.

FORMS

Both the print PDF file and the electronic version can be found at:

<http://wimastergardener.org/?q=MGVtimesheets>

The electronic version is an Excel file located at the bottom of the page. You can type in the information directly. Make sure you download the 2014 version. If you want to track your time as you go along beginning Oct. 1 for next year, the 2015 version is now available.

TRAINING CERTIFICATION

Don't forget to send along your **certificate of completion** of the training course on reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. It's an online course and will count toward one hour of MGV continuing education. The course can be found at:

<http://wcwps.wisc.edu/mandatedreporter/>

LETTER, DROP-OFF, EMAIL

You can send your results by postal mail, drop off at Diana's office or email. If you email and haven't received a confirmation from Diana within a week, resend it. Items can sometimes get lost in cyberspace.

Diana Alfuth, Horticulture Educator
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Ellsworth, WI 54011
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SPRINKLINGS PROFILE



Corky Weeks takes a break from her vegetable garden. Right:Cucumber plants supported by poles (center) are surrounded by pole beans (left), squash, pumpkins (bottom), dahlias (red flowers) and cup plants (yellow flowers)



PHOTO BY CORKY WEEKS

Corky's Gardens

by Colleen Callahan

Corky Weeks admits that she's "a little bit of a weather nerd." And these days her interest in dew points peaks. As the air and dew point temperatures hover around 32-35 degrees, it means checking meteorological data on the Internet every day to determine if she needs to get out the sheets to shelter the tomatoes, squash and peppers.

The closer the dew point temperature is to the air temperature, the more moisture in the air. When it gets cold, all that moisture will start to freeze. The covering, she explains, accomplishes two things: it traps the heat from the warm soil and keeps out the falling, freezing dew. In 36 years of vegetable gardening, Corky has covered a lot of squash and tomatoes.

That means more food for canning, freezing and pickling. Pickled veggies are among Corky's favorite foods. She pickles zucchini for relish, mixed veggies for antipasto and green beans. One of the beans she plants is Fortex, a variety of French filet pole beans — long, thin and very tender.

One thing she doesn't grow is beets. She just doesn't like them. And, she says with a twinkle, they don't

seem to like her. One year she planted beets at her son's request, but they never grew. "Those poor little beet seeds got vibes from me that I didn't want them in my garden," she says. Actually, it was probably the deer. They ate off all the tops and the beets never recovered.

Today, Corky keeps out the deer with a five-foot fence, a 1-foot wire on top and colorful streamers that blow in the wind and shine in the sun. She lives on 2 1/2 acres that includes woodland.

At the end of a 30-year career as a financial consultant, Corky finally had time in 2000 to take the Master Gardener course. "An old friend, Donna Davis, headed me in the direction of becoming a Master Gardener by talking so enthusiastically about it," she says.

Lifelong learning is important to Corky and she enjoys how one subject matter connects to others. She took Level 2 training on native plants a couple of years ago and "it taught me so much about Wisconsin geography and ecology" she says.

Her advice to new MGVs? Go to as many seminars
(cont'd on next page)

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(cont'd from previous page) as you can. "I came to MG already pretty knowledgeable," she says, "still I learned so much through the professional and academic approach."

Another important part of being an MGV is the camaraderie. On a personal level, "it's the most valuable part," Corky says. "It's impossible to be a MGV in isolation. Getting to know so many people who share the same love of gardening as I do is very important to me. I've made some great friends."

And then there is the volunteer service. "All of us are contributing everyday to the horticultural education and beautification of Pierce and St. Croix counties," she says. "The Master Gardener designation has become well known and

WANTED

VOLUNTEERS to PICK APPLES, BAKE PIES

Apple pickers and pie bakers are needed to provide fresh apple pies for community residents in the Dayton's Bluff area in St. Paul, MN. Picking will take place at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at Sunrise River Farm [www.sunriseriverfarm.com] Pie-baking will take place at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 25 and Thursday, Oct. 2 at First Lutheran Church [<http://lovegrowshere.net/>] Also, needed items include pie tins, sugar, cinnamon, flour and butter. The pies will be distributed to attendees at the community dinner. The goal is to bake 50-100 pies. The event is sponsored by the Psychology Departments at Metropolitan State University and Inver Hills Community College.



Contacts

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BCurcha@inverhills.mnscu.edu

respected. I'm just proud to be part of this movement."

Corky's favorite volunteer project has been the New Richmond Community Garden. "I used to put in more hours, but unfortunately my physical ailments have limited my help there, and I miss it," she says. "It was hard work, especially in the heat of the summer, but my favorite part was delivering the fresh picked produce to food pantries and senior citizens centers. Everyone is so appreciative of the food."

For the last eight years, Corky has focused her attention on coordinating the Octagon House annual plant sale. "It's our best opportunity to earn enough money for the community grants." Annual sales average \$3,500.

The fundraiser began in 2005 when the Hudson Garden Club could no longer sponsor the event and invited SCVMGA to take over. The association agreed, but unlike the Hudson Garden Club, which purchased wholesale plants to sell, Master Gardeners only sell plants

grown and donated by members.

"There are so many people who work on this," says Corky, who spends at least 25 hours organizing the event each year. She sets up the schedule, coordinates the volunteers and publicity, arranges for tables and tents, and helps with plant sorting and pricing. The work begins Friday evening when members bring their plants to the back of the Octagon House where sorting and pricing are done. Early Saturday morning – always the first Saturday of June – everything is carried to the front yard. "It's a lot of physical labor," Corky says.

Through her work and dedication, the fundraiser has grown into an institution. "It has a following with a lot of repeat business," she says.

But it's time, according to Corky, to think about turning over the reins to someone else. The event, she says, "needs new blood, new ideas."

Maybe then she'll have more time in spring to enjoy her favorite flower, the peony.

**Forecasters predict spectacular color
this fall thanks to all the rains.**

ENJOY!



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, Nov. 7 for the Nov/Dec issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to giverny@me.com.

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