

JANUARY

OPEN HOUSE/PIZZA PARTY held Jan. 26 for the second time at First Covenant Church. SCVMGA member **Christine McGinnis** presented "Art & Structure in the Garden" featuring her own gardens. We welcomed 13 of the 21 MG Interns from the 2016 class. Diana Alfuth distributed 2017 MGV certificates and announced 3,720 MGV hours in 2016. MGVs **Corky Weeks** and **Cathie Burtzloff** were recognized for 1,000 volunteer hours. Ninety-one people attended: Diana, 74 members, 4 guests, and 12 interns from the 2016 class.

ORIGINAL SCVMGA MEMBERS set the groundwork in mid-1997. Of 38 members, 11 are still involved: Carolyn Barrette, Deb & Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Daphne Brackley, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS welcomed 3 new members -Secretary **Barbara Johnson, Cindy Doty** who worked with grant program, Treasurer **Julie Walsh, and Kerry Christopherson**, who was instrumental in activating our UW-RF \$1000 Scholarship, was welcomed back to board as Pierce County Rep.

NEW COORDINATORS: **Janet Bliven** and **Rachel Baumer**, Hospitality Assistants; **Debby Walters** and **Anita Justin**, Tour coordinators, **Denise Flaherty**, co-coordinator of the Grant Committee; **Sue Ballard**, team coordinator with **Donna Cadenhead** for SCVMGA Community Garden, and **Vickie Reschke** coordinator of the 2017 Fall Workshop.

THE 2016 FINANCIAL REVIEW was completed on February 18, 2017. All records were found to be accurate and in good order. Members of the committee included **Kathye Beebe, Cindy Doty, Julie Weinberg** and **Jackie Daharsh**.

FEBRUARY

FEB 23 MEETING SCVMGA member **John Ramstad** shared his extensive knowledge of "Hydroponic Indoor Gardening". John tells how to set up garden and run in basement. 57 members and 11 guests attended.

NEW COORDINATORS - **Leslie Holt** Photo Coordinator, Debby Walters and Mari Marson co- **Webmaster** duties.

NEW JOINT FAIR COMMITTEE: **Deb Pederstuen, Cindy Doty, Leroy Clark, Amanda Lawrence, Virginia Drath, Norma Rudesill, Patricia Henderson, Tom Kujawa, Wendy Kramer, Barbara Kolpin, and Cindy Gleason** met three times find and plan a new MG booth location with weather protection because of tent/canopy damage past two years.

APPOINTMENT: **Jackie Daharsh** was appointed Board secretary until Fall 2017 upon resignation of **Barbara Johnson**,

2017 VARIETY PLANT TRIALS: 5th year coordinator **Peg Wastell** organized a "Seed Sorting and Potluck" project on Saturday, Feb. 25 at St. Joseph Town Hall with 18 MGVs. Thirty-three MGVs participated in this year's Variety Plant Trials that included unique basil, Roma tomatoes, mini pumpkins, mustard greens, mini cabbage, turnips, yellow beans and zinnias.

MARCH

18th ANNUAL GARDEN U was held at the Hudson House Grand Hotel on March 18. **Carolyn Barrette and Mitzi Roy** coordinated the event. Presentations included: "Residential Landscape Design" by Dan Sandager of Abrahamson Nurseries, Stillwater; "Fruits and Berries in the Landscape" by Teresa Marrone, Minnesota author; and "Grow Native" by Lynn Steiner, area garden writer, Garden Market Place with 3 MGVs participating: **Phyllis Jaworski, Mari Marson, and Wendy Kramer**. Total of 159 attendees: Diana, 90 members, 20 vendors, 48 non- members. Proceeds 4,365, Profit \$1,234.

NEW GARDEN U ASSISTANT COORDINATOR: **Lisa Esselman** will join longtime coordinator Carolyn Barrette and Mitzi Roy to plan 2018 Garden U at the Hudson House Grand Hotel

MARCH 28 MEETING: Prof. Sonja Maki, UW-RF Department of Plant and Earth Sciences shared **the benefits of a Green Wall** and the rationale and directions for creating indoor green walls of plants and the benefits for both businesses and schools. Attendees: 67 members and 1 guest.

ST. CROIX BUILDERS ASSOCIATION Spring Expo held at Hudson Sports & Civic Center, March 24-25, coordinated by **Barb Peterson** for the third year. Game "Are you smarter than a Rutabaga?" was used to engage attendees. Eleven SCVMGA MGVs: **Bev Hoppe, Maria Scheidegger, Rose Kuebker, Karen Halvorson, Carolyn Barrette, Vickie Reschke, Sue Wallin, John Norquist, Amanda Lawrence**, staffed the booth with presentations by Trent Kowalchuk (Pallet gardening) and Peg Wastell (SCVMGA Variety Plant trials).

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES: UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic March 15 "Growing Healthy Plants: Basics in Disease Management" taught by "Dr. Death," Dr. Brian Hudelson, director of the UW-Extension Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic. at River Falls Public Library; "How to Fertilize" taught by Diana Alfuth, Pierce County Horticulture Educator, March 28.

APRIL

3M VOLUNTEER MATCHING GRANTS. Each year the 3M Foundation will donate \$250 to an approved nonprofit organization for each employee (20 MGV hrs) or retiree (25 MGV hrs) who volunteers at that organization. In April SCVMGA received \$750 representing volunteer matches for 3 MGVs.

EDUCATION CLASS: Invasive Species Identification and Control, Lawn Care and Management April 4, at Elmwood High School Science Classroom.

13th EARTH DAY: SCVMGA had a booth at the YMCA Camp in Hudson April 23. MGVs **Erin Abrahamson** and her daughter Mallory, **Peg Wastell, Donna Davis, Amanda Lawrence**, and **Corky Weeks**. The booth had a display on groundwater pollution with handouts and hands-on activities for children.

APRIL 27 MEETING, Ernie Betker presented "Techniques in pruning and caring for grapes". Sixty-seven MGVs and 7 guests attended. April 15- Grape Vine Pruning Field Trip at Ernie's vineyard for a practical hands-on demonstration of pruning. Ten MGVs attended.

MAY

HOULTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was awarded the "U.S. Dept of Education Green Ribbon School award" along with 44 schools nationwide. It was cited for innovative efforts in reducing environmental impact, improving health, and ensuring sustainability. MGVs help students with composting, planting, weeding, and harvesting herbs and vegetables. The grounds also contain a rain garden, butterfly garden, and a one-acre prairie, all of which have been sustained through SCVMGA grants, the school's education fund and personal donations. Congratulations to **Sandy Madsen, Julie Weinberg, Lynn Steely, and John Ramstad**. SCVMGA awarded Sandy with a \$500 travel grant to Washington, D.C. to accept the award with the school principal.

SCVMGA UW-RF \$1,000 Scholarship 2017-2018 was awarded to Amanda McCarty, a junior Horticulture major from Hastings, MN.

STATE OF WI now requires all Master Gardeners to provide information for background checks every four years to retain their membership.

MAY 25 MEETING – David Fodroczi representing the Kinnikinnick Land Trust, Presentation was interesting and provided good information on current initiatives. 55 MGVs and 2 guests attended.

17th ANNUAL GRANTS: 1st year Coordinators, **Phyllis Jaworski** and **Denise Flaherty** and 5 MGVs requested \$4,482 for 19 of the 21 project applications representing 9 cities in St. Croix and Pierce Counties. Original requested was \$4,982. Six projects were coordinated by MGVs and 1 by an Intern MGV. Seven projects were for Youth Education and benefited over 700 students. Thanks to Phyllis Jaworski and Denise Flaherty for coordinating in 2017.

JUNE

4rd YEAR SPRINKLINGS EDITOR Colleen Callahan, assistant **Suzy Naschansky**, and all Sprinklings contributors created another year of fun & informative issues. Excellent program speaker notes from **Gloria Bonse**, **Sandy Madsen**, **Vickie Reschke**. Special thanks to featured contributors - **Jerry Bridge's** Bug of the Month; **Karalyn Littlefield's** recipes; **Lisa Mosbey's** Herb column, **Peg Wastell's** updates on Variety Plant Trials, **Paul VanDeerendonk** for WIGMA updates, **Deb Pederstuen** for member updates, and **Carolyn Barrette** for program info. Colleen Callahan updated the SCVMGA brochure (2rd revision); obtained 250 copies for \$128.54 at Hub70 printers.

13th ANNAUL PLANT SALE: June 3 - SCVMGA had another spectacular plant sale. The gross proceeds this year were \$5,038. (profit of \$4956 shattered our old record of \$4,300). MGVs donated plants, and 60 MGVs participated, both in the Friday night set-up and the Saturday sale. Plants were donated from the Washington County MG Sale, Polk County MG Sale and hostas from the Octagon House. A special thanks to **Corky Weeks**, chair; **Christine McGinnis**, co- chair; **Tim Wilson**, equipment manager; and **Donna Davis**, "Ask a Master Gardener" table and special projects manager.

4th JUNIOR GARDEN U: 21kids learned three weeding techniques, using stones, sticks, and trowels on Saturday, June 24 at the UW-Extension Demonstration and Learning Garden in River Falls. **Marilyn Gorham** explained how Native Americans used ancient tools to weed. Diana Alfuth helped students plant lettuce, radishes and beets with a hydroponic solution. After a lesson on wildlife in the garden, the students painted terra cotta pots to create toad abodes. Other MGVs **Merry Hines**, **Barb Kolpin**, **Laurie Green**, **Brenda Bodelson**, **Margaret Smith**, and **Mitzi Roy**.

JUNE 22 MEETING: Teresa Marrone's presentation "**Weeds in Our Gardens**" was enjoyable. 64 members, Diana, and 3 guests attended. She sold several of her books, including "Common Backyard Weeds of the Upper Midwest".

1ST YEAR TOUR COORDINATORS Debbie Walters and **Anita Justen** arranged 4 fantastic tours. Tues., March 28 – Rush Creek Growers in Spring Valley, growers of specialty plants for wholesale. 14 MGVs & 9 guests attended. Tues., May 9- Tour of Bailey Nurseries, a large wholesale operation - 30 attended; Tues., July 18 - **Donna Davis'** gardens where 24 members enjoyed her lovely plantings; learned of her techniques to prevent deer damage and her frustrations with woodchucks; and Sat., Sept. 16 - Como Park Conservatory, 8 MGVs and 2 guests attended. A \$100 reservation fee; attendees paid \$15 upon arrival; SCVMGA paid \$30 for two "no shows".

JULY

4th YEAR ST. CROIX CO. FAIR coordinator Norma Rudesill and 21 MGVs featured "**Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces**" with Diana Alfuth's straw bale, raised bed, and pallet garden; **Patricia Henderson's** vertical planter; and **Norma Rudesill's** containers. **Peg Wastell** displayed Variety Plant Trial results. Arborvitae removal, PVC drainage, perennials, 2 floral containers, and addition of soil & grass improved our new, but not ideal, location in front/south side of Home Community Education Bldg. Wind gust damaged Diana's new portable umbrella. 2nd year Norma used SignUpGenius for volunteer scheduling.

JULY 27 MEETING: Rock Landscape and Gardens, Inc., Baldwin. The gardens contain thousands of hosta varieties, hundreds of landscaping ideas and were well cared for. 47 members and 3 guests attended.

3rd 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.

AUGUST

AUGUST 24 MEETING: Robert (Bob) Olson, past president and editor of the Hosta Society newsletter for the American Hosta Society and the Minnesota Hosta Society, shared his trip to Japan to seek out a new hosta variety, as well as information on hostas in general. Diana Alfuth, 59 MGVs, and 1 guest attended.

PIERCE CO. FAIR: 4th year coordinator **Leroy Clark** staffed 24 volunteers. Theme included "Vegetable Gardening in Small Spaces" with Diana Alfuth's straw bale, plant id quiz, raised bed, and pallet garden and **Norma Rudesill's** containers. **Peg Wastell** displayed Variety Plant Trial results. **Karen** and **Duke O'Brien** and 4 MGVs maintained the gardens around the Seyforth Building and the School House for the 6th year. Weather was good!

SEPTEMBER

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays June -Oct Coordinator **Elaine Baker** along with 4 MGVs staffed booth and answered gardening questions. More volunteers are needed in the future.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET – Plaza 94 New Coordinators **Patricia Henderson** and **Maria Scheidegger** were present Thursdays 10 weeks during July 6 – Sept 14, with help from **Carolyn Hasselman, Deb Pederstuen, Carol Hokenson, and Pat Angelson**. MGVs answered horticulture questions, promoted SCVMGA and Diana’s Master Gardener class.

SEPT. 28 MEETING: Pat Mattson surprised us with her passion for African violets. Her discussion and handouts cover various factors including lighting, soil, and many propagation techniques. Diana Alfuth, 61 members, and 2 guests

NOMINATING COMMITTEE- **JoAnn Ryan**, coordinator representing St. Croix County, **Cindy Doty** representing the Board, **Carol Matzek** representing Pierce County, and **Donna Davis**, Past President.

6th YEAR DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN: 11 MGVs helped plan, plant, and harvest the garden throughout the year. Special garden features were the heirloom section and Native American section.

2nd YEAR COORDINATORS for the SCVMGA Community Garden in New Richmond **Donna Cadenhead** and **Sue Ballard** recorded 375 volunteer hours for 16 MGVs and 24 students. Gophers, thistles, Japanese beetles and late blight all contributed to reduced yields. The trial garden produced well except for the pumpkins. The biggest yield this year was cucumbers. Total yield was 212 pounds.

9th WESTERN DISTRICT MGV WORKSHOP - Coordinator **Vickie Reschke** reported 68 paid MGVs (including 11 from neighboring counties) enjoyed "Propagation & Roses" theme on Sat., Sept. 30th, 9am-3pm at Ellsworth’s Seyforth Bldg. Presenters: UW-RF Professor of Horticulture, Brian Smith-"Budding and Grafting Propagation Techniques", Master Rosarian, Jim Beardsley – “Ten Commandments of Growing Roses”, SCVMGA member, **Vickie Reschke** – “Propagating Sedum” and Fleur de Louise Flower Studio owner, Jenn Hoveland - “Fall Wreath Demonstration”. \$15 workshop fee included Subway sub/chips & speaker fees (\$275). \$270 profit applied to grant program. Thanks to 26 MG volunteers and all those who attended.

3rd Year USED GARDEN BOOK COLLECTION – **Joni Garbe, Project Leader**, displayed books at 3 events- Garden U, Plant Sale, and Fall Workshop; collecting \$15 in “free will offerings.” MGVs are showing more interest.

NEW COORDINATOR: **John Ramstad** will be the Coordinator for Volunteer Project Opportunities for 2018.

OCTOBER

Oct. 26 MEETING, Debby Walters recipient of two SCVMGA Community Grants reported on projects around the Woodville City flagpole and School Forest. Amanda McCarty, winner of SCVMGA UWRF \$1000 scholarship gave an enthusiastic presentation expressing her goals and expressing her appreciation. Attendees: 47 members and 2 guests.

5th YEAR SCVMGA APPAREL fundraiser profits to date total \$1,231 for the MGV Education Fund. Thanks to retiring **Kathye Beebe** for all her hard work.

ST. CROIX ELECTRIC awarded SCVMGA a grant of \$111 for a raised bed display at the St. Croix County Fair. WIMGA educational grants were not applied for this year.

NOVEMBER

ANNUAL MEETING November 16, included election of officers, budget approval, audit report, 4th Seed Sharing, and acknowledging four outgoing BOD officers. Thanks to Nominating Committee: Coordinator **JoAnn Ryan, Cindy Doty, Carol Matzek**, and **Donna Davis**, Lola Higgins, Garden Art Instructor at Garden Divas of River Falls, demonstrated how to use natural materials to make holiday displays. Attendees: 48.

SPECIAL THANKS to retiring board directors Vice President **Barb Peterson (2017 & 2014)**, Secretary **Jackie Daharsh (2017)**, St. Croix Co Rep, **Julie Weinberg (2016-2017)**, and Pierce Co Rep, **Kerry Christopherson (2017)** for their awesome dedication and service.

2017 MEMBERSHIP: 197 members—includes 177 renewals, 17 of 22 (72%) 2016 MG interns, and 3 new members. In 2017, 135 MGVs (68%) were certified. Discontinued members in Dec. 2016 were 22 MGVs (10.8% of 203). Our volunteer services provided 645 hours Community Education, 480.5 hours Youth Education, 5,609 hours Support Services, and 2,192 Continuing Education. Total of 8,926.5 hours.

For 18 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 MG training class has contributed significantly to our large membership, recruiting new and talented MGVs every year.

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