

JANUARY

OPEN HOUSE/PIZZA PARTY held Jan. 25 for the third time at First Covenant Church. Debbie Lonnee, Product Development Manager at Bailey Nurseries, educated us about plant varieties and breeders around the world. Diana Alfuth distributed 2018 MGV certificates and announced 3,403 MGV hours in 2017. MGVs **Karen Jilek**, **Sandy Madsen**, and **Barbara Peterson** were recognized for 1,000 volunteer hours. Seventy people attended: Diana, 56 members, 8 guests, and 6 new MG Interns from the 2017 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 4 new members - Pierce Co Rep **Kathy Randall**, Secretary **Carrie Roney**, St Croix Co Rep **Phyllis Jaworski**, and Vice President **Dianne Wright**. Diane, Carrie and Phyllis served a combined total of 18 years on the grant committee. Leroy Clark was elected for 2nd term as Pierce Co Rep.

NEW COORDINATORS: **John Ramstad**, Volunteer Coordinator; **Jenny Brazzale** Interim Grant Coordinator; **Tim Wilson**, Plant Sale Coordinator, **Lisa Esselman**, Garden U Co-Coordinator; and **Amanda Lawrence**, St. Croix County Fair Co-Coordinator.

THE 2017 FINANCIAL REVIEW was completed on January 27, 2018. All records were found to be accurate and in good order. Members of the committee included **Cindy Doty**, **Trent Kowalchyk**, **Julie Weinberg** and **Julie Walsh**.

FEBRUARY

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY: Feb 15 City of New Richmond and Friday Memorial Library partnered with UW-Ext to present Emerald Ash Borer Program with **Diana Alfuth** as main presenter.

FEB 22 MEETING SCVMGA **Sonja McGill**, Physical Therapist at Courage Center, discussed gardening ergonomics, safe procedures and how to get in shape for gardening. 36 members and 1 guest attended.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Matt Schmitt** replaced Kathi Randall as Pierce County Representative.

2018 VARIETY PLANT TRIALS: 6th year Project Leader **Peg Wastell** held a "Seed Sorting and Potluck" on Saturday, Feb. 24 at St. Joseph Town Hall with 19 SCVMGVs and 2 Polk County MGVs. Forty-one MGVs participated in testing pole beans, Swiss chard, bicolor sweet corn, summer lettuce, Silicone late tomato, winter squash, savory, and French marigold. Participants were from St. Croix, Pierce, Barron, Dunn, and Eau Claire counties.

MARCH

19th ANNUAL GARDEN U was held at the Hudson House Grand Hotel on March 17. **Carolyn Barrette**, **Mitzi Roy**, and **Lisa Esselman** coordinated. Presentations: "Healthy Water Systems", Janine Kohn with the Minnesota DNR; "Water Quality of the St. Croix River Watershed by Monica Zachay, St. Croix River Association's Land and Water Director and "Garden Sustainability in the 21st Century" by Bonnie Blodgett, St. Paul Pioneer Press' Garden Columnist. Total of 129 attendees: 100 members, 12 vendors, and 17 non-members. Proceeds \$4,768. Profit \$1,706.80.

MARCH 22 MEETING: Japanese Beetles and other Pests by Diana Alfuth and Seed Sharing. Diana, 77 members and 4 guests attended.

ST. CROIX BUILDERS ASSOCIATION Spring Expo was at Hudson Sports & Civic Center, March 24-25. Fourth-year Coordinator **Barb Peterson** and seven MGVs- engaged visitors with “Are you Smarter than a Rutabaga?” game. Volunteers were: **Carolyn Barrette, Janet Bliven, Renee Clark, Barb Peterson, Matt Schmitz, Peg Wastell.** and **Corky Weeks.**

UPDATED WIMGA WEBSITE - wimga.org - highlights “About page” links to local associations, “access to members” password – wimga18, “conferences” lists state, regional, national and international MGV conferences,” Grants” provides info on state WIMGA grants, and “Resources” includes info on the Mentoring Program and Speakers Bureau.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES: Dr. Brian Hudelson, Dir of UW Plant Disease Diagnostics Clinic, discussed “Diseases of Tomatoes and Other Vegetables” at the River Falls Public Library on March 13. UW-Ext and Polk County MGA offered a class with Diana Alfuth on “Fertilizing lawn, garden and houseplants” at the Polk County Justice Center on March 24. Diana Alfuth also taught a class about “Small Space Gardening and Growing Microgreens” on March 27.

NEW COORDINATORS: **Colleen Callahan**, Photo Committee; **Cindy Gleason**, Helping Hands; and **Jenny Brazzale**, Grant Committee.

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 May SCVMGA received \$250 representing volunteer matches for 1 MGV. In 2018, 3M increased the donation to \$500.

14th EARTH DAY: SCVMGA had a booth at the YMCA Camp in Hudson April 22. **Peg Wastell, Donna Davis, Amanda Lawrence** and **Corky Weeks** helped children plant, make a carrot seed tape, and a necklace with butterfly stages. **Donna Davis** demonstrated her monarch caterpillar hatching kit.

APRIL 26 MEETING – Donovan Taylor, UW-Hort Prof. presented. “Keeping Lawns Healthy”. He discussed types of grass, high v. low maintenance, fertilization and weed control. 64 members, 7 guests, and 5 grant recipients attended.

18th ANNUAL GRANTS: 1st year Coordinator, **Jenny Brazzale** and her new team, Cindy Gleason, Amanda Lawrence, **Karen Nork & Nita O’Connell**, requested \$3,883.00 for 17 of the 18 project applications representing 13 cities in St Croix & Pierce Counties. Original requested was \$4,133.00. Thirteen projects were coordinated by MGVs and 1 by an Intern MGV. Nine projects were for Youth Education and benefited students in 5 different schools. Thanks again to Jenny Brazzale for coordinating 2018.

SCVMGA UW-RF \$1000 Scholarship 2018-2019 will be awarded in 2019.

NEW APPAREL SALES MANAGER – **Liz Whitchurch**, 2016 MG Intern, will take orders and deliver previously ordered clothing.

MAY 24 MEETING – Heidi Doering, 30-year horticultural professional, presentation on “Integrated Pest Management” outlined how commercial growers and garden centers are using beneficial insects to control common insect pests. 65 members, 3 guests, and Diana attended.

JUNE

5th YEAR SPRINKLINGS EDITOR **Colleen Callahan**, assistant **Maria Sanocki** (new proofreader), and all Sprinklings contributors created another year of fun & informative issues. Excellent program speaker notes from **Deb Pederstuen, Amanda Lawrence, Mary Pat Finnegan, Heather Lacke, Vickie Kittilson.** Special thanks to featured

contributors - **Karalyn Littlefield's** recipes, **Peg Wastell's** updates on Variety Plant Trials, **Corky Weeks's** updates on Plant Sale, **Donna Cadenhead's** updates on SCVMGA Community Garden, and **Paul VanDeerendonk** for WIGMA updates, **Deb Pederstuen** for member updates, and **Carolyn Barrette** for program info. Jerry Bridge didn't renew membership.

14th ANNUAL PLANT SALE: June 3 - SCVMGA had another spectacular plant sale. The gross proceeds this year were \$4632. (profit of 4,632.34). MGVs donated plants, and 60 MGVs participated, both in the Friday night set-up and the Saturday sale. A special thanks to **Corky Weeks**, returning chair; **Christine McGinnis**, co- chair; and **Donna Davis**, "Ask a Master Gardener" table and special projects manager. Just before the sale, Corky Weeks' 2018 replacement, Tim Wilson, couldn't coordinate due to a new job.

5th JUNIOR GARDEN U was not held in 2018 due to insufficient registration.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY: Class by Diana Alfuth on "Wild Parsnip", June 14, 2018 at the Kinnikinnick Town Hall.

JUNE 28 MEETING - TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at White Pines Berry Farm. Eight of 11 founding members were present: **Peg Wastell, Betty Schultz, Wendy Kramer, Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Debbie Barron, Margaret Smith. Carolyn Barrette, Daphne Brackley, Marilyn Forham and Kathleen Oss** were unable to attend. Diana Alfuth recapped how SCVMGA formed and is now one of the largest MG organizations in Wisconsin. **Trent Kowalchyk** recapped our accomplishments, **Teresa Davis'** 208-slide presentation and **Judi Brunner's** two large scrapbooks sparked memories. Special thanks to **Helen Heggernes** for catering the Lake Elmo Inn supper and to **Leroy Clark, Mary Samuelson, Julie Walsh and Deb Pederstuen** for preparing Strawberry Shortcake. Thanks to event planners **Leroy Clark, Cindy Doty, Trina Frank, Vickie Kittilson, Helen Heggernes, Deb Pederstuen,** and **Trent Kowalchyk.** Diana, 69 members, 16 guests, and 4 former members attended. Donations from party \$201

FACE IN THE HOLE PHOTO BOARDS - Thanks to **Wendy Kramer** for coordinating with the Baldwin-Woodville High School Industrial Arts program and art teacher Shannon Kamm who guided students in building and painting colorful photo boards of Peter Rabbit and Scarecrow for the county fairs. The boards made their debut at the anniversary celebration.

2nd YEAR TOUR COORDINATORS **Debbie Walters** and **Anita Justen** arranged 3 fantastic tours. Tues., July 24 - Bonnie Blodgett's Gardens in St. Paul, 18 MGV's attended. Thurs., August 9 - Blackbrook Farm near Amery, 9 MGV's and 1 guest attended. Tues., Nov. 6 - Gerten's Greenhouses Christmas Preview.

NEW GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS Project Leader MG **V Norma Rudesill** held two meetings. Four MG's, at Norma's house on Fri., Aug. 3rd discussed natives growing in her garden. Two MG's attended Sun., Sept. 16 at the Kinnikinnic State Park where they walked one of the prairie trails, admired the native grasses and tried to identify various asters. Norma is 3rd leader for this group of 22 since its beginning in 2012.

1st YEAR "HELPING HANDS" project leader **Cindy Gleason** announced no Master Gardeners required assistance. MGVs earn volunteer hours to assist MGVs who are ill or incapacitated to do their own gardening.

JULY

5th YEAR ST. CROIX ELECTRIC awarded SCVMGA a grant of \$60 for County Fair expenses. **Sue Klatt** applied for the grant. WIMGA educational grants were not applied for this year.

5th YEAR ST. CROIX CO. FAIR July 18-22 - 1st year St. Croix County Fair Coordinator **Amanda Lawrence** and 21 MG's featured "Every Garden Has a Story" with Peter Rabbit and Scarecrow photo boards. Focusing on children, scented herb & perennial pots in a child's wagon and vegetables in raised bed were identified with **Wendy Kramer's** plant labels. Kids enjoyed **Virginia Drath's** wooden bridge and game "Are You Smarter Than a Rutabaga" on the south side of the HCE building. **Peg Wastell** displayed Variety Plant Trial results. Beautiful weather, except for rain on Thursday. 2nd year SignUpGenius used for scheduling volunteers.

JULY 26 MEETING: Held at My Sisters Garden and Willow Tree Farm. Starla Enger described her role in the Hudson tree management in 2017 and the creation of the “Hudson Tree Treks” program. She also discussed growing Shitake mushrooms with Shitake Pre-inoculated logs, Unusual Edible Plant seeds from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, and combo seed packs. 28 members and 1 guest attended.

AUGUST

AUGUST 23 MEETING: Diana and 46 members met at the Star Prairie Seed Farm located on a 57-acre wildlife area east of Somerset. Chris Trosen, Mgr. of Star Prairie Seed Farm, discussed native prairie plants grown & harvested on the site.

DUES INCREASE: Dues increased to \$20 for individuals and 2018 Interns and \$25 for families (all must qualify).

PIERCE CO. FAIR August 8 - 12; 5th year coordinator **Leroy Clark** staffed 29 volunteers. “Every Garden Tells a Story” and the new Peter Rabbit and Scare Crow cut outs were very popular, as was the “Are You Smarter Than a Rutabaga” game. **Peg Wastell’s** Variety Trials Display was there, and the garden in front of the display again looked wonderful thanks to the work of **Karen** and **Duke O’Brien** and MGVs. The weather was warm and lovely.

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET – Saturdays June -Oct Coordinator **Elaine Baker** along with 4 MGVs staffed booth and answered gardening questions. Many thanks to Elaine for her four years at the market! New coordinator is needed.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET at Plaza 94– Second year Coordinator **Maria Scheidegger** and 6 MGV’s volunteered 9am to 12noon twice monthly from June through September. They answered questions, averaging 4 to 6 each day regarding rabbits, deer, moles, hanging baskets, thistles, birch trees, broccoli, tomatoes, lilacs, dividing hosta, Japanese beetles, pruning, lawn diseases, mildew, peonies buckthorn, pine tree diseases, plant ID, emerald ash borer, raspberries, and transplanting. MGVs promoted SCVMGA and Diana’s Master Gardener class. There were about 20 vendors at each market.

WIMGA STATE CONFERENCE, Sept 21-22 at Eau Claire’s Lizmore, SCVMGA is one of five associations sponsoring “The Autumn at the River” conference. Keynote speakers: Mark Dwyer Director of Janesville’s Rotary Botanical Gardens discussed “Woody Plants for Fantastic Foliage” and Ben Futa, UW-Madison’s Executor Director of Allen Centennial Gardens, discussed “Principals of Planting Design with Perennials”. **Joni Garbe**, **Trent Kowalchyk**, and Diana Alfuth led break-out sessions. **Paul VanDenMeerendonk** and **Barb** and **Ken Kolbe** were involved in obtaining speakers and seeds; **Barb and Ken Kolbe** worked in the bulb sales; **Karalyn Littlefield** was Tour 1 Leader and Guide for Silver Springs Foods, Sunbow Farm, and Down to Earth Garden Center, **Marilyn Gorham** and **Paul V** assisted the tour guide on Tour 1, **Marilyn Gorham** worked at registration table, and **Barb Peterson** and **Paul V** assisted speaker Mark Dwyer on Saturday’s session; and **Colleen Callahan** prepared the display table. In January SCVMGA contributed \$75 to WIGMA for the conference. Diana and 24 members attended. Cost for MGV’s \$125, less \$20 if preregistered.

SEPT. 29 MEETING: **Vicki Kittilson** MGV continued discussion of “Growing Succulents” from 2017 District Fall Workshop. Members brought containers and **Vicki and Karen Crandall** provided succulents and fillers to create succulent terrarium. **UPDATED SCVMGA BY-LAWS:** Changes reflect revisions in tax requirements, state program and general updates. The proposed changes were approved by the board and posted on the website for members to review on August 24. The final version was signed and approved at the Sept.27th meeting. Thank you to **Barb Peterson**, **Barb Kolbe**, **Diane Wright**, **Jackie Daharsh**, **Deb Pederstuen**, and others who worked on this project. 52 MGV’s attended.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE- Coordinator **Barbara Peterson** representing Past President; **Trent Kowalchyk** representing St. Croix County, **Dianne Wright** representing the Board; and **Duke O’Brien** representing Pierce County.

7th YEAR DEMONSTRATION AND LERNING GARDEN: 12 MGVs contributed to an extremely successful “Storybook Garden” based on The Tale of Peter Rabbit. Children and adults alike enjoyed signs and props throughout the garden, complete with a Mr. McGreggor scarecrow!

3rd YEAR COORDINATOR for the SCVMGA Community Garden in New Richmond **Donna Cadenhead** recorded 274.5 MGV hours for the garden. The garden produced well this year with 172 pounds of tomatoes, 111 pounds of squash, 94 pounds of beans, 102 pounds of cucumbers and 60 pounds of onions donated to area food shelves and shelters. We also harvested peas, radishes, swiss chard, and carrots.

10th WESTERN DISTRICT MGV WORKSHOP – Not held because we helped sponsor State Conference.

4th Year USED GARDEN BOOK COLLECTION – **Joni Garbe**, Project Leader, displayed books at Garden U and the October meeting and collected \$28 in “free will offerings.”

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 25TH MEETING – 38 attending members honored **Carolyn Barrette** with a Golden Trowel & SCVMGA shirt for 20th SCVMGA Anniversary Recognition Award. Three MGV grant project presentations given by **Doris Krautbauer** & **Liz Whitchurch**, **Sharon Reyzer**, and **Deb Pederstuen**, plus a slide show of all projects by Grant Coordinator **Jenny Brazzale**.

6th YEAR SCVMGA APPAREL fundraiser profits to date total \$1,231 for the MGV Education Fund. 1st year Apparel Sales Manager, **Elizabeth Whitchurch**, distributed previously ordered items, an initiated the search for a new shirt vendor and a new logo.

NOVEMBER

ANNUAL MEETING November 15, included election of officers, budget approval, audit report, 5th Seed Sharing, and acknowledging three outgoing BOD officers. Diana led group in a fun game of Plant Jeopardy.

SPECIAL THANKS to retiring board directors President **Trent Kowalchyk** (2017-2018), **Treasurer Julie Walsh** (2017-2018), and St. Croix Co. Rep **Cindy Doty** (2017-2018) for their awesome service and dedication.

2018 MEMBERSHIP: 183 members – includes 169 renewals (84%), 11 of 12 (92%) 2017 MGV Interns, and 3 new members. For 2018, ?? MGVs were certified, completing Criminal Background Checks. Discontinued members in Dec. 2017 were 28 MGVs (14% of 197. Our volunteer services provided ??

For 19 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.