

Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March-April 2019

'Prairies, Berries, & Trees' is topic at Garden U



by Heather Lacke

Join SCVMGA members and area gardeners for the "Prairies, Berries, and Trees" education seminar on Saturday, March 16 at the Hudson House Grand Hotel.

On-site registration starts at 8:30 a.m. The \$40 fee includes lunch and speaker handouts. (You may register in advance by using the registration form attached to this newsletter.) Lunch is included, as well as door prizes, and the "Garden Marketplace" vendor fair to browse all things garden-related.

The first speaker of the morning is Alex Bouthilet, a member of the board of directors for Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy and chair of its land management committee.

Alex's presentation will introduce us to prairies and savannas in our local area. He will share personal experiences in implementing prairie and savanna restoration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), The Prairie Enthusiasts, and Standing Cedars Community Land Conservancy. He will also discuss why native plants are important components of a healthy ecosystem and

why we need more of them in the landscape.

Jerry Clark, the second speaker of the morning, is the Agriculture Agent and an associate professor with the Division of Extension, UW-Madison. He holds a master's degree in agriculture education from the University of Wisconsin-

sin-River Falls.

Jerry's presentation will cover the foundations of growing blueberries, grapes, raspberries, and strawberries in the home garden. His discussion will cover soil fertility, summer time care, and variety selection, including disease-resistant varieties.

After lunch, Rachel Henderson of Mary Dirty Face Farm near Menomonie, will inspire us to try growing tree fruits in a home orchard or garden. Rachel will cover site considerations and the cultural needs of a variety of different fruits that are well-suited to a home scale. Having grown many fruit species, she will share her learnings

on opportunities and risks. Rachel will also discuss cultivar selection, preparation and planting, and tree care and maintenance. Fungal disease and a few major insect pests are the biggest challenges to produce fruit in our climate, so participants can expect a basic overview of the most common ones, and suggestions on organic practices for maximizing edible fruit. She will also emphasize the importance of fruit tree pruning and training.

Rachel and her husband manage their mixed-fruit orchard, which has been certified organic since 2016. Their produce can be found in the Menomonie Market Food Co-op, Twin Cities farmers markets, restaurants and bakeries, as well as a growing CSA-style Fruit Share, distributed in the Twin Cities and Chippewa Valley.

Volunteers are needed for Garden U. Please contact [Lisa Esselman](#).

Garden U

8:30 a.m. Registration
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Program

Hudson House Grand Hotel
1616 Crest View Drive
Hudson, WI 54016
(Exit 2 south to west on
Crest View Drive)

March, April meetings

Both meetings will begin at 6:45 p.m. at the First Covenant Church in River Falls, 1374 N. Main St. 54022. The entrance is on Quarry St. Go east at the Kwik Trip corner.

Thursday, March 28

Jonna Klukas of Garden Expressions in New Richmond will explain seasonal planters and miniature gardens. She'll give recommendations on plant varieties, soils, and water retention for container gardening.

Our annual Seed-Sharing event will take place as well. Please see page 4 for information on the "do's and don'ts" of contributing your seeds.

Thursday, April 25

SCVMGA Board President JoAnn Ryan will share tips on pruning evergreens.

Plus, SCVMGA Community Grant recipients for 2019 will be recognized.

Welcome, new interns!



Six interns from the 2018 class joined SCVMGA at the February meeting. *Back row from left: Donna Stohman, Linda Kelly and Annette Rios. Front row from left: Leo Steiner and Carol Marnell. Not pictured is Zach Regnier.*

Help distribute flyers. Print the attached file and post throughout St. Croix Valley.

President's Message

Ask a child where carrots come from. The answers may surprise you. Many children believe they come from the store. They don't connect carrots and soil. Lots of children have never seen a garden.

Show a child a carrot seed and an actual carrot, and these children don't believe you. They think you are kidding. Then try to convince a child that we have to dig up carrots.

The next thing that needs convincing is that we eat the "roots" and throw away the top. The part that we eat hides deep in the soil. It really is a miracle to share with children.

My family grew up with gardens and an understanding of where those carrots came from. We have spent many hours each year in the garden. Now my grand-

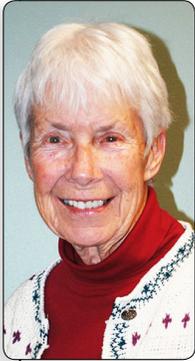
children are digging up this year's crop of carrots.

There are many benefits to gardening. Whether you are planting, weeding, or harvesting those carrots, these are all opportunities to spend quality time with children and grandchildren. When a child plants seeds, there is a sense of ownership. Weeding continues that ownership, and harvesting is the fruit of their labor.

Start that garden in a small space – two feet by three feet – this allows for a variety of vegetables without being overwhelming. Keep them small and start with those that come up early (radishes and lettuce). Avoid large plants (sunflowers) as they grow slowly and just get too big.

It only takes one season for children to take an interest in gardening. Get started this season and enjoy the many benefits of gardening with children. Our organization offers opportunities to volunteer to garden with children.

(See the projects highlighted in **green** on page 5.)



JoAnn Ryan

Community grant applications due March 11

The Grant Committee is currently accepting applications for the 2019 SCVMGA Community Grant Fund.

The committee will consider applications for the beautification of public spaces, horticultural education of the public, community gardens, and/or youth horticulture education.

Applications are due Monday, March 11, 2019. Grant awards will be announced by April 25. The application form is attached to this newsletter and is also available on our website under the Forms tab. For questions, please email [Jenny Brazzale](mailto:Jenny.Brazzale).

Monitoring rare plants

The Wisconsin Rare Plant Monitoring Program is offering a training session at the River Falls Public Library on how to conduct surveys of rare plants.

The session will be Saturday, March 30 from 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Participants will learn GPS coordinates, how to estimate large plantings and assess the habitat conditions. MGVE education hours apply. Plant identification will not be covered. To register, [click here](#).

Preparing for our Annual Plant Sale

by Marilyn Gorham

Even though our gardens are resting under their heavy blankets of snow, planning has started for our 15th annual plant sale at the Octagon House on Saturday, June 1. This event is the primary source of funds used for the SCVMGA Community Grants Program and raised over \$4,600 in 2018. There are opportunities for everyone to participate and your help is appreciated!

If you are growing your own annuals, perennials or vegetables from seed this spring, consider planting some extras for the sale. Flowers of all kinds (except house plants) are welcome, as are vegetables and herbs. Always popular are tomatoes, peppers and eggplants with unique varieties creating special interest. Your pumpkin, squash and gourd seedlings may entice a gardener to try something new and different this year. While most of your plants are hidden at the moment, think about what perennials you could share by dividing and donating. Natives are also in high demand each year. Even

extra garden tools, decorative pots, etc. have a place at the sale and cardboard boxes used by the buyers to transport the plants are in high demand.

Volunteers are always needed for the sale, but especially before the sale date. Pre-sale volunteer opportunities include digging donated plants from other gardens, hosting drop-off sites in various locations in the two counties and picking up and delivering plants to the Octagon House if help is needed. Help is always needed to distribute flyers in the community to raise awareness of the sale. Watch for upcoming volunteer sign-up information on the website, in the newsletter

and at the monthly meetings.

Mark your calendars to visit the sale and encourage your gardening friends to come as well. You never know what new treasured plant you might find for your garden.

If you can volunteer, please contact: [Marilyn Gorham](mailto:Marilyn.Gorham), 612-810-1246
[Cindy Gleason](mailto:Cindy.Gleason), 651-343-6015



Membership News

by Deb Pederstuen



Deb is a 1999 MGCV class graduate and our first Membership Director beginning in 2000. Her mission is to welcome new members and inform everyone about SCVMGA's activities.

New Members

Diana's new Master Gardener Interns were pumped and ready to attend our Jan. 24 Open House. So, you can imagine how disappointed they were to hear, "The January meeting is canceled due to the freezing wind chill temps." **Linda Kelly** of Roberts said, "I was ready to take a snowmobile to the meeting if that was the only way I could get there, and I don't even own one!"

It was exciting to finally welcome Linda and five other MG Interns at the February meeting. Joining were **Carol Marnell** and **Donna Mae Stohmann** of Hudson, **Annette Rios** of Hammond, **Leo Steiner** of River Falls, and **Zach Regnier** (sounds like Mt. Rainier) of Ellsworth. **Nola Weber** of Hudson joined earlier.

Just like the wind chill temps, our total membership has dipped from 186 in 2018 to 164 members. Consistent with last year, 84 percent (157 members) renewed their memberships. We look forward to welcoming six more MG interns soon.

New 2019 Coordinators

MGV **Kevin Ballman** will take over for **Leroy Clark** as Pierce County Fair Coordinator. He may not wear a cowboy hat, but he's been a Pierce Co. Fair volunteer since 2010. Kevin said, "I am up there most of the



week already, between EMS and 4H. Whatever works out, we will get it done again." Watch for Kevin's sign-up sheets to reserve a time at the MG fair booth August 7-11.

For years, **Laura Milano** shopped at the River Falls Farmers Market and frequently stopped at the Master Gardener booth to ask questions. When she became a Master Gardener Volunteer in 2018, she knew she wanted to give back. As our next River Falls Farmers Market Coordinator, she will be behind the table assisting customers. How cool is that! Contact Laura to volunteer at Dick's Fresh Market parking lot on a Saturday morning June to October.



Helen Heggernes of New Richmond and **Bev Schomberg** (left) of Prescott will soon learn their way around the church kitchen as our new Hospitality coordinators. Bev is a 2018 MGCV.



Correction

Donna Cadenhead, coordinator of the New Richmond Community Garden, is not retiring! She said, "The kids (New Richmond and Somerset students) enjoy helping in the garden and they'd miss it." Thanks to Donna's big heart for the kids, she'll manage the community garden for another year.

Book Project

Thanks to MGV **Joni Garbe** for managing our Used Garden Book Project, collecting \$185 in donations since 2015. The outdated book collection was dissolved, with books recycled, after members had their last chance to take home books at the February meeting. Joni's collection jar totaled \$59 in donations!

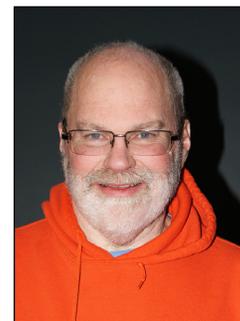
FEBRUARY MEETING

Seventy-six members, Diana Alfuth, and four guests attended the February meeting. Diana recognized 24 MGCVs for their cumulative volunteer hours.

Plant ecology professor Kristina Beuning explained soils management and sustainable vegetable gardening, including building soil, conserving water and planting to support pollinators and permaculture principles as applied to vegetable gardens.



SCVMGA Board member Sue Klatt (left) and presenter Kristina Beuning.



LEFT: John Ramstad received a certificate for his 1,000 hours of service.

BELOW: Susan Reese (left) and Deb Pederstuen each received a desk plaque noting their 2,500 hours.



Combining work with fun

Preparing seeds for 2019

Variety Plant Trials

by Peg Wastell

This season, 10,520 seeds were sorted by our nimble-fingered volunteers for 2019 Variety Plant Trials.

Thanks to **Carolyn Barrette**, we got to use the St. Joseph Town town hall facilities again. Fourteen hardy people



showed up for our sixth year of counting out seeds into small packs and filling orders.

Thank you so much for your sharp eyes, quick fingers, abilities to round up tiny seeds while dealing with static electricity, and driving

on snowy winter roads just to get to the hall: **Gloria Bonse, Rose Kuebker, Barbara Kolpin, Julie Weinberg, Renee Clark, Donna Davis, Thomas Kujawa** and his patient granddaughter, **Lisa Esselman, Patricia Miller, Barb and Ken Kolbe, Sue Klatt, Will** and **Joan Kowalchyk**.

Everyone who comes has a good time. We all bring good food, including Thomas's Polish Pastry treat, Julie's chocolate Heath bar trifle, salads, and a plethora of other delicious treats. Will brought some of his home-made wine – raspberry and one we had to guess ingredient. If you get a chance, try Will's very red Detroit beet wine. Donna Davis said, "It was smooth."



PHOTOS BY PEG WASTELL

Enjoying a break from seed-counting are (from left around to right) **Donna Davis, Sue Klatt, Julie Weinberg, Patricia Miller, Thomas Kujawa's granddaughter, Thomas Kujawa, and Barb Kolpin**.

VARIETY PLANT TRIALS

2018 Preliminary results

by Peg Wastell

Rankings are based on average of individual 1-4 rankings with 1 as best and 4 as least. Complete evaluation information along with Diana Alfuth's summaries will be available on our website.

Beans, heirloom pole for fresh and dried use

1. Rattlesnake, 2. Trail of Tears, 3. Painted Pony, 4. Scarlet Runner. *Houlton Elementary School's favorite bean is also our favorite among growers who turned in evaluations.*

Chard, Swiss

1. Rhubarb, 2. Fordhook White, 3. Peppermint, 4. Bright Yellow *Interesting to note how the most expensive and newest plants were last in ratings.*

Corn- sweet bicolor hybrid

1. Luscious, 2. Xtratender and Montauk, 3. Native Gem *Tried and true Luscious was clear winner with Xtratender and Montauk tied for second place.*

Lettuce – Summer Crisp

1. Magenta, 2. Loma, 3. Nevada, 4. Concept *All were close with only four tenths of a percent difference between 1 and 4. Many found a new favorite lettuce to grow.*

Squash, winter acorn

1. Thelma Sanders Sweet Potato, 2. Jester, 3. Carnival, 4. Tip Top. *Here is a case where rankings are very divided. Many did not agree on which one they liked best. In this case, averages truly do not show whole picture.*

Tomato, slicing – late blight-resistant

1. Legend, 2. Mountain Merit, 3. Defiant PHR, 4. Iron Lady *Close averages on all varieties. Mountain Merit received more 1 rankings from growers but also received a couple 4 rankings to pull it down in overall rankings.*

Herb – Savory

1. Winter Lemon, 2. Summer, 3. Winter, 4. Midget *Clearly, we like lemon flavored herbs with Summer a close second.*

Flower-Marigold, French

1. Harlequin, 2. Alumina Vanilla Crème, 3. Queen Sophia, 4. Fireball. *Two-toned harlequin was a favorite by almost a whole ranking. The next three were very close with Alumina Vanilla Crème and Queen Sophia tying for second place. Houlton Elementary School's favorite marigold is many grower's second favorite.*

Do's and Don'ts of Seed-Sharing

Our annual seed-sharing event will take place at our March 28 meeting. Seed packets are available on our [website](#).

What to do

- Open-pollinated seeds only. These will breed true.
- Leftover seed is okay as long as age of seed is noted.
- Think seed packet! Provide name of plant, description, growing instructions, date seed was planted.
- Flower, herb, vegetable, tree, shrub – any seed is okay as long as it's dried.

What NOT to do

- No seed beyond two or three years unless you know it will germinate. You will know if you do a germination test.
- No hybrid seed because it will not breed true.
- No patented seed unlawfully collected.

Volunteer Opportunities

If you have a project that you would like to include on this list, please contact [John Ramstad](#), Volunteer Coordinator.

Note: click on underlined names for direct email links.

BALDWIN-WOODVILLE

- Western Wisconsin Health (hospital)
[Rosa Magnus](#)
- B-W Giezendanner School Forest***
[Debby Walters](#)
- Viking Middle School***
[Debby Walters](#)

ELLSWORTH

- Pierce County Fair (Aug. 8-11)
[Kevin Ballman](#)
- Ellsworth Ambulance Hall
[Kevin Ballman](#)

GLENWOOD CITY

- St. Croix County Fair (July 17-21)
[Amanda Lawrence](#)

HAMMOND

- Hammond Community Garden
[Mike Deneen](#)

HUDSON

- Hudson Farmers Market Plaza 94
(Thursdays)
[Maria Scheidegger](#)
- Hudson Hospital Community Garden
[Karen Jilek](#)
- Octagon House gardens(Mondays)
[Jean Haut](#)
- Willow River Elementary School***
[Ramona Robinson](#)
- Willow River State Park
[Carol Hardin](#)
- Christian Community Home
[Deb Pederstuen](#)
- Hudson Public Library
[Joan Bushman](#)

NEW RICHMOND

- SCVMGA Community Garden***
[Donna Cadenhead](#)
- Deerfield Gables Care Center
[Carolyn Craig](#) Reflection garden

OSCEOLA

- Butterfly Project
[Jennifer Berg](#)

RIVER FALLS

- Demonstration and Learning Garden
(Hoffman Park) [Diana Alfuth](#)
- Junior Garden U*** (late June)
[Diana Alfuth](#)
- Grow to Share Community Garden
(Hoffman Park)
[John Ramstad](#)
- Rain Gardens, City of River Falls
[Zach Regnier](#)
- Have a Heart Farm
[Bobbie Kuhn](#)
- River Falls Farmers Market (Saturdays)
[Laura Milano](#)
- Westside Elementary Garden***
[Becky Cunningham](#)

ROBERTS

- Cross Community Garden
[Mike Deneen](#)

SOMERSET

- Christ Lutheran Church
[Karen Nork](#)

TROY

- Town Hall
[Jill Berke](#)
- Glover Park Entrance
[Jill Berke](#)
- Glover Park Prairie Garden
[Jill Berke](#)

WOODVILLE

- Norseman's Manor (senior living)
[Becky Strand](#), 715-222-5521

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Vegetable Garden Education
[Catherine Engstrom](#)
- Sprinklings Newsletter
[Colleen Callahan](#)
contribute articles, photos

***opportunities to garden with children**

OPEN POSITIONS

Fall Workshop Coordinator(s)

Organize a one-day seminar on the last Saturday in September for about 60-70 SCVMGA and Western District MGVs in Ellsworth's Seyforth Building. Contact [Deb Pederstuen](#) or former coordinators [Vickie Kittilson](#) or [Peg Wastell](#).

Speakers Bureau Assistant

Help develop a list of members who will speak to groups on areas of their expertise. Contact [Deb Pederstuen](#) or [Vickie Kittilson](#).

Assistant Program Director

to assist our Program Director Carolyn Barrette with monthly program scheduling. Contact [Carolyn Barrette](#).

Gardening with children



SCVMGA Community Garden



B-W Giezendanner School Forest

An easy, impressive dessert

by Karalyn Littlefield

This is an excellent recipe when you have little time for preparation and want an impressive dessert. I have seen this recipe in several different cookbooks, recipe websites and I have a few recipe cards crediting to different relatives. It can also be found under different names. Regardless, it takes little time, probably less than 15 minutes, to put together and then no more active time until you glaze the finished product.



This dessert starts with a shortbread type crust made of butter, flour and a little water. Do not be tempted to add sugar to the crust. The texture changes and does not bake the same. The top portion is a cream puff dough (*Pâte à Choux*) made by boiling water and butter, adding flour then beating in eggs. Instead of making individual cream puffs, the dough is spread on the crust. To finish, the baked puff is glazed and gilded with sliced almonds. I have successfully made this dessert by substituting one to one gluten free flour.

Danish Puff

Crust

- ½ C. butter, softened
- 1 C. all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbls. Water

Heat oven to 350oF. Cut butter into flour. Sprinkle water over mixture. Mix. Round into a ball, divide in half. On an ungreased sheet pan, pat each half into strips approximately 12" x 3".

Puff

- ½ C. butter
- 1 C. water
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 1 C. all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs

Heat butter and water in a medium sauce pan to rolling boil. Remove from heat and quickly stir in almond and flour. Stir vigorously over low heat until mixture forms a ball (~1min.). Remove from heat. Beat in eggs all at one time. Spread half over each strip. Bake ~60 min. or until topping is crisp and brown.

Sugar Glaze

- 1 ½ C. powdered sugar
- 2 Tbls butter, soft
- 1 ½ tsp vanilla
- 1-2 Tbls warm water

Mix until smooth and of spreading consistency. Adjust water accordingly. Spread on top of puff. Sprinkle with sliced almonds.

Coming soon: Winter Damage Survey

by Matt Schmitz

I'll be evaluating winter damage that has occurred as a result of this winter's weather due to the severe cold on Jan. 30 and 31, and would appreciate your help this spring. Two things to check:

1. Snow line. Snow is a good insulator and damage can be determined by the snow line.
2. Age of plant. Is it established or newly planted?

I'll be asking for the botanical and common name, new or established planting, location, type of exposure, type of damage, and your address.

More information will appear in the next newsletter. Thank you!

Reimbursement rules updated

by Peg Wastell

It was a sense of relief for me as the new treasurer when Trent Kowalchuk presented revised instructions on how to pay and reimburse people for SCVMGA. Our Reimbursement form is on our website and guidelines will be posted soon. Receipts and a completed reimbursement form are required to process your requests. If you have questions concerning guidelines or how to fill in reimbursement form, please contact me at p.wastell@gmail.com or 651-261-3892. Here is our newly approved Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) for Payments and Reimbursements of Expenses:

Less than \$100: Approval by Treasurer upon receipt for expense and completed reimbursement form

\$101 to \$500: Approval by Treasurer and board member (President or Vice President) upon receipt for expense, and completed reimbursement form

\$501 and up: Preapproval by BOD of intent to purchase, plus receipt and completed reimbursement form, approval upon confirmation of received goods.

No approvals are needed for membership dues to state organization, grant distribution, speaker reimbursement, or meeting site rental fees.

Sprinklings

[SCVMGA Website](#)

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. All SCVMGA members are welcome to contribute articles on any horticultural topic. Please email submissions or inquiries to the editor.

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