



## SCVMGA Year in Review

Deb Pederstuen

2020

### JANUARY

OPEN HOUSE Jan 23rd at First Covenant Church for 5th year featured MG/Hotel Gardener Robyn Wefel - "St. Paul Hotel Magnificent Gardens". Two guests/71 members learned about her four-season garden designs. Pizza/supplies: \$217. Door prizes: four extra Domino pizzas. New members: eight 2019 MG Interns, one MG; three Interns in Jan., five at Feb. meeting and two MG in May.

MILESTONE CERTIFICATES presented by Diana Alfuth to 17 MGs for cumulative volunteer hrs. Jean Haut - 750-hr certificate. Four MGs earned 500-hr., two MGs earned 250-hr., and ten MGs earned 150-hr certificates. For 2020, 116 MGs were certified. We applaud our 2019 Rock Star Volunteers!

DIANA'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY –Karalyn Littlefield recognized her awesome service to SCVMGA with a certificate created by Bridget Kelley and a Gertens gift card.

TEN of 38 ORIGINAL MEMBERS are still participating since mid-1997-98. Our gratitude to Carolyn Barrette, Deb Barron, Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell.

FIVE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2020-2021): Vice President Karalyn Littlefield, 2014 MG; St. Croix Co. Rep. Liz Whitchurch, 2018 MG/Apparel Sales Mgr.; and Pierce Co. Rep. Carol Franta, 2013 MG. Board appointed - Gloria Bonse, 2014 MG, to replace elected Secretary Rose Kuebker who declined; and Donna Davis for Interim President in mid-Mar. to replace JoAnn Ryan who resigned mid-Dec. Huge thanks to Karalyn for serving as President for two months.

BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, was held by President JoAnn Ryan and Deb Pederstuen to exchange Board information. Karalyn Littlefield, Carol Franta, and Rose Kuebker attended.

BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS – Hudson Bagel Shop for Jan., Hudson County Market for Feb/Mar, as Hudson enforced parking fees at Hudson Public Library. Virtual meetings held by Blackboard & Zoom due to Covid restrictions.

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIAN TEAM, Charlotte Nicholes, 2016 MG, and Teresa Davis, 2015 MG joined Annette Rios, 2019 MG, to replace Trent Kowalchuk to manage audiovisual needs during meetings.

RETIRING COORDINATORS: Special thanks to: St. Croix Co. Fair Coordinator Amanda Lawrence (2018-2019); Membership Assistant Lynn Steely (2015-2019, Equipment Manager JoAnn Ryan (2016-2020), and our long-time Program Director Carolyn Barrette (1998-2019).

### FEBRUARY

MEETING on Feb 27 - "Growing Flowers to Sell" by UW- RF Prof. Sonja Maki of UW-RF Horticulture Dept. Maki discussed process her students use in growing annuals, vegetables, and hanging baskets for area plant sales. Attending: 77 members, 1 guest, and Diana. Grant Coordinator Jenny Brazzale presented 2019 Grant Projects we funded.

NEW MENTOR PROGRAM initiated by Nola Weber, Karalyn Littlefield, and Deb Pederstuen for nineteen new MG Interns. Twenty-seven participants at Feb. 27 Orientation. Mentor and Intern Expectation Guidelines distributed. MG mentors serve as a contact for MG Interns in their first year.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT initiated by Karalyn Littlefield, debuted at Feb. meeting with Peg Wastell presenting a Power point of her successful Variety Plant Trials Program (2013-2020). Kudos to Karalyn and Peg!

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS now organized by regions, North, South, East, and West in the two counties. Thanks to Volunteer Coordinator Nola Weber's ingenuity! Easier to find projects in your own area on SCVMGA website, now in its 9<sup>th</sup> yr. Originally named, "The Weebly".

VARIETY PLANT TRIALS: 8<sup>th</sup> yr Project Leader Peg Wastell held Nov. 2019 mtg for 2020 Trial Selections. Selected: butterhead lettuce, fillet beans, Detroit Red beets, bok choy, scallop summer squash, colored carrots, edible phlox and large-leaf basil. Twenty MGVs sorted 7,000 seeds Feb. 22 at St. Joe's Town Hall. Thirty MGVs participants from 3 counties - St. Croix, Pierce, and Polk, for 153 total trials. Plus, 3 community gardens in New Richmond, Houlton, and RF's DLG. 2019 Trial results on our website and in Mar/Apr Sprinklings.

FINANCIAL REVIEW-2019, completed Feb 26, 2020, found all records accurate and in good order. Committee: Peg Wastell (Treasurer), Sue Klatt (Board member), Matt Schmitz (Pierce Co. Rep), and Liz Whitchurch (St. Croix Co. Rep). Dianne Wright will provide inventory of physical assets.

MASTER GARDENER FOUNDATION FUND – First year SCVMGA Board of Directors approved an annual \$150 donation to provide support for education programs, training materials and office needs. Individuals may also donate.

SCVMGA UW-RF Scholarship, 5<sup>th</sup> - \$1000 is donated annually in Feb, instead of biennial to provide financial assistance to students showing an interest in horticulture. Original 2012 Annual Scholarship Agreement was updated Nov. 2019 with less restrictive criteria for eligibility. In 2020, applicant must be a junior or senior; with 3.0 cumulative GPA; have a major or minor in horticulture, agricultural studies, AG engineering, conservation and environmental studies, crop and soil science, dairy science, environmental science, or food science and technology. 2020 recipient is Kimberly Mackiel a senior chemistry major, who won the WISys Quick Pitch at UW-RF event. She qualified for state finals by explaining nanotech research in a 3-minute "pitch".

#### MARCH

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - March to August 2020 for were canceled. As a UW-Madison outreach program, we had to follow "Safer at Home" guidelines to reduce risk of Covid-19. All events, involving more than fifty members, had to be canceled. Virtual association meetings, with Diana's UW- Ext. "Zoom" account, were held July to November.

MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKERS- Board increased fees to \$50. Member speakers will receive gift cards. Canceled:

MARCH 26 – "Monarch Butterflies" with Summer Tour Director Debby Walters.

APRIL 23 – "Responding to Horticulture Questions" with Diana Alfuth.

MAY 28 - "Caring, Planting & Growing Your Peonies" with Cory Tischman, President of Wisconsin Peony Society.

JUNE 25 - "Importance of Native Plants" with Matthew Swank from Lupine Gardens.

JULY 23 - "Raised bed/hügelkultur gardens" with Program Director Bridget Kelley, our first scheduled field tour.

AUGUST 27 – "Wild & Exotic Mushrooms" with Tavis Lynch.

#### SEMINARS & OUTDOOR EVENTS CANCELLATIONS:

ANNUAL GARDEN U, 21<sup>st</sup> –Sat., Mar. 21 "Wildflowers, Hostas and Bees", organized by Carolyn Barrette, Lisa Esselman, and Bridget Kelley. Scheduled: "Searching for Minnesota's Native Wildflowers" by Kelly Povo and Phyllis Root; "Attracting Beneficial Bees to Fruit and Vegetable Gardens" by Heather Holm; and "Hostas and Stuff" by John Hager. Carolyn returned checks. Holm, Povo and Root agreed to do 2021 Garden U; Hager at meetings.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE, 16<sup>th</sup> yr. held first Sat. in June at Hudson's Octagon House, rain or shine. 1<sup>st</sup> time it was canceled.

6<sup>th</sup> JUNIOR GARDEN U - at River Falls' Demonstration and Learning Garden (DLG), MGVs and Diana offer two fun-packed 45-minute gardening sessions in July for 6 – 9- year-old youth.

20<sup>TH</sup> ST. CROIX CO. FAIR- July 15-19 – Interim Coordinators, St. Croix Co. Reps Sue Klatt & Liz Whitchurch, Norma Rudesill and Doris Krautbauer. Theme: Pollinators. County fair budgets were increased to \$350 for room rental and parking fees. No special board approval needed up to \$200.

PIERCE CO. FAIR August 13 – 16 – 2<sup>nd</sup> year Coordinator Kevin Ballman notified of Pierce Fair cancellation.

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET at Dick's Fresh Market Lot – Sat. 8am – 12 noon, June -October; 2nd-year Coordinator Laura Milano had no activity. Mar. Board recommended flyers be distributed at farmers markets with SCVMGA monthly meetings and upcoming events.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET at Plaza 94, bimonthly on Thurs. 9am – 12 noon, early July – early September - fourth-year Coordinator Maria Scheidegger had no activity.

AUGUST 26 TOUR - Deb & Jim Barron's "Heirloom Tomato Tasting and Tour" arranged by 4<sup>th</sup> year Tour Coordinators Debbie Walters & Anita Justen.

RURAL & FARM SAFETY DAYS at Ellsworth's Pierce Co. Fairgrounds, in Sept. MGVs with Diana hold several 15-20-minute sessions on the "Dangers of Perilous Plants" for over 400 4<sup>th</sup> Graders.

WIMGA STATE CONFERENCE - Sept 11-12- \$75 donation for Washington County MGA, West Bend was returned.

FALL WORKSHOP, 12th yr at Ellsworth's Seyforth Bldg., Committee: Karalyn Littlefield, Peg Wastell, Colleen Callahan, Virginia, Drath, and Gloria Bonse chose "Small Space Gardening" theme prior to cancellation.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE was activated to cancel March meeting and Garden U. Membership changes required committee revisions and recruiting replacements. Five more MGVs volunteered to serve in 2021.

NEW COORDINATORS: Bridget Kelley advanced to Program Director as Carolyn Barrette quietly stepped down in Feb. In May, Barb Peterson accepted Equipment Manager's role to store our AV and outdoor event equipment after JoAnn Ryan moved from the area. Still needed Fall Workshop Coordinator and Membership Assistant.

#### APRIL

ANNUAL GRANTS, 20<sup>th</sup> yr - 3rd year Coordinator, Jenny Brazzale and her team, Cindy Gleason, Amanda Lawrence, Karen Nork & Nita O'Connell, recommended \$4,372 for 20 of 23 project applications. Two projects (\$500) canceled due to restrictions; \$3,872 awarded to 18 projects. Eight cities represented in St Croix & Pierce Co. Thirteen projects coordinated by MGVs. Twelve projects for Youth Education and benefited students in 6 schools. Unused funds of \$879.85 returned from 4 grants. Thanks to Grant Committee!

APPAREL SALES MANAGER, 3<sup>rd</sup> year, Liz Whitchurch reported no clothing sales. Light grey shirts with new logo from Designs by Jill. Available are \$12 screen-printed logo womens' V-neck T-shirt, \$11 unisex crew neck, \$14.50 long sleeve crew neck, \$20 embroidered-logo polo shirt, and \$25 denim shirt.

#### MAY

DIANA'S VIRTUAL TALKS – First of 15 "Zoom" Coffee Talks & Happy Hours held May 21 to Sept 10 to address current gardening issues, helping MG respond to the public questions. May 21 at 10am – "Gardening Q & A"; May 28 Gardening Q & A – 25 members attended.

NEW RICHMOND COMMUNITY GARDEN, 20th yr. maintained by 5th yr Coordinator Donna Cadenhead (143 hrs) & Carolyn Barrette (22 hrs). Covid restricted student help. New water faucet, hay & cardboard mulch led to bumper crop. NR Public Health Services often closed so NR's Five Loaves and Hudson Food Shelf benefited from 1315 lbs. produce. Garden shed, taken down by high winds, was taken to recycling center. Received \$250 SCVMGA grant.

#### JUNE

DIANA'S VIRTUAL TALKS – June 4, "Frequently Asked Questions", 31 members; June 11 – "Identifying Bees, Phenology, Emerald Ash Borer – 34 members; June 18 – "Extreme Temps on Plants, Japanese Beetles' Life Cycle", 25 members; June 25 – "Pollination, Cucurbits, Mushrooms in Lawns, Dog Vomit Slime Mold", 21 members.

SPRINKLINGS EDITOR, 7th yr. Colleen Callahan & 3rd Yr. Proofreader Maria Sanocki created six beautiful issues, vs. eight due to cancellations. Special thanks to all contributors: Donna Davis' President's Message, Karalyn Littlefield's Recipes, Matt's (Schmitz) Picks, Peg Wastell's Variety Plant Trials, Paul VanDenMeerendonk's WIGMA updates, Deb Pederstuen's Member Updates, Nola Weber's Volunteer Opps, Carolyn Barrette & Bridget Kelley's Programs. Fun articles - Debby Walters' Book Review; Maria Sanocki's 'Let's Grow Herbs'; Donna Davis' Costa Rica Jan 2020 trip; Gloria Bonse & Karalyn Littlefield's Eight English Gardens; Margaret Smith's Mapping of Wild Parsnip.

SIX PRIVATE GARDEN SALES – held late May to June in lieu of annual SCVMGA Plant Sale to sell MGVs plant seedlings and perennial divisions. Matt Schmitz of Prescott, Leroy Clark of Beldenville, Carolyn Barrette, Michele McElmeel, and John Ramstad of Hudson, and Peg Wastell of New Richmond participated. SCVMGA received \$321 in donations from their proceeds.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS -3rd Yr Project Leader MGV Norma Rudesill and 22 MGVs reported no activity.

HELPING HANDS 3<sup>rd</sup> yr. Project Leader Cindy Gleason reported no requests.

## JULY

DIANA'S VIRTUAL TALKS –July 2- “Spotted Wing Drosophila, Squash Vine Borer, Late Blight, Flood Damage”, 38 members; July 9 – “Fertilize, Weed Control, Powdery Mildew”, 40 members; July 16 – “Lily Leaf Beetles, Squash Bugs”, 41 members; July 30 – “Mystery Seeds from China, Beetles, Blight, Tussock Moth Caterpillars”, 40 members.

JULY 23 – 1st Monthly Zoom Meeting - “Plants & Pretties” was a virtual garden tour of our fellow MGVs gardens, and florals arranged in a Powerpoint by Karalyn Littlefield; 61 participants. More than 50 members submitted over 200 fabulous garden photos available on our website. Program didn't qualify for education.

## AUGUST

DIANA'S VIRTUAL TALKS – Aug 6- “Fall Web Worms, Slugs, Harvesting Vegetables”, 26 mbrs; Aug 13 - “Queen Anne's Lace, Cover Crops, & Imperfect Produce” – 33 members; Aug 20 – “Eastern Ash Borer, Fungal Diseases”, 37 members.

VIRTUAL MEETING on AUG 27: Karalyn Littlefield's 'Creatures and Critters in the Garden' Powerpoint drew 43 participants. Fifty-two members donated over 300 photos of critters. Fun and interesting, but did not qualify for education.

MEMBERSHIP DUES remain at \$15 for individual and \$25 for family. To encourage early renewals, board approved doubling fees if checks were not postmarked by the Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

## SEPTEMBER

DIANA'S VIRTUAL TALKS on Sept 3: “Lilac Witches Broom, Harvest, Fall Lawn Care”, 26 members; Sept 10 – “Brown Marmorated Stinkbug, Foliar Disease, Transplants”, 32 members.

VIRTUAL MEETING on Sept. 24: Diana Alfuth's “Garden Clean-Up and Seed Collecting”; 41 members. She filled in for Karalyn Littlefield who contracted Covid-19.

2020 NOMINATION COMMITTEE included Pat Angleon, St. Croix Co. Rep; Donna Davis, Current Board Member and Barb Peterson, Past Board Member. Donna's 5<sup>th</sup> yr., Barb and Pat's 2<sup>nd</sup> year of service. No Pierce Co. Rep.

DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN: 8<sup>th</sup> year. River Falls' Hoffman Park: Diana and MGVs chose Covid-19 theme, 'social distancing' signs and vegetables. Marilyn Gorham's “Guardian Angel” scarecrow w/mask. MGVs Marilyn Gorham, Connie Johnson, and Dorothy (Dot) Seebach at DLG featured in Mar 18<sup>th</sup> Progress Edition of Republican Eagle paper.

## OCTOBER

VIRTUAL MEETING on Oct. 22 - Grant Committee Coordinator, Jenny Brazzale, highlighted 2020 grant projects which counted for one education hour.

3M VOLUNTEER MATCH PROGRAM: Each year 3M Foundation donates \$500 to an approved non-profit organization for each 3M current employee (20 MGV hrs) or retiree (25 MGV hrs) who volunteer. MGVs apply on "3MGives" website to select where to make their donation. Thanks to MGVs Connie Johnson, Barb Kolpin, Barb Peterson, Lynn Steely, and Nola Weber for their donations of \$2500.

NEW DEC. 31 DEADLINE for WIMGA's 2<sup>nd</sup> year Online Reporting of volunteer and education hours – Ten hours education required for 2021 MG certification. Volunteer Service hours waived, but encouraged to report hours served.

#### NOVEMBER

ANNUAL MEETING on Nov. 19: Election of officers – President Leroy Clark, Secretary Gloria Bonse, and St. Croix Co. Rep. Linda Kelly. Elected for 2<sup>nd</sup> terms - Treasurer Peg Wastell, Pierce Co. Rep Matt Schmitz, 3<sup>rd</sup> term for WIMGA Rep Paul VanDenMeerendonk. Budget approval, Financial Review report, and recognition of two outgoing Board Officers – Interim President Donna Davis (Mar. 2020) and St. Croix Co. Rep Sue Klatt (2019 – 2020).

FIRST MASTER GARDENER TRAINING VIRTUAL CLASS – Diana and Outreach Specialist Margaret Murphy taught classes via Zoom for six counties so SCVMGA board member did not promote the association.

2020 MEMBERSHIP - 173 members 153 renewals (89%), 17 of 18 MG Interns (94% of class), and 3 new MGVs. For 2020, 116 certified MGVs (68% of 2019 total). In Dec, 2019, 18 MGVs discontinued (11% of 171 members).

For 21 years, Diana Alfuth, UW-Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist has diligently provided her support, expertise, and friendship. Her annual Fall MG training class has contributed significantly to our large membership, providing us with new and talented MGVs every year.

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