



SCVMGA Year in Review 2022

By Deb Pederstuen

VIRTUAL MEETING: Jan 27 Diana Alfuth advised 60 participants on ‘Trends in Horticulture’, which often originate in Europe. Keep an open mind as social media may be misleading. Effects of climate change, adding natives for sustainability and pollination; landscape designs like, xeriscaping, heatscaping, firescaping, container gardening, and rain gardens.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: 156 members; 148 renewals (85% of 175) and 8 new members. Seven of 27 (26%) of Diana’s class joined: MG Interns **Anne Finstad, Karen Greenberg, Dave Miller, Rebecca Seidel, Cherie Vircks, Hannah White-McGinn,** and Student **Lynn Hawksford. Janet Brandt** was first to achieve MG Intern status via Foundations in Horticulture and Onboarding. In Dec. 2021, 17 MGVs discontinued (10% of 166 members). Late MGV **Jane Hanson** passed away 10/21/2021. Net dues income: \$1,035. WIMGA State dues: \$780

MG PROGRAM OFFICE REQUIREMENTS for certification – Acceptance of Terms & Conditions and Code of Ethics replaced Annual Enrollment to remain in 4-yr Online Reporting System (ORS). 1st yr Onboarding-Lite (5 hrs education) required prior to recording 10 hrs education/24 hrs volunteer by the new Jan 9, 2023 deadline. New step to record time by organizations vs. projects. Member categories: Active, Certified, Inactive, Deactivated, and Honored. Each association decides who can be a member as members are not required to be vetted Extension volunteers.

WIMGA CERTIFICATION LIST and Milestone awards are no longer released for 2nd yr for privacy reasons. Certificates not yet reinstated. Via email, it was determined 117 certified for 2022, 67% of 175 which is our five-year average.

TWO NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Vice President **Kevin Ballman**, 2010 MGV and St. Croix Rep **Lisa Esselman**, 2016 MGV. They joined Pres. **Leroy Clark**, Treas. **Peg Wastell**, St. Croix Rep **Linda Kelly**, Pierce Co Rep **Carol Franta**, and two officers in their 2nd terms, Pierce Co Rep **Matt Schmitz** and Secretary **Gloria Bonse**. New WIMGA Rep **Ken Kolbe**, 2009 MGV, (2022-24) is SCVMGA’s 5th State Representative since 1998.

ORIGINAL MEMBERS: Nine of 38 participate since mid-1997/1998. Our gratitude to **Carolyn Barrette, Deb & Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell.**

BOARD & ASSOCIATION MEETINGS: Board met 11 mos. virtually via Zoom, \$158 annually. Four hybrid (in-house/Zoom) meetings, Mar, Apr, Oct, and Nov, returned after 2-yr hiatus. Programs recorded. May to Sept tours. Speaker fees: \$50 gift cards for non-members, except for Sven Sundgaard and Stan Tekiela’s \$500 fees. First Covenant rental doubled to \$100/mo. Guest donations-\$6.

THANKS TO RETIRING COORDINATORS: **Laura Milano**, River Falls Farmers Market (2019-2021), **Linda Kelly**, St. Croix Co. Fair (2021), and **Donna Cadenhead**, New Richmond Community Garden (2016-2021).

FEBRUARY

VIRTUAL MEETING: Feb 24 Aleisha Miller, St. Croix Co Environmental Educator, talked about “Rain Gardens” to 47 participants. She emphasized their importance to reduce runoff and draw birds/pollinators.

MEMORY OF MG V Ron Campbell of Ellsworth, 10-year member, passed away 2/22/2022. Being he was a strong advocate for food security and former Ellsworth Pantry Garden board President, garden was renamed, “Ronald Campbell Memorial Garden”. MGVs **Nora Bennett, Laurie Rohde, Mary Vagt, Hannah White-McGinn,** and **Niki Zimmer**, planted the garden. His niece, Niki, donated seed from her family’s Elk Mound Seed. Co. Ron is credited for our website’s “Garden Tours/Area Events” tab.

MENTOR PROGRAM: 3rd year coordinators: **Nola Weber, Karalyn Littlefield,** and **Deb Pederstuen** paired five new members with MG V mentors. No orientation, Mentor and Intern Expectation Guidelines emailed. Participants: **Charlotte Nicholes w/Karen Greenberg; Deb Pederstuen w/Rebecca Seidel, Christine McGinnis w/Anne Finstad** and daughter, **Cherie Vircks; Paul VanDenMeerendonk w/Dave Miller.** Mentors are in contact for one year.

UW-RF \$1000 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP 2022 recipient was Ian Schneider of Durand, a UW-RF Junior, majoring in horticulture with an emphasis on landscape. Goal was to be a sustainable landscape designer.

VARIETY PLANT TRIALS: Project Leader **Peg Wastell** canceled 9-year project after not receiving UW-Ext MG program approval. To achieve scientific validity, 20 or more grower’ evaluations per trial are needed. Our website has 2013-2019 results. Plant trial seed sales proceeds were \$51.

VEGETABLE GARDEN GROUP: 2nd year virtual meetings 3rd Sunday w/coordinator **Nora Bennett** and 19 members. Topics: Feb 21: **Koreen Theisen** “Resources for Vegetable Gardeners”; May 15 Katie Bartko, RD Pierce & Polk Co FoodWise Nutrition Prog. Coordinator “Ellsworth Food Pantry”; Sept 18 Group Discussion: “Putting the Garden to Bed, Seed Saving and **Nora Bennett’s** “Edible Flowers”; Oct 16 **Laurie Rohde** “Experience at 22 Farms Animal Sanctuary”; Nov 20 Anna Zimmer, Director of Grow & Gather Farm at Camp St Croix, “Hydroponics”; Dec. 19 **Nora Bennett’s** online discussion “Sources of Information on Regenerative Agriculture”.

UW FOUNDATION MG PROGRAM FUND: 3rd year annual \$150 donation to provide support for education programs, training materials and office needs. Individuals can also donate.

MARCH

HYBRID MEETING – March 24 Becky Brathal, US Fish and Wildlife Program, Private Lands Biologist, described “Wisconsin’s Prairie Habitats”, their importance. and how we can preserve them for future generations to 29 members and others on Zoom. First Covenant meeting since Feb 2020. Board decision made after special 2/22/22 Board meeting with Dr. Paul McGinnis on Covid-19 cases/safety. Thanks to **Leroy Clark** and **Ken Kolbe** for Zoom connections.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021: Mar 1 Board-appointed committee met at Hudson Public Library. **Linda Kelly, Paul VanDenMeerendonk, Lisa Esselman, Carol Franta,** and Treasurer **Peg Wastell** noted records were well-documented. Second yr of filing online 990-N IRS form, due May 15, for small tax-exempt organizations.

WESTERN WI SPRING SEMINAR: Sat., Mar. 12, two 1-hr., ‘Growing Together’ via U-Tube Live for \$10, in lieu of Garden U. Presentations for 85 participants: Jeff Epping, Olbrich Botanical Gardens – “Gravel Gardens - Gardens That Rock!” and Bob Dahm, aka Dr. Organic - “Creating an Organic Bee Lawn”.

ONBOARDING-LITE online program required before MG can report certification hours. March 31st deadline was extended. Five hours of education could be reported after completion.

APRIL

MEETING: Apr 28 - Sven Sundgaard, MPR Meteorologist, explained “Climate Change” and its consequences of a warming planet to 36 members/34 on Zoom. \$500 speaker fee (\$7/member) exceeded

Steve Meyer’s 2016 Future Farm & Fuel \$250 (\$5/member) Baldwin tour.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT initiated in 2020 was not featured. 2020 **Peg Wastell’s** Plant Trials; 2021 **Karalyn Littlefield’s** “River Falls’ Grow to Share” at Demonstration and Learning Garden (DLG).

WEBSITE: 10th yr. – thanks to 6th yr. Webmasters **Mari Marson and Debby Walters** for updates/MG information on home page and Garden Tours/Area Events. WEEBLY Bi-annual site fee remains \$71.80.

MASTER GARDENER WEEK was not recognized due to restructuring of the Master Gardener Program.

22nd ANNUAL GRANTS: Jenny Brazzale, 5th yr coordinator, and her team, **Cindy Gleason, Nita O’Connell, Karen Nork,** and **Christine (Cricket) Lafond** received 19 applications requesting \$4,096. Board approved \$3,906 for 18 projects. Ten cities represented in St Croix & Pierce Co., 15 projects involved MGVs, and 9 for youth education benefiting 3 schools. Three recipients returned \$278.49 in unused funds. Team received \$500 St. Croix Electric Co-op grant in Jan 2022 for reference materials and \$500 grant in Dec 2022 (\$200 brochures and \$300 Pierce Co. Fair Tent). Report in May/June Sprinklings.

SPRINKLINGS: **Colleen Callahan,** 9th yr. Editor & **Maria Sanocki,** 5th yr. Proofreader, created six informative bimonthly issues. Special thanks to contributors: **Leroy Clark’s** President’s Message, **Karalyn Littlefield’s** Recipes, **Matt’s (Schmitz)** Picks, **Nora Bennett’s** Vegetable Group updates, **Deb Pederstuen’s** Membership News, and **Bridget Kelley’s** Programs. Articles by **Kevin Ballman, Carolyn Barrette, Cathy Berling, Gloria Bonse, Jenny Brazzale, Colleen Callahan, Marilyn Gorham, Linda Kelly, Trent Kowalchuk, Norma Rudesill, Maria Sanocki, Peg Wastell, and Paul VanDenMeerendonk.**

APPAREL SALES: **Liz Whitchurch,** 5th yr. manager, reported no clothing sales. Negotiations in progress for a new supplier to give us opportunity to purchase clothing in smaller quantities.

MAY

BUMBLEBEES& HONEYBEES/TOUR: May 26 **Heidi Doering,** of Koppert Biological Systems, described benefits and differences of both bees for fruit and vegetable production. 31 members/2guests toured her Roberts’ veg/berry gardens. Doering was a former UW-Ext. St. Croix Co. Horticulture Educator.

22nd NEW RICHMOND COMMUNITY

GARDEN: Sharon Reyzer and Cathy Berling, 1st yr coordinators, and 10 MGs volunteered 219 hrs at 1752 Dorset Lane. Yields of 598 lbs. were shared with St. Croix County Services Center clients, Grace Place, NR and Hudson food shelves and the New Richmond Backpack program (carrots). Youth groups no longer assist. Deer damage required replanting & row covers to deter them. Used residual funds, \$250 SCVMGA grant, plus \$172 to cover compost, straw mulch, hoses, plants, seeds, and storage chest \$870 expenses. Account balance: \$10.

JUNE

GROW TO SHARE GARDEN TOUR: June 23 Tonya Schmitt from the program at River Fall's Hoffman Park, at 547 Hanson Dr., introduced program available to area needy. 21 attended.

16th ANNUAL PLANT SALE: June 4 at Hudson's Octagon House (south lawn) exceeded all previous sales. Net income of \$7,054, a 23% increase over \$5,742 earned in 2019's sale! First year to use Square Credit Sales, bringing in \$2,078, and \$5,128 in cash & checks. \$100 donation to St. Croix Historical Society. Expenses: \$217. Thanks to all contributors and Plant Sale Team: **Cindy Gleason, Marilyn Gorham, Renee Clark, Leroy Clark and Christine McGinnis**. No sale for two years, jumping worm plant treatments, and potential rains which held off all contributed to huge success! Grant recipients and community gardens were offered leftover plants.

CANCELED SUMMER ACTIVITIES: Junior Garden U, Rural & Farm Safety Program, MGV Fall Workshop, Gardening with Native Plants Garden Group, and Diana's DLG Tour. No Helping Hands requests for 5th yr. Project Leader **Cindy Gleason**.

JULY

TOUR OF CARPENTER NATURE CENTER: July 28 Jessie Eckroad, Outreach Program Coordinator, Interpretive Naturalist at 300 E. Cove Rd, Hudson facility. 35 members attended.

TOUR COORDINATORS, Debby Walters, 7th yr. and **Anita Justen, 6th yr.** did not hold additional tours. Program Director **Bridget Kelley's** Schedule of Events included five off-site tours May to Sept.

21st CROIX COUNTY FAIR: July 20-24 Coordinators **Dana McKenna, 1st yr,** and **Norma Rudesill, 7th yr.,** featured "Gardening for the Birds". Nineteen MGVs staffed Commercial Building's smaller space (\$180). All, but four shifts were staffed with 3 MGVs. Peg's Variety Plant Trial display w/ perennials. SignUpGenius was effective. MGs reimbursed \$27 for parking fees (\$7/parking).

AUGUST

RIVERWOOD NATURE CENTER TOUR: Aug 25 Kim Anderson, WI Master Naturalist gave a tour and presentation of the Star Prairie Center at 218 West 1st St. for 28 members and 2 guests.

PIERCE CO. FAIR: Aug 10-14 - **Kevin Ballman, 3rd yr.** Coordinator, and MGVs used "Gardening for the Birds" theme. Reserved space: \$166. MGs were reimbursed \$126 for fair admission. Questions were about MG program, natives, plant species and insects, Peg's Plant Trials, and our theme. Suggestions: sturdy chairs, new tent or funds for repair, & durable banners to withstand wind.

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET at Dick's Fresh Market Lot – Saturdays 8am – 12 noon, June - Oct; **Gloria Bonse, 1st-year** Coordinator, and **Mary Samuelson** manned booth 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Ave. of 3-6 people/week inquiring about weed control, pest control (cucumber beetles), plant division, blossom end rot, pruning, weed ID, vegetable garden plans, and drought control. Promoted MG Program & UW-Ext website resources. Weekly MG interest. High winds destroyed canopy; sun and cold fall.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET at Plaza 94, bimonthly on Thursdays 9am – 12 noon, July -Sept; **Maria Scheidegger, 4th yr** Coordinator, set up weekly station in Sept and 3 wks in Oct. No other MGVs helped. Approved of Farmers Market Manager Dave Weiss. Inquiries about MG classes, SCVMGA/monthly meetings. Cold fall weather!

SEPTEMBER

AGRISCIENCE/GREENHOUSE TOUR at New Richmond High School: Sept 22 Rachel Sauvola, Agriscience Instructor, informed 24 members about SOAR program, school farm, light tower gardens for growing lettuces, and greenhouse for raising Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to sell.

2nd BLOOMIN' BUCK\$ fundraiser w/Brent & Becky's Bulbs. We received \$108.19, 25% of each SCVMGA order. We qualify unless donation checks are less than \$25 for two consecutive yrs.

10th DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN at River Falls' Hoffman Park featured 'Tribute to Ukraine', growing vegetables common to that country. Diana Alfuth and MGVs **Marilyn Gorham, Shauna Knott, Connie Johnson,** and **Carol Wilcox** agreed to designate DLG as a SCVMGA project to avoid the extra UW-Extension employee requirements. Diana did not hold any garden tours.

OCTOBER

HYBRID MEETING: Oct 27 Stan Tekiela, Author, Naturalist, and Wildlife Photographer, presented “Wildflowers, Nature's Stunning Beauty in Full Bloom” for 29 members, 5 guests, and 25 on Zoom. He highlighted different reproduction, pollination, and flowering features.

INSURANCE AUDIT with Hastings Mutual Insurance was initiated by Treasurer **Peg Wastell**; annual premium was \$552. Refund of \$37 received in October because of fewer in-person meetings.

2022 NOMINATION COMMITTEE: **Barb Peterson**, Coordinator and former board member (4th yr), **Matt Schmitz**, current board member, and **Rose Kuebker**, St. Croix Co. Rep. Our many thanks for their recruitment efforts! **Barb Kolpin**, Pierce Co Rep., chose to run for Pierce Co Board Rep so removed herself from the committee.

WIMGA BOARD: MGV **Marilyn Gorham** of Hudson finished her 2nd year as WIMGA Board President.

WIMGA NEWSLETTER: six bimonthly issues (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) are now emailed to members via WIMGA. Communications come from news@wimga.org.

WIMGA CONTRIBUTOR: SCVMGA member **Donna Mae Stohlmann** submitted articles, “Pileated Woodpecker” in May and “Japanese Beetles” in Nov.

3M VOLUNTEER MATCH PROGRAM donates \$500, as of 2018, to an approved non-profit organization for each 3M current employee (20 MGV hrs) or retiree (25 MGV hrs) who volunteer at an organization. MGVs apply on “3MGives” website. Our thanks to **Connie Johnson** for \$500 3M Grant and **Lynn Steely** for two \$500 3M Grants. **Steely** requested \$750 be disbursed to Houlton Elementary.

NOVEMBER

HYBRID ANNUAL MEETING: Nov 17 **Jenny Brazzale's** 2022 Community Grant Projects; **Jean Haut** and **Christine McGinnis' "Octagon House's Tapestry Garden"**; **Dave Miller, Liz Whitchurch,** and **Doris Krauthauer's "Trinity Lutheran's Forgotten Corner"**; and Diana Alfuth's “Winter Gardening Ideas”. BOD election: Treasurer **Margaret Smith**, St. Croix Co. Rep. **Dana McKenna**, Pierce Co. Rep **Barbara Kolpin**, and 2nd term Pres. **Leroy Clark**. Budget approval, Financial Review report; recognition of three outgoing officers: Treasurer **Peg Wastell** (2019-2022), St. Croix Co. Rep **Linda Kelly** (2021-2022) and Pierce Co. Rep **Matthew Schmitz** (2019-2022). Attendance – 16 members and 17 on Zoom.

DECEMBER

ANNUAL WIMGA MEETING – Dec 1st conducted by President **Marilyn Gorham**; 96% of the members approved updated bylaws. Plans are to replace Mike Maddox, 10-year UW-Ext. WI Master Gardener Program Coordinator who left in May. Jay Dampier's new title: ‘State Horticulture Outreach Program Mgr. of UW-Madison Division of Extension’. WIMGA's 2023 Program Schedule was announced.

Tovah Martin, Lecturer and Author of “Every Sense and Season” presented “Houseplants by Design”, featuring beautiful winter arrangements using summer annuals, succulents, and tropical plants.

2022 GARDENING FUNDAMENTALS - 3rd yr, Diana Alfuth, UW-Extension Horticulture Outreach Specialist, taught 32 students in-person and on Zoom (free). For 23 years, Diana has diligently provided SCVMGA her support, expertise, and friendship. We're grateful for her enthusiasm that inspires students to complete UW-Ext. Onboarding and the Exam to become MG Interns, join SCVMGA, and serve their communities.

FINAL MEMBERSHIP: 156 members

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