



Sprinklings



ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2017

Houlton Elementary School earns national award



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MGV Sandy Madsen (second from right) and **Houlton Elementary School Principal Sue Hellmers** (second from left) travelled to Washington D.C. recently to receive the U.S. Department of Education's "Green Ribbon Schools" award. At left is **Holly Ham**, Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education; at right is **Adam Honeysett**, Managing Director of State and Local Engagement.

Master Gardeners played an important role in helping Houlton Elementary School achieve national recognition by the U.S. Department of Education for reducing environmental impact, improving health and wellness, and educating students on environmental sustainability. SCVMGA member **Sandy Madsen** started a gardening program in 2009 with a 4' x 16' raised bed and a one-acre prairie restoration. Today each class has its own garden and kids learn to compost. Here's an excerpt from the school's report: "Houlton Elementary has an amazing school garden, overseen by a community Master Gardener. The Master Gardener identifies the tasks and guides students in doing the necessary tasks to keep the garden producing. She also works closely with our School Nutrition Specialist."

AUGUST 24 MEETING

Lots of Hostas

by Carolyn Barrette

Our August 24 meeting features Bob Olson, former president of the Minnesota Hosta Society. Olson has devoted many years to hostas and activities. His specialty is miniature hostas, but he'll tell us about his trip to Japan to seek out a new hosta variety, as well as talk about hostas in general.



We will be back at First Covenant Church in River Falls. The meeting starts at 6:45 p.m. with the speaker at 7:15.

Behind the scenes at Como



Reserve your spot for our final SCVMGA-sponsored tour of the year at Como Conservatory and Japanese Gardens on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 1:30 p.m. Please use Sign-upGenius on our website or contact the tour coordinators: Anita Justen (715-898-2039) or Debby Walters (715-698-2981). Registration deadline is Sept. 9. A \$15 fee is required. Carpooling will be available. Don't miss this amazing tour!

ST. CROIX COUNTY FAIR

Small gardens featured at SCVMGA booth

"Feed the World, Start at Home" was the theme for this year's SCVMGA booth with a variety of small gardens on display. **Patricia Henderson** contributed a vertical garden (top left photo), **Norma Rudesill** brought container gardens, and **Diana Alfuth** brought a straw bale garden (top left photo), a raised bed and a palette garden. **Cindy Gleason** donated pots of perennials.

In bottom left photo are volunteers **Wendy Kramer** (left) and **Virginia Drath** (right).



President's Message



Trent Kowalchyk

The Japanese beetles have been impressive this year. This is the first time I have had them at my house. The first couple of days I picked them from the asparagus and raspberries, then tossed them in soapy water. After a couple days there weren't that many left. Then they really started to hatch. I was only picking the early arrivals. They were everywhere and in uncountable numbers. Even my wife said, "Ewwh, what are these things?"

Luckily, most of the damage has been to a weed (*Lady's Thumb* or *smart weed*, page 150 from *Teresa Marrone's*

Book on weeds) that is very prominent in my garden. I guess sometimes a weedy garden is OK. Hopefully we get a winter that thins them down a bit. Drat, I think I just asked for a cold, hard winter. Double Drat, I just said winter.

Enough about beetles. What a wonderful garden we had the opportunity to visit last month. Rock Landscape gardens were full of beautiful flowers and great plants. Hostas of every shape, color, texture and size. Lots of great ideas and inspiration.

Don't miss our next meeting about hostas and their origins in Japan. What great timing.

What's happening?

"Last-Chance" Fall Workshop

"Propagation and Roses" is the theme of this year's Fall Workshop on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Seyforth Building on the Pierce County Fairgrounds.

Brian Smith, professor of Horticulture at UW-River Falls, will begin the day with "Budding and Grafting Propagation Techniques." He will discuss timing and techniques for propagating fruit trees and vegetable seedlings as well as critical aftercare.

David Zlesak, associate professor of Horticulture at UW-River Falls, will tell us about "The Cutting Edge of Landscape Roses" with an emphasis on the newest strong performing roses for the Upper Midwest.



Two afternoon sessions include "Propagating Sedum" by Vickie Reschke and "Fall Wreath Demonstration" by Jonna Klukas from *Garden Expressions* in River Falls.

Workshop Coordinator **Vickie Reschke** is seeking volunteers to help with table/chair setup at 8 a.m., registration, hospitality (morning coffee, snacks) at 8:30 a.m., lunch setup, assisting presenters, and cleanup at 3 p.m. If you can help, please contact Vickie via email at vickie.reschke@gmail.com or call her at 612-708-9393.

Click [here](#) for a registration form. Hurry! This is your "last-chance" to collect both education and volunteer hours.

Time is drawing near for recertification

Click [here](#) for spreadsheet to record your hours. Deadline is Oct. 1.

A day-trip for daylilies

The *Wisconsin Daylily Society* will have its annual Daylily Plant Sale on Aug. 19-20 at Olbrich Gardens in Madison.

More than 700 different cultivars, all of which are bare-root and Wisconsin grown, will be on sale. Below is just a very small sample of the types of plants.

After visiting the Daylily Sale, you can enjoy a stroll through the Olbrich Gardens outdoor display gardens, visiting the Thai Pavilion and Garden, the Rose Garden and other specialty gardens including the Perennial garden, Sunken Garden, and Herb Garden. Free admission to Olbrich Gardens. (www.olbrich.org)

And, while in the area, consider visiting the Badger State Dahlia Show at the Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa Street, Madison – less than a mile from Olbrich Gardens. (www.badgerdahlia.org)



Larry's Obsession



Keep It Clean



Ruffles Have Ripples



Valdosta Again



Aegean Sea



Fire Fight



Legislating Life



Morning Make Up



Corn Flakes in a Can



PHOTO BY DEB PEDERSTUEN

Donna Davis's Garden Tour

A beautiful setting for *Actaea racemosa* caught Deb Pederstuen's photographic eye. Also known as *Cimicifuga racemosa*, cohosh, fairy candle, black snakeroot, this species is native to eastern North America and found in small woodlands. Native Americans have used its roots and rhizomes for sedative and anti-inflammatory purposes.

Upcoming Meetings

Our Sept. 28 meeting will feature the care of African Violets. Pat Mattson, Luck, Wis., will talk about propagating, lighting and soil mixes.



At the Oct. 26 meeting, several SCVMGA Community Grant recipients will report on their projects this past year.

On Nov. 16, we'll learn how to use natural materials in making holiday displays.

All meetings begin at 6:45 p.m. and will be held at First Covenant Church, 1374 N. Main St. in River Falls.

JULY MEETING

Rock Landscape and Gardens: a peaceful, secluded hideaway



Forty-seven members and three guests strolled through the grounds at Rock Landscape and Gardens near Baldwin for our July meeting. Hostas and lilies stole the show.



PHOTOS BY LESLIE HOLT & COLLEEN CALLAHAN



Bees that need more respect

by Jerry Bridge

The genus *Lasioglossum* is the largest genus of bees in the world, as far as number of species, and the second most common genus found in Wisconsin (about 60 species). Because they are so small, most about 4 mm (almost gnat-size), they are not often noticed. However because their numbers are so great and many foraging from spring to fall, they are considered important pollinators. (If we remember our Greek 'lasioglossum' means hairy tongue.)

Most of the bees in this genus are blackish or brownish with a slight metallic sheen, often bluish green on the head and thorax.

This genus contains members that are attracted to human sweat and are often called 'sweat bees', nest in the ground, are mostly general foragers (forage on many different kind of flowers), and are considered mostly social (reproducing females meet their young, and female offspring may be involved in rearing young). Some are solitary (only one female involved in nest-building and foraging for soon to hatch eggs, and they do not meet their young).

One species in Wisconsin is parasitic (taking over another species nest). As general foragers these bees will take nectar



Lasioglossum
LYNETTE SCHIMMING
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

from any flower they can reach inside of with their tongue and will accumulate pollen on the hind legs when the grains are not too large. They are especially abundant on plants of the sunflower family. Often when I am collecting bees, they may make up to 75 percent of the total number at certain times of the year.

Like most bees *Lasioglossum* numbers are encouraged with the planting of many different kinds of flowers in the garden, especially native plants and cultivars that produce much nectar and/or pollen that are readily accessed by bees. Flowers with different features – such as color, flower shape, height, flowering periods – also encourage a greater number and variety of bees.

Leaving the ground or soil as little disturbed as possible will help their nesting and overwintering sites, which are important for bee survival – that is, sections of the garden being left bare.

Jerry has been a SCVMGA member since 2013. With a background in biological sciences and mathematics, he was an education consultant in a former homeland of South Africa. His interest in insects began many years ago in subarctic Canada.

Cucumber Refrigerated Pickles

by Karalyn Littlefield

This recipe is one of the simplest and by far my favorite cucumber pickle.

First, a little history on the ingredients. Cucumber, a popular cultivated plant in the gourd family, *Cucurbitaceae*, originated in ancient India over 4,000 years ago. European trappers introduced the cucumber to Native Americans who saw the potential and nutritious value of the vegetable. During the 18th century, several North American medical journals reported that cucumbers that were not cooked posed serious health risks. This 'fake news' caused cucumber use to plummet across the continent. It was not until the 19th century that those misconceptions were reversed.

Onion, originating in Central Asia, is one of the oldest cultivated vegetables in history. Ancient civilizations became dependent on this vegetable. Onions were easy to grow in any type of soil or weather, and were easy to store, dry and preserve. Onions prevented thirst, provided energy and were found to have useful medicinal properties. According to some records, onions were the first vegetable planted by the first colonists who landed in North America.

There is evidence of harvesting salt 10,000 years ago and using vinegar, an accidental discovery as many as 9,000 years ago. Sugar cane is one of the oldest cultivated crops. Celery seed was first used for medicinal properties about 3,000 years ago before becoming a popular spice in cook-

ing food. Besides providing flavor, salt, vinegar and sugar have preservation properties. Pickling food continues to be a popular preservation method.

Let us honor these 'ancient' foods by combining them and creating delicious pickled cucumbers with this recipe from my mother, Karen Littlefield. A double batch will fit in a gallon jar with a little bit of persuasion.



Cucumber Refrigerator Pickles

- 7 cups sliced cucumbers, peelings on
- 1 cup sliced onions
- 1 ½ to 2 cups sugar
- 2 Tbls. salt
- 1 tsp. celery seed

Combine all ingredients. It makes its own juice.

Store in refrigerator. Let set at least overnight before serving.

Keeps a long time in the refrigerator. They will be gone before the quality deteriorates.

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Note: click on underlined names for direct email links.

BALDWIN-WOODVILLE

Baldwin Community Garden

[Wendy Kramer](#)

B-W Giezendanner School Forest

[Debby Walters](#)

control invasive species

Viking Middle School

[Debby Walters](#)

maintain prairie restoration project

ELLSWORTH

Pierce County Fair (Aug. 10-13)

[Leroy Clark](#)

plan, setup displays, staff booth

Pierce County Fairground Gardens

[Karen O'Brien](#)

Ellsworth Ambulance Hall

[Kevin Ballman](#)

ELMWOOD

Personal Property Plant ID Project

[Teresa Davis](#) *Work as a team to identify plants in people's yards*

GLENWOOD CITY

Glenwood Community Garden

[Barb Nelson](#)

Glenwood City "Welcome Cows"

Bonnie Walters

help 4-H club with maintenance

St. Croix County Fair (July 19-23)

[Norma Rudesill](#), 715-688-2160

plan, setup displays, staff booth

HUDSON

Hudson Farmers Market (Plaza 94)

Tuesdays 8 a.m.-noon (June-Oct.)

[Maria Scheidegger](#)

Volunteers will set up, tear down table, answer questions

Lakefront Park (April-Oct)

[Ramona Robinson](#)

Octagon House (Mondays)

[Janet Haut](#)

Willow River Elementary School

[Ramona Robinson](#)

Willow River State Park

[Melissa DuPont](#)

Hudson Middle School

[Mike Deneen](#)

Birkmose Park Indian Mounds

[Marianne Leverty](#), 715-549-5528

maintain native plantings

Homestead Gardens, Perch Lake

(April-Oct.) [Justin Townsend](#)

plant annual garden, bring ideas for beautifying park

Christian Community Home

[Deb Pederstuen](#) *Weekly 2-hour maintenance of courtyard gardens*

Healing Waters Health Center

[Nancy Lawton-Shirley](#)

NEW RICHMOND

New Richmond Community Garden

[Donna Cadenhead](#)

plant, weed, harvest, donate produce

Deerfield Gables Care Center

[Carolyn Craig](#)

Cancer Center of Western Wisconsin

[Julie Walsh](#), 715-246-9999

Leadership Trust Initiative

[Kristin Thompson](#)

PRESCOTT

Great River Road Visitor Center

[Deb Kittilson](#)

Prescott Public Library

[Danielle Welch](#)

planting community garden for Summer Reading Program

Downtown Prescott Flowers

[Miranda Green](#)

watering flowers Mon, Tues, Wed.

RIVER FALLS

Boulevard Flower Plot

[Donna Reuter](#)

Demonstration and Learning Garden

(Hoffman Park) [Diana Alfuth](#)

plan, weed, give demonstrations, scout for problems

Grow to Share Community Garden

(Hoffman Park) [Megan Loga](#)

need board member, coordinator

Grow to Share Herb Garden

(Hoffman Park) [Heidi Nemcek](#)

Environmental Stewardship

(Grow to Share Gardens) [Kristin Wilson](#)

Have a Heart Farm

[Bobbie Kuhn](#)

River Falls Farmers Market

Tuesdays and Saturdays

[Elaine Baker](#)

staff booth, answer questions

St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity

[Dennis Schmidt](#)

Westside Elementary Garden

[Becky Cunningham](#)

guidance on seed, plant selection, coordinate student garden work

Westside Elementary Science Showcase

[Becky Cunningham](#)

VFW-Greenwood Cemetery

[Kathye Beebe](#)

City of River Falls

[Crystal Raleigh](#)

ROBERTS

Cross Community Garden

[Mike Deneen](#)

SOMERSET

Parnell Prairie Reserve (May-Sept)

[Jean Hoffman](#)

ANYWHERE

Hospitality Committee

[Trina Frank](#)

bring treats to monthly meetings

Sprinklings Newsletter

[Colleen Callahan](#)

contribute articles

Garden Book Collection

[Joni Garbe](#)

donate used gardening books

Visual Communications Team

[Leslie Holt](#)

take photos of SCVMGA events

MGV "Helping Hands"

[Gail Behr](#)

help fellow MGVs in time of need

Native Plant Study Group

[Gail Behr](#)

maintain demo garden, integrate native plants into SCVMGA sites

Sun & Country Messenger, Osceola

[Suzanne Lindgren](#), editor

write monthly garden column

WIMGA UPDATE

by Paul VanDenMeerendonk, Representative

“Masters at the Prairie” is the focus of the state conference Oct. 13-14 at West Bend Mutual Insurance Company's Prairie Center in West Bend, Wis.

The event is hosted by the Washington County MGVA Association. This is a good start on education hours for 2018! Click [here](#) to download the brochure.



WIMGA Educational Grant applications will be due Oct. 1. The money is to be used to educate the public on a horticultural topic. There are three categories: \$100, \$250, and \$400 grants. SCVMGA can apply for up to two grants.

Please let your minds work, wonder and explore what programs you think the public would be interested in. Let a board member or Carolyn Barrette (see *article at right*) know your ideas!

Name this plant CONTEST

Native to North America, this perennial herb belongs to the mint family. As each blossom is pushed to the side, it acquiesces to its new position.



Go to “Contact Us” on our [website](#) to enter the contest. You must give the genus name. **Deadline is midnight, Aug. 22.** All correct answers will be entered in a drawing to be held at the Aug. 24 meeting. This month's prize is a \$25 gift card from [Cedar Hill Greenhouse](#), River Falls.

Program ideas wanted!

by Carolyn Barrette

It's that time of year again - we're in the process of developing the 2018 program schedule for the monthly meetings as well as the special events we have such as Garden U - to be held on March 19, 2018 again at the Hudson House, and the September specialized training we've sponsored the past few years. We like to make the January meeting a special introduction for new members - and add some color in the dark days of winter. Any suggestions?

Is there a speaker you would like to hear? A subject you want to know about? A really fantastic garden person you think ought to talk to us? Our summer 'field trips' have been popular. We could visit garden shops, specialty gardens, produce centers, dining areas with special gardens - the possibilities are endless. The field is wide open and the best ideas come from our members.

Please forward the name and contact information to Carolyn Barrette at tbarrett@presenter.com or call 715-549-6438 or 612-201-5916. Or let someone else know and ask them to pass on the information. I just make the phone calls - you folks are the ones who come up with the great program ideas. Just a mention of a subject or person might lead further to someone or some place that might be a really great program.

These programs are put together so we can use them for the education hours we need, plus we get to learn all kinds of interesting things about plants, landscaping, indoor gardens, new garden techniques. The latest hot idea - or the 'weed of the year' - it's an opportunity to learn. Please send your ideas!

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 listed above.

All SCVMGA members are welcome to contribute articles, information, book reviews, or ideas on any horticultural topic. Submission deadline is the first Friday of the publication month. The next deadline is **Friday, Sept. 8** for the Sept-Oct issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to giverny@me.com.

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