



# Sprinklings



ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2018

## Heirloom members honored at 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary



PHOTO BY TERESA DAVIS

Founding SCVMGA members gather at the 20th Anniversary celebration. From left are **Peg Wastell, Betty Schultz, Wendy Kramer, Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Debbie Barron, Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth, and Margaret Smith.** Not pictured are **Carolyn Barrette, Daphne Brackley, Marilyn Gorham, and Kathleen Oss.** See page 4 for more info.

### JULY MEETING

#### Responsibilities in running a garden shop

What's involved in owning a small garden business? Especially one that's tucked inside a large landscaping and tree-farm business? Starla Enger, co-owner of My Sister's Garden, shares space with the Willow River Company outside Hudson. She will give us a behind-the-scenes look at her daily responsibilities and provide details on Hudson's Vine Street tree project that the Willow River Company managed.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., but feel free to come early to wander through My Sister's Garden.

**My Sister's Garden**  
6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, July 26

850 Kelly Rd.  
Hudson, WI 54016

#### St. Croix County Fair coming soon

by Amanda Lawrence

Fair time is here. Our theme this year is "Every Garden has a Story." We will be featuring our face-in-hole cutouts of Peter Rabbit and Scarecrow. Many thanks to Baldwin-Woodville High School Art and Industrial Arts departments for assisting us in the creation. There will be several displays on small-scale gardening using containers, raised beds, and pallets. We will also be playing our "Are You Smarter than a Rutabaga" game, so bring your game faces!

We still need volunteers for Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, so please sign up via [Signup Genuis](#) or by contacting me at [acschwake79@yahoo.com](mailto:acschwake79@yahoo.com).

**St. Croix County Fair**  
July 18-22

“Gardening requires a lot of water, most of it in the form of perspiration.”

— Lou Erickson, editorial cartoonist, gardening enthusiast

## President's Message



Trent Kowalchyk

It is hard to believe that SCVMGA is 20 years young. A group of people had a great idea and invested their hard work and time into it. The list of accomplishments is long and the St. Croix Valley is a greener place because of it. It was great to see so many turn out for our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration especially with the hot humid weather. Every once in a while, it is good to stop and look back at the things you have accomplished. Thanks to everyone who helped with our celebration and thank you to everyone who made our organization great.

Now is a good time to take a break from the weeding. The hard work is starting to pay off as the flowers

are blooming and some veggies can be picked. We have been blessed with plenty of moisture and heat after such a weird start and everything is growing. The moisture and heat, of course, foster weeds and mosquitoes. My window for getting any work done around my garden on a week day is very short. Just when the temperature gets tolerable, the mosquitoes turn unbearable. I try to get as much done on the weekends as I can, but I still manage to find time to sit under my favorite shade tree.

Don't miss our next meeting as we visit My Sister's Garden and Willow River Tree Farm to learn about the business and the role they played with the Vine Street project in Hudson.

## What's happening?



PHOTO BY TERESA DAVIS

Diana Alfuth portrays Peter Rabbit in one of two "face-in-the-hole" photo boards destined for the county fairs. Thanks to **Wendy Kramer** for coordinating with the Baldwin-Woodville High School Industrial Arts program. Art teacher Shannon Kamm guided students in building and painting colorful boards of Peter Rabbit and Scarecrow. The boards made their debut at our 20th Anniversary celebration.

### Eau Claire Conference Sept. 21-22

To volunteer at the Eau Claire convention, please [click here](#) for the Signup Genius page. MGVs are needed for the registration table

**WIMGA UPDATE**  
by Paul VanDenMeerendonk

on both Friday and Saturday, help with the Silent Auction and vendor set-up, selling bulbs, and helping with local tours.

The conference promises to be fun, instructive, and inspirational. It includes topics on woody plants, perennial design, plant diseases, GMOs (**Trent Kowalchyk**), gardening for kids (**Diana Alfuth**), mushroom hunting (**Joni Garbe**), sustainable gardening, preserving herbs, newest Daylilies, bulb planting, and photography. There will be tours, a silent auction and a raffle. [Click here](#) to see the brochure.

### SCVMGA-Sponsored Tours

A home garden, a vegetable farm and a backroom peek at a nursery fill out this year's SCVMGA-sponsored tours, arranged by **Debby Walters** and **Anita Justin**.

#### Bonnie Blodgett's gardens

Thursday, July 24, 4:30 p.m.  
An entertaining and lively visit with the St. Paul Pioneer Press columnist at her home in the Crocus Hill neighborhood of St. Paul.

#### Blackbrook Farm

Thursday, Aug. 2, 2 p.m.  
Twenty acres of organic veggies, located near Amery. The farm markets their produce through CSA memberships and two cooperatives.



#### Gertens Greenhouses

November (time to be determined)  
A Christmas "preview" of their greenhouses.

[Click here](#) to reserve your spot now.

## Pierce County Fair



### Aug. 8-11

## 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)

[Anita Justin](#), [Rosa Magnus](#)

**B-W Giezendanner School Forest**

[Debby Walters](#)

**Viking Middle School**

[Debby Walters](#)

### ELLSWORTH

**Pierce County Fair** (Aug. 9-12)

[Leroy Clark](#)

**Pierce County Fairground Gardens**

[Karen O'Brien](#)

**Ellsworth Ambulance Hall**

[Kevin Ballman](#)

**Ellsworth Public Library**

[Tiffany Meyer](#)

### GLENWOOD CITY

**Glenwood Community Garden**

[Barb Nelson](#)

**St. Croix County Fair** (July 19-23)

[Amanda Lawrence](#)

### HAMMOND

**Hammond Community Garden**

[Mike Deneen](#)

### HUDSON

**Hudson Farmers Market** (Plaza 94)

Tuesdays

[Maria Scheidegger](#)

**Hudson Hospital**

[Karen Jilek](#)

**Octagon House** (Mondays)

[Janet Haut](#)

**Willow River Elementary School**

[Ramona Robinson](#)

**Willow River State Park**

[Melissa DuPont](#)

**Christian Community Home**

[Deb Pederstuen](#)

**Hudson Public Library**

[Joan Bushman](#)

**Prairie Community Garden**

[John Mueller](#)

### NEW RICHMOND

**SCVMGA Community Garden**

[Donna Cadenhead](#)

**Deerfield Gables Care Center**

[Carolyn Craig](#) *Reflection garden*

**Cancer Center of Western Wisconsin**

[Julie Walsh](#)

**Friday Memorial Library**

Noah Wiedenfeld

**St. Croix Health Center**

[Cindy Prokash](#)

### OSCEOLA

**Butterfly Project**

[Jennifer Berg](#)

### PRESCOTT

**Pine Glen Cemetery**

[Jayne Brand](#)

### RIVER FALLS

**Demonstration and Learning Garden**

(Hoffman Park) [Diana Alfuth](#)

**Junior Garden U** (June 14)

[Diana Alfuth](#)

**Grow to Share Community Garden**

(Hoffman Park)

[Kaitrin Halvorson](#)

**Grow to Share Herb Garden**

(Hoffman Park)

[Heidi Nemcek](#)

**Rain Garden, City of River Falls**

[Crystal Raleigh](#)

**Have a Heart Farm**

[Bobbie Kuhn](#)

**River Falls Farmers Market**

Saturdays

[Elaine Baker](#)

**VFW Cemetery**

[Kathye Beebe](#)

**Westside Elementary Garden**

[Becky Cunningham](#)

**Grow to Share**

[Kristin Wilson](#)

### ROBERTS

**Cross Community Garden**

[Mike Deneen](#)

### SOMERSET

**Christ Lutheran Church**

[Karen Nork](#)

### TROY

**Town Hall**

[Jill Berke](#)

**Glover Park Entrance**

[Jill Berke](#)

### WOODVILLE

**Norseman's Manor** (senior living)

Becky Strand, 715-222-5521

### OTHER WAYS TO HELP

**Hospitality Committee**

[Trina Frank](#)

*bring treats to monthly meetings*

**Helping Hands**

[Cindy Gleason](#)

*help fellow Master Gardeners with their gardens in time of need*

**Sprinklings Newsletter**

[Colleen Callahan](#)

*contribute articles, photos*

**Garden Book Collection**

[Joni Garbe](#)

*donate used gardening books, bring to monthly meetings*

**Event Photographers**

[Colleen Callahan](#)

*photograph SCVMGA events*

## Help Wanted

**Are you an "idea person"?**

Would you enjoy finding experts in gardening and horticulture to speak at Garden U and our monthly meetings? We're fortunate to live near the Twin Cities where there's an abundance of potential speakers. If you'd like to assist with monthly program scheduling, please contact [Carolyn Barrette](#).

**Are you a "list person"?** Would you enjoy helping to develop a roster of SCVMGA members interested in speaking to public groups? Contact [Vickie Kittilson](#).

# Celebrating 20 years together

by Deb Pederstuen

Eight amazing MGVs were President of SCVMGA in the past 20 years:

- 1998-2000, **Margaret Smith**, River Falls
- 2001-2002, the late **Wayne Peterson**, Glenwood City
- 2003-2004, **Donna Davis** - Houlton
- 2005-2008, **Debbie Barron** - Prescott
- 2009-2012, **Pauline Goerd** - Somerset
- 2013-2014, **Duke O'Brien** - Ellsworth
- 2015-2016, **Barbara Peterson** - Hudson
- 2017-current, **Trent Kowalchik** - Roberts

Like magic, strings of lights and white linen-covered tables created an attractive setting on Thursday, June 28 in the haymow of the White Pine Berry Farm northeast of River Falls.

Having a mid-summer event, we avoided the frigid cold of January, as in 2008 at our Roberts' ten-year celebration. Unfortunately, we were scorched with the steamy 93-degree evening. We missed those who couldn't attend.

Eight of our 11 founding members, distinguished by yellow carnations, were among the 89 attendees, including 69 current members, 16 guests, and four former members – Linda Bertram, Pauline Goerd, Janet Jones, and Pam Pazdernik. Our sincere appreciation to **Vickie Kittilson** for creating SignupGenius and two posters listing our founding and deceased members.

Special thanks to MGV **Helen Heggernes**, Lake Elmo Inn's Event Coordi-



PHOTOS BY TERESA DAVIS

nator, for arranging our perfect supper. Strawberry pickers **Leroy Clark**, **Mary Samuelson**, **Julie Walsh** and myself were pleased that the strawberry shortcake dessert was a hit.

Diana Alfuth recapped how SCVMGA formed in late 1997 after the initial Master Gardener classes were offered in the mid-1990's by UW-Extension Agriculture Agents, the late Lee Milligan and Greg Andrews. She pointed out today SCVMGA is one of the largest organizations in Wisconsin's MG program.

President **Trent Kowalchik** provided a humorous rendition of important SCVMGA accomplishments that occurred the same time as local historical events.

A 208-photo slide presentation by **Teresa Davis** and two large scrapbooks by **Judi Brunner** sparked many wonderful memories and conversations.

Lucky winners took home a variety of door prizes.



**President Trent Kowalchik highlighted 20 years of SCVMGA service.**

Farm owner Greg Zwald, shared an interesting account of how he started the berry farm, his varieties of fruits and vegetables, and how he has dealt with pests.

A huge thanks to **Leroy Clark**, **Cindy Doty**, **Trina Frank**, **Helen Heggernes**, **Vickie Kittilson**, and **Trent Kowalchik** who joined me in planning our special 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



PHOTO BY COLLEEN CALLAHAN

**Susan Wallin (left) and Helen Fryer greeted guests.**

## Smoked Fish Spread

by Karalyn Littlefield

I am a great fan of Lake Superior and the wonderful fish that can be had in that vast expanse of cold water. My latest quest has been for a delicious smoked fish spread. My latest version was approved by instructors and students at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais, Minn.

The type of smoked fish is not important in this recipe. The brown sugar trout was a little sweeter, the smoked hering a bit saltier, the smoked white fish a bit more delicate and the smoke salmon was twice as expensive. Whatever fish that you use, be diligent in your bone removal. I usually work through the fish at least two times.

Horseradish and Worcestershire sauce are marked optional. If you have fresh herbs, by all means use them. A rule of thumb is 3:1, fresh to dry. Therefore, use 1 T. fresh to replace 1 t. dry herbs. As long as we are talking about substitutions, try plain yogurt to replace the sour cream or even mayonnaise or white salad dressing. I would use about half the amount if using mayonnaise or salad dressing. Many recipes use a food processor to make the spread, however, I do not, as I enjoy having little pieces of fish in the spread.

Enjoy with vegetable sticks, crudité's if you want to be fancy, crackers, toast points, or even a spoon.

### Smoked Fish Spread

8 oz. smoked fish, bones removed, broken into small pieces.

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

¾ cup sour cream

2 Tbls lemon juice

1 tsp prepared horseradish – optional

1 tsp Worcestershire sauce – optional

1 tsp smoked paprika

1 tsp dried dill weed

2 tsp dried parsley

¼ tsp. fresh ground black pepper

Salt, as needed.

Beat cream cheese until smooth, add sour cream and mix until incorporated. Add lemon juice and all the herbs and spices. Mix well. Add fish. Mix to combine.

Taste and adjust salt and/or acid as needed. Spoon into a serving dish. Refrigerate.

### Hybridized Daylilies available

Sundance Hill Farm will be offering Daylily seedlings of your choice in exchange for a donation to a Lutheran mission in Malawi, Africa. Hosted by Tim J. Fehr, the annual event will take place July 20 and 21 at 5207-70th St., Chipewewa Falls, Wis. [Click here](#) for more info or contact [Karalyn Littlefield](#).

## In Memoriam

by Deb Pederestuen

Sadly, former SCVMGA member, Mabel Hoffman passed away on Saturday, April 7, 2018, just two months before her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mabel, a Glenwood City resident, was a Master Gardener for ten years, from 2002 to 2011.



After her Master Gardener certification, Mabel volunteered several years at the St. Croix County Fair MG Booth. She also judged florals at the county fair's Open Class Building. As stated in the Leader-Telegram, "She enjoyed working in her garden and specifically, flower gardens became her true passion."

My special memory of Mabel was reminiscing with her on a county fair bench one year. She reminded me that she and the late Wayne Peterson, her neighbor and our former SCVMGA President 2001-2002, carpooled regularly to MG meetings.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mabel's family and friends. Click [here](#) to read more about Mabel's life.

### Garden tour of local homes in Baldwin

Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club in Baldwin invites SCVMGA members to tour five local gardens in celebration of the club's 50th anniversary. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at Windmill Park or at each garden on the day of the tour. Children under 12 are free. The event is Saturday, July 14 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The money raised will go toward local beautification projects. Click [here](#) for more information.

## Sprinklings

 [SCVMGA Website](#)

*Sprinklings* is a newsletter publication of the St. Croix Valley Master Gardener 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. Please email submissions or inquiries to the editor.

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