

Newsletter
of the St. Croix
Valley Master
Gardeners
Association



SCVMGA Monthly Meeting

Date: Thursday, May 22

**Location: Unitarian
Universalist Church**

Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Guest Speaker at 7:15 p.m.:
**Heidi Doering - *Planting for
Pollinators***



Credit: USDA Forest Service

Important Announcements

The **May 22 meeting** will feature St. Croix County Horticulture Educator, Master Gardener, and beekeeper, Heidi Doering, who has put together a presentation on **Planting for Pollinators**. With the demise of bees, this has become a hot subject and one of concern for all gardeners. Heidi will give us a firsthand look at the need to plant for pollinators, the types of pollinators and beneficial insects, pollinator habitat and conservation as well as some pollinator landscape plans.

For this meeting, we will meet at the Unitarian Church, N8010 Hwy. 65, southeast of River Falls (south of the roundabout on the east side of Hwy 65). The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm with Heidi speaking at 7:15. Upcoming events such as the Community Garden and the Octagon House Plant Sale will be discussed also.

The **June 26 meeting** will be the first of our summer-time tours. The owners of Goldfinch Flowers have invited us to tour their facility. Goldfinch Flowers is owned and operated by Bryan Gjevre and Harold Wilkins. Based out of Baldwin, Goldfinch Flowers specializes in cut-flower bouquets and cut-flowering branches. Bryan and Harold, along with an additional three to four employees during the busy summer growing months, spend their time tending to and caring for a variety of plants on the eight acres that make Goldfinch Flowers Farm. These plants are then sold at the Minneapolis Farmers Market and to wholesalers and retailers. Goldfinch Flowers Farm is located just 2-3 miles east of Baldwin at 2340 US Hwy 12. Harold has indicated the June peony flowering time would be optimum for a visit.

More Summer Meetings -- In July, we travel to Roxanne's in Emerald for actual on-site strawbale gardening; August will be to CR Stephen's Still H2O in Stillwater, MN for hydroponics and beer and wine brewing; September 6 will be a tour to Jim Madson's Gladiolus farm outside Clayton and September 18 will be Andrew Sankey with an English gardens presentation open to the public in Hudson. Keep an eye on the Weebly and *Sprinklings* for the latest.

March Meeting Notes

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March Speaker Notes

Diana Alfuth introduced all the new SCVMGA board members, all the new members and the newly certified Master Gardeners from the 2012 class. We then celebrated the milestone accomplishments of 12 members that had 150 volunteer hours, 10 members that had 250 hours and 7 members that had 500 hours. Their names are listed on the SCVMGA Weebly site under 'News'. There were three members, Peg Wastell, Donna Davis and Deb Peterstuen who had 1000 hours. And, there was one supercalifragilisticexpialadocious member who had 2500 hours, the unbeatable Carolyn Barrette!

Pauline Goerdt offered a number of volunteer opportunities. They are listed along with many more on the SCVMGA Weebly site under 'About Us'.

Discounts are available to Master Gardener Volunteers at many gardening stores by just showing your membership card. Gertens offers a 10% discount. *Northern Gardener* magazine also has a list of discount suppliers.

Peg Wastell went over the 2014 Seed Trial. There are still a few sets of seeds available. The instruction sheets are available on the Weebly site under 'Garden Groups'. The 2013 Seed Trial results are also available on the Weebly site.

"Growing and Repotting Orchids at Home" was presented by Esteban (Steve) Gonzalez. Steve lives in Stillwater in a home with an amazing facility for growing orchids. He not only has many grow lights but also has a humidity controlled room to be used during the most sensitive portions of an orchids growth cycle. He created an in-depth handout that describes the general care of all orchids, the different categories

of orchids and specific care for each category. This handout "About Orchids and Orchid Growing" is available on the SCVMGA Weebly site. Go to 'Gardener Resources' and click it directly (not the two option tabs that pop out). Scroll down the page and it's under a header "Miscellaneous."

Some highlights of his presentation include the differences between the seven types of orchids organized into family groups. The types range from easier to grow successfully to extremely difficult. The growing conditions that need to become more and more refined include the control of light, humidity, air circulation, water, fertilizing and repotting. The best starter plants are *Phalaenopsis*, *Paphiopediliums* and Terrestrials.

In general, orchids need an east/south window or fluorescent lights for 12-16 hours per day. They prefer a night/day temperature range of 65-85 degrees and high humidity. Bloom is induced by letting the temperature drop to 60 degrees for 3-4 weeks.

Other keys for success include buying the best, unblemished, insect free, strong plant you can find. Also adapt the plant slowly, mist early, use temperate, unsoftened water and watch for dehydration from your heating source.

Steve gave a hands-on lesson in repotting. Timing of repotting should follow the plants dormancy period just as it is starting to grow again. Choose either plastic pots with sphagnum or clay pots for faster drying or cooler. Soak and then drain your new media (bark), clean and trim your plant then soak the plant roots. Make sure your plant is firmly potted but not over pressed. Write the repotting date on its tag. Enjoy the beautiful, long-lasting blooms!

Submitted by Sandy Madsen and edited by Carol Wilcox

SCVMGA PLANT SALE

Submitted by Corky Weeks and edited by Carol Wilcox

The 10th Annual SCVMGA Plant Sale is on June 7 at the Octagon House, 3rd and Myrtle St., in Hudson. Sale hours are 9 to 1. Our plant sale is the main SCVMGA fundraiser and the money goes to the Community Grant recipients. Last year we made approximately \$3,500 and gave out \$4,000 in Community Grants.

You can contribute to the sale in several ways. We need your divided perennials, annual flower and vegetable seedlings you started, and if you are cleaning out your garage and have extra garden tools, pots, etc., donate these to the sale too. You can volunteer to dig plants, help organize the sale and work during the sale day. Remember, you can count volunteer hours for whatever you do for the plant sale, including potting up your plants. Also please come and spend money!

When you donate plants, please label your plants with the name of plant, name of variety if known, color, height, and preference for sun or shade. Use plastic or wooden sticks or paper labels. Stapling the label to the pot or wooden stick works well. We will have pots, paper labels and large craft sticks available at the May 22nd meeting. Plants should be dropped off in the back yard of the Octagon House on Friday, June 6 between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Use the side entrance by their garage on Myrtle St. You can also drop them off before 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

If you have plants to contribute but can't get them to the Octagon House Friday evening or if you need help dividing and potting your plants, contact Corky Weeks at 715-386-2243 or email at cweeks@presenter.com or Heather Lane at kaycei@hotmail.com

We are in need of portable banquet tables to display the plants on so if you have any you can loan for the day, please let Corky or Heather know.

Members have volunteered to help during the sale and answer questions from the public, but we can always use more help so please come join us on the 7th of June. We will start setting up at 6:30 a.m. It's fun and you'll be able to buy some great plants. Our members always donate the best stuff!

Wisconsin Master Gardener Association Update from Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA Rep.

Thank you to all of the SCVMGAs who took the time to vote for WIMGA Board members in March. Your efforts helped to elect Matt Schmitz as the At-Large Board Member and he will continue as Vice President of WIMGA. The race was neck and neck until the end when the last "get out the vote" effort made Matt the winner.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the next WIMGA State Conference that will be held July 31-August 1, 2015 in LaCrosse. Additional information about the upcoming conference can be found at the WIMGA website or the Facebook page for Bluff County Master Gardeners.

The 2014 Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference is being held June 25-28, 2014 at the Isle of Capri in Bettendorf, Iowa. The theme for the conference is "Growing Along the River", a reference to Master Gardeners' common interest in growing and learning about plants, and the mighty Mississippi River, which not only flows by the conference facilities but also unites the states in the Upper Midwest region. Nationally known speakers Lauren Springer-Ogden, Scott Ogden, Melinda Myers and Felder Rushing headline a host of talented presenters who will be teaching classes during the conference. In most cases,

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April Meeting Notes

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April Speaker Notes

On April 24, 64 members plus 5 grant recipients were welcomed to the River Falls Public Library.

Carolyn Barrette talked about plans for the New Richmond Community Garden. The supplier of corn stalk mulch offered the use of a bale spreader machine! What a work saver! May 16 is the New Richmond High School Service Day. This is the day that 20 or so students along with their teachers come all day to work at the garden. We need Master Gardener volunteers to guide them. A week or so before that date there will be an organizational meeting to create the garden plan and stake out the beds.

Heidi Doering handed out some milestone volunteer hours cards. The milestone recipients are listed under 'News' on the SCVMGA Weebly site. She also handed out discount certificates to Bergman's Nursery in Stillwater and mentioned that many nurseries will give you a discount just by showing your MG membership card.

Corky Weeks announced the Plant Sale on June 7 at the Octagon House in Hudson. The map is found on the SCVMGA Weebly site. Please participate by dividing plants, growing seedlings of vegetables and annual flowers, volunteering on Friday, June 6 for set up, or volunteering on Sat, June 7 for more set up, customer assistance, sales and cleanup. And, most important, BUY PLANTS! The prices can't be beat! It is our main fundraiser for grant monies. Grant recipients have free access to any remaining plants as the sale ends. Please help advertise by putting up posters in your local buildings. Heather Lane is the co-chair. When labeling plants, include as much growing information as possible; species, variety, sun/shade, color, height, spacing, hardiness, water needs and any tips.

Pauline Goerdt mentioned many volunteer opportunities and reminded us to look on the Weebly site under "About Us" for current postings.

Dianne Wright and Phyllis Jaworski gave out a number of checks to the grant application winners. There were 5 non-member recipients and several Master Gardener volunteer recipients. Their picture and names are shown on the Weebly 'Photo' page.

"How to Navigate the SCVMGA Weebly Site" was presented by webmaster Lisa Dembouski. Lisa has become the "old webmaster" as of tonight. She introduced Ellen Montgomery as the "new webmaster." Lisa has taken a new job and is moving out of the area. Ellen plans to revise the site by discarding old material and reorganizing a few things to make navigation a bit easier.

Lisa showed us a few streamlining tricks. To get "Home" from any page just click on the banner that appears on the top of every page. Any time you are interested in volunteering, please use the "Contact Us" link. This link as well as clicking on the blue word Volunteer! in any text will bring you to the form for volunteering. Since volunteering is our reason for being, this is a very important link.

We spent some time clicking through each of the links to explore what comes up and try out each of the individual sub-links. The latest news is always placed at the top of any page.

Under "Garden Groups" the committee coordinator is listed first. Under "Garden Resources" there are two tabs but a double click on the main link brings you to a list of many valuable resources.

Under "Photos" there are many beautiful, inspiring pictures of activities and plantings. To submit a photo:

1. select your photo(s) from your photo program
2. choose to save it to your desktop(export)
3. choose to save it as a jpeg
4. choose low resolution if you have slower internet
5. rename photo from IMG to a descriptive name
6. send your photo to stcroixvalleymga@gmail.com

Submitted by Sandy Madsen, edited by Carol Wilcox

Volunteer Opportunities



ALL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE
POSTED ON-LINE AT:

www.scvmga.weebly.com

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Pauline Goerd (pleen117@hotmail.com) if you have projects in need of help.

- Baldwin** Community Garden 1650 8th Ave philpark@hotmail.com 715 688 2851
 . *Supervise & assist gardeners *maintain garden areas *harvest and donate
- Ellsworth** Pierce Co. Fair cimicifuga2@hotmail.com
 . Aug 7-10 *Need Coordinators *man booth *help with displays *planning * set up
- VFW Post 154 S Plum St Carol 715 262 5232 matzek@centurytel.net
 *help mulch and edge landscape *perennial care
- Glenwood City** St. Croix Co. Fair nurseonloose@baldwin-telecom.net jdproctor33@hotmail.com
 July 17-20 *man booth *help with displays *planning *set up
- Hammond** St. Mary's Community Garden 1420 Fithian St. Mike 715 386 9792 mandb1973@aol.com
 . * Sunday school garden *Grade School garden *coordinate or help
- Village Community Garden Ridgeway Road Mike 715 386 9792 mandb1973@aol.com
 . *growing community food, flowers & orchard *coordinate or help
- Hudson** Hudson Hospital 405 Stageline Road Jean jean.m.weiler@hudsonhospital.org
 . *Indoor plant caretaker *Community garden *coordinate or help
- Octagon House 1004 3rd Ave Jean 715 377 0645 jahaut@comcast.net
 *general garden maintenance *Monday workdays
- Christian Community Home 1320 Wisconsin St. 715 386 9303 shelly.destasio@cchudson.org
 *Memory care gardens maintenance *monthly maintenance 2-5 hours
- YMCA Camp St. Croix 532 Co Rd F 612 465 0561 stephanie.lentz@ymcatwincities.org
 . *landscaping help *flower gardens help *vegetable garden help *greenhouse help
- Humble Acres 433 East Cove Road Diane 612 290 5004 www.humbleacres.com
 . *answer questions *assist with workshops
- SCVMGA Plant Sale 1004 3rd St. Corky cweeks@presenter.com June 7
 . *donate plants *unload, sort & mark plants on 6/6 *set up *sale *answer questions on 6/7
- Farmer's Market Plaza 94 June – Oct Thursday 8-12 dbutler1@presenter.com
- Willow River State Park Cty Rd A Lauren 715 386 9340 *tours *maintenance
- New Richmond**
- Deer Field Gables Care Center 575 Hospital Rd Carolyn 715 246 6242 cacraig@frontiernet.net
 . *help plant new gardens *maintain gardens

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- Community Garden 2050 Hwy 65 Carolyn 715 549 6438 tbarrett@presenter.com
 *planting *weeding *harvesting *planning *supervise kids in May
- Prescott** Great River Rd Visitor Center 200 Monroe St. Jessica jessica@freedomparkwi.org
 * April clean up * Plant Sale 5/17 *weeding *maintenance * 715 262 0104
- River Falls** Town of River Falls Parks Dan djrandall13@yahoo.com 651 775 6052
 *entrance sign planting & maintenance at 7 different parks *3-4 hours per month
- Farmer's Market 2nd St. and Locust St. Bev wbhopper@yahoo.com
 May–Oct Sat 8-12; Tues 4-6 *man booth *answer questions
- Demonstration and Learning Garden Diana Alfuth diana.alfuth@ces.uwex.edu
 By Hoffman Park at Grow to Share Community Garden
 *planning *layout *weeding *demonstrate in garden *scouting for problems
- St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity Susan 715 425 5623 susan.capparelli@scvhabitat.org
 Working on Habitat for Humanity homes and the new gardens they are planting
- Grow to Share Community Garden Anna 715 426 0826 growtoshare@gmail.com
 Hoffman Park *weeding *planting *watering *harvesting * delivering
- RF Community Garden Amy 715 307 7317
 on RF High School property (Cemetery Rd) *weeding *watering *harvesting
- Roberts** Cross Community Garden 1246 Co Rd TT Mike 715 386 9792 mandb1973@aol.com
 *growing community food and flowers *coordinate or help
- Somerset** Parnell Prairie Preserve 1823 45th St. Jean jeanlh@me.com
 *weeding and watering showcase area May – Sept @ 4 hours per month
- Spring Valley** Spring Valley Village Gardens Sue 715 778 4559 christensons@springvalley.k12.wi.us
 *help weed and maintain village gardens
- Anywhere** We need people to write articles for the *Sprinklings* newsletter. If you have researched a topic or would just like to share your knowledge on a subject please feel free to write an article and submit it to our newsletter editor.

Open Position: *Sprinklings* Editor

Do you enjoy writing, editing, working on your computer? Want to get volunteer hours working from home? Consider the Editor's position!

Carol Wilcox, our Editor of nearly three years, is moving on to other challenges. She hopes this position appeals to someone with creative ideas to give our newsletter a fresh new look!

The Editor assembles information from members of the association and includes other articles of interest into the *Sprinklings*. Eight issues are published annually for association members.

For more information, a job description, or helpful notes for transition, contact Carol—
caroljeanwilcox@gmail.com.

Community Garden Update

By Carolyn Barrette

Please come help!

May 16 is New Richmond Service Day -- the day 30 New Richmond High School students will come help us plant the Community Garden. Full of energy, vim and vigor, they will need some guidance on how to prepare the garden beds, plant the seeds and onions, lay the drips hoses and generally help SCV Master Gardeners prepare for another year growing vegetables to give away to senior meal centers, public health programs, senior living centers, and food shelves. The produce from the big general garden is all given away.

We need your help that day, and sometime the week before. The students will arrive about 8:00 AM. Guides, mentors, leaders, gardeners, teachers -- whatever we are called as volunteers helping them in the practicalities of gardening -- are needed to be sure the rows are planted straight, the seeds are put down properly, the broccoli and cabbage (maybe) sets are put in and the onions planted. We need teams of volunteers to work with the students in making the garden happen.

If it stops raining, and if the soil dries out enough that the corn stalks can be blown around to serve as mulch for the coming year, sometime during the week of May 11 to May 15, help laying out the garden, stringing the rows, and preparing the garden would be appreciated. Watch the Weebly for the date, and I will email our previous garden helpers with my plea.

Not only do you get volunteer youth service hours, we end the Service Day with a potluck picnic at the Garden -- food and a fun time to recuperate. The Community Garden is located at Garden Expressions, 2050 Hwy. 65, 1.5 miles north of New Richmond.

Rental plots are available along side the community garden. Last year one of them

served as one of the vegetable trial gardens, another chance to earn volunteer hours later in the season.

For further information call Carolyn at 715-549-6438 h or 612-201-5916 c or email tbarrett@presenter.com.

Community Garden History

The St. Croix Valley Community Garden was started as a Master Gardener project in 2001 to provide the opportunity for New Richmond citizens to rent a small plot for personal gardening. The first Community Garden was located at the Health Center, and moved to its current site at Garden Expressions nursery in 2006. The Garden is located at 2050 Hwy. 65, 1.5 miles north of New Richmond on land donated by Jonna and Dick Klucas.

The Garden is run as a community service project by the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Assn. The purpose of the garden has been to provide vegetables for senior centers, senior housing, the homeless shelter and Public Health food programs, among other recipients. The service area has primarily been St. Croix County with occasional deliveries into Polk and Pierce Counties. Over a ton of produce has been given away each summer and fall since its beginning. While other community gardens also serve as rental plots for locals, the SCV Community Garden is the only one that gives away all its produce.

The Garden also serves as an educational project: one of the plots has been dedicated to the Master Gardener vegetable trials for vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Every May, New Richmond high school students help plant the garden on Service Day. The high school volunteers have been responsible for planting rows of onions, green beans and other seed vegetables, as well as preparing beds for tomatoes, peppers and vine crops planted later in the month.

Membership News from Deb Pederstuen, Membership Director

NEW MEMBER NEWS

We're excited 11 MGV interns signed up in March and April---our first two meetings of 2014! Please welcome Karalyn Littlefield of Barron; Bonnie Rohr of Houlton, Colleen Callahan, Laura Franta, Ellen Montgomery, Diane Offner, Maria Sanocki, and Tim Wilson of Hudson; Annie Blide and Connie Johnson of River Falls; and Jenny Brazzale of Prescott. Twenty 2013 MGV interns have joined from the 35 member MG training class to boost our membership to 198 members.

Congratulations to new 2013 MGV intern, Jerry Bridge, for completing his community service hours for certification!

Wayne Peterson is back! In 2012, his visual disabilities forced him to drop his membership after 12 years with SCVMGA. MGV Sue Klatt plans to keep Wayne in the loop by reading the Sprinklings to him. You'll recall Wayne was SCVMGA President for 2001 and 2002, and for many years, kindly shared his large floral containers to beautify our St. Croix County Fair MG tent. Welcome back, Wayne, and hope you can catch a ride to a meeting or two!

VOTING MATTERS

You can vote on association matters as long as you paid your SCVMGA membership dues. True? No, it's FALSE! You need to be a member in GOOD STANDING of the association. What does that mean?

You are a member in good standing if:

- You've met the annual 10 hours of education and 24 hours of volunteer service to be UW-Extension Certified.
- You're an Intern MGV who has completed the UW-Extension Master Gardener training course,

but didn't satisfied the community service requirement for certification as a MGV.

In summary, only Certified Master Gardener Volunteers and Intern Master Gardener Volunteers may vote on association matters AND in state WIMGA elections.

Make your vote count at the next election! Plan now—check the education and volunteer opportunities here or on the SCVMGA website (www.scvmga.weebly.com). Remember, send your hours to Diana Alfuth, UW-Extension Horticulture Educator, by October 1, 2014. Instructions for the WIMGA log sheet are in 'Volunteer Opportunities' on the website.

NINE NEW COORDINATORS in 2014!

Garden Tour Coordinator - New Position

Ron Campbell of Ellsworth
September 6, Jim Madson's Gladiolus Farm—
Clayton

Pierce County Fair Coordinators

Helen Fryer & Susan Wallin of Hager City
August 7-10, Pierce Co. Fairgrounds—Ellsworth

River Falls Farmers Market Coordinators

Rick & Kari Hussey of River Falls
June–October, River Falls Farmers Market

St. Croix County Fair Coordinators

Brenda Bodelson & Norma Rudesill of Baldwin,
Yvonne Koch-Proctor of Chetek
July 17-20, St. Croix Co. Fairgrounds—
Glenwood City

SCVMGA Webmaster

Ellen Montgomery of Hudson
www.scvmga.weebly.com

Let's give our new coordinators a hand!

HOW TO ORDER YOUR OFFICIAL WIMGA NAME BADGE



WIMGA name badges can be ordered anytime by certified MGVs, using the form below the link on the WIMGA website. You must be certified and current on hours (recertified) to receive a badge.

There is a \$2.00 charge in addition to cost of badge for individual orders. Dr. Mahr prefers group orders and doesn't place the WIMGA order until she has a large quantity of association and individual orders.

Our group order sign-up is at the January meeting. See Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA rep, at that time to place order and clearly print your name on the order sheet exactly as you want it on your badge. Payment at that time is requested.

The cost is \$6.50 per badge with no additional cost if it is included in the group order. Checks must be made payable to "UW-Horticulture". It may take some time for order to ship.

<http://wimastergardener.org/sites/wimastergardener.org/files/WIScmgFiles/MGV-NameBadgeOrderForm.pdf>

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you'll have a choice from among six concurrent sessions. But you won't be sitting in classrooms the entire time. The conference includes tours of private gardens, Iowa State University horticulture demonstration and research sites, public gardens such as the Bickelhaupt Arboretum, Vander Veer Botanical Park, and Quad Cities Botanical Center, and behind-the-scenes tours of commercial horticultural operations. The official website for the conference is:

<http://www.aep.iastate.edu/iowamg2014/>

Plans are in process for the 2016 Upper Midwest Master Gardener Conference that is being hosted by WIMGA in conjunction with various associations throughout the State. The meeting will be held in the Wisconsin Dells in mid-September. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Volunteers will be needed from across the State.

----- NOTICE -----

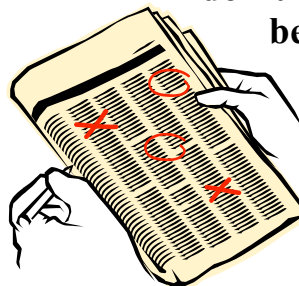
St. Croix County Recycling Looking for Composting Sites

St. Croix County lacks a central location where residents can dispose of grass and leaves. But we in horticulture realize these items can become a valuable soil amendment when composted. The county's recycling program is looking for businesses and/or homeowners who would be interested in receiving these materials from other residents and be willing to be listed on the county's website. We would share only your first name and phone number and/or email – we would not list your address to reduce the chance of improper dumping.

If interested, please contact Jon Tulman at the county recycling office: 715-531-1907 or email him at Jon.tulman@co.saint-croix.wi.us.

Gardener's Classifieds

If you're cleaning out and cleaning up don't forget that your junk may be a treasure for a fellow gardener. Post your trades, unwanted, and unneeded items in the classifieds for FREE!!



***Sprinklings* May Issue Information**

The next issue of *Sprinklings*, a publication of the St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association, will be published in June. Submissions should be received by June 6, 2014 for the June issue. Our goal is to ensure members receive their copy of *Sprinklings* prior to that month's meeting.

You are welcome to contribute articles about your favorite gardening subjects, available volunteer and training opportunities for master gardeners, book reviews, or any other gardening related topic you find of interest, including recipes, tips and ideas! Please send submissions or direct questions to Carol Wilcox at caroljeanwilcox@gmail.com or phone 715-307-3879. Email attachment submissions are preferred.