



# Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

May 2016

## Annual Plant Sale coming soon

by Corky Weeks

Our 16th annual SCVMGA plant sale is on June 4 at the Octagon House, 3rd and Myrtle St., in Hudson. Sale hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our plant sale is our main fundraiser with the money going to the Community Grant recipients. Last year the plant sale contributed over \$4,000.

You can contribute in several ways. We need your divided perennials, volunteers, 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. But NO HOUSEPLANTS, please. They just don't sell. You can volunteer to 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, color, name of variety if known, height and sun or shade. Use plastic or wooden sticks or paper labels. Stapling it to the pot or wooden stick works well. We will have pots, paper labels and large craft sticks available at the May meeting.

Plants should be dropped off in the back yard of the Octagon House Friday, June 3 between 4 and 7 p.m. Use the side entrance by their garage on Myrtle St. You can also drop them off before 8 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 your plants, email [Corky Weeks](mailto:CorkyWeeks@scvmga.org) or call 651-210-5160, or email at [Heather Lane](mailto:HeatherLane@scvmga.org).

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. 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!

### MAY MEETING

## Managing storm water runoff

by Carolyn Barrette

Our May speaker is Jay Michels of Emmons and Olivier Resources, Eau Claire. Michels will explain a new concept and organization - Rain 2 Rivers (R2R) - and its role in storm water runoff mitigation and reasons for our concern in this area. He will preview the Rain to Rivers (R2R) educational program put together by the Chippewa Valley Storm Water Forum. His presentation demonstrates the kind of educational program available as part of the required MS4 education, public information and outreach implementation. MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, an EPA-mandated program regarding storm water runoff. Michels points out the need for low impact development, bioretention cells, and rain gardens.

**Thursday, May 28**  
6:45 business meeting  
7:30 program  
**First Covenant Church**  
1374 N. Main St.  
River Falls  
*Enter on Quarry Road*

### SERVICE DAY

**New Richmond Community Garden**  
2050 Hwy. 65, 1.5 miles north of  
New Richmond at Garden Expressions

**8:30 a.m. Friday, May 20**

Volunteers needed to assist high school students in preparing tomato beds, planting onions and beans, and spreading mulch. A potluck lunch will follow at 11:30 a.m.

More info: [Donna Cadenhead](mailto:DonnaCadenhead@scvmga.org)

**Gardening on Patios and other small spaces**  
Instructor: *Diana Alfuth*



6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Monday, May 16  
Faith Community Church  
Hudson

**Still time to sign up!**  
715-273-6781

## President's Message

As I prepare to write my May article I am giving thanks for wonderful spring we have had and I am not just speaking of the weather that has our trees, shrubs, and perennials popping out of the ground and looking great.



**Barb Peterson**

In late March, our Garden U was a great success on many scores thanks to efforts of many volunteers lead by **Carolyn Barrette** and **Mitzi Roy**. The speakers were excellent, attendance was higher than ever before and the revenue generated exceeded the budgeted amount by more than \$2,000.

This made it possible for our organization to give away 33 Community Grants at our April meeting totaling \$6,000 for horticulture projects and garden beautification and development projects within Pierce and St. Croix Counties. The Grant Committee did an excellent job of publicizing the Grants and evaluating the

37 applications. In 2001 when this effort was initiated 4 projects were funded totaling \$475 and in 2010, 24 projects received \$3,500 in total.

Our members also responded wonderfully to the call for new leadership for our Community Garden in New Richmond that has been such a success due to the dedication and hard work of Carolyn Barrette and a number of other volunteers for more than a decade. **Donna Cadenhead** has agreed to be the point person for the Garden aided by **Sue Ballard**. More than 20 people have attended meetings to discuss plans for this year. Jonna and Dick Klukas, owners of Garden Expressions and the land on which the garden is planted, continue to support our efforts with their donation of the land, the water and electricity we need for it.

I am really looking forward to our June 4 Plant Sale and continuing the cycle of raising funds for next year's Community Grants. With this wonderful spring, I already have some pots ready for the sale and hope you will join me in supporting it as you have done so well in previous years.

### WIMGA UPDATE

## Changes coming to state MGV organization

by Paul VanDenMeerendonk

On April 23 a meeting of WIMGA representatives was held in Hancock, Wis. UW-Extension Chancellor Cathy Sandeen spoke via telecom to express her appreciation for the work of MGVs throughout the state. She acknowledged that changes are difficult and that after years of cuts around the edges, it's now time for restructuring.

UW-Extension is preparing an impact statement for release June 1. The statement will convey stories of the value of UW-Extension to the public and elected officials – including the amount of money brought into the local communities and how that is leveraged with other partners. With the assistance of MGVs, this initiative is expected to reach 100,000 testimonials by fall.

The new state MGV [website](#) went live in March. UW-Extension has been making refinements based on user feedback, so don't hesitate to tell them what you'd like or don't like. Also, please help populate the event calendar by submitting your event. Instead of email-

ing it to Susan Mahr, please submit that info [here](#).

Don't forget to obtain the early bird [registration](#) to attend the 2016 Regional Conference in Wisconsin Dells Sept. 14-17. Local MGVs will be organizing a silent auction.

WIMGA Finance Committee reported there will be six \$100 grants, nine \$250 and nine \$400 grants available for 2016. All local MGAs are encouraged to apply. The application will be on the WIMGA website soon with a submission deadline of Oct. 1. If you can think of something or have an idea, please share them now with your Pierce and/or St. Croix County Reps to bring to the SCVMG board meeting. Some past grants given throughout the state were horticulture blog, laptop, Garden U speaker, develop gardens at an Octagon House.

You may order your official WIMGA Name Badge anytime. Please [contact me](#) to place your name on the list. You must be a certified MGV. The magnetic badge is \$9.

## Garden Tours

by Deb Andazola

Greetings from your Tour Coordinator! We have been busy lining up some great tours for everyone this summer, so pick a tour, bring a friend, meet new MGVs, learn about new plants, and most of all, have fun!

We will be creating a "Signup Genius" soon on our website for tours. You can also check out details on our [Facebook](#) page.

### Sunday, June 12

1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Longfellow Gardens**

**Lyndale Park Rose Garden**

Carpooling. Drivers needed.

Riders will share cost of gas. If rain, tour will be changed to Como Park.

For more info, email me at [ddesignbydrjaz@hotmail.com](mailto:ddesignbydrjaz@hotmail.com)





## Karalyn's Kitchen

Karalyn Littlefield, a MGV since 2013, teaches classes in Food Science and Animal Science at UW-River Falls. After receiving a master's degree in Food Science, Karalyn worked in the food industry.

### Roasted Spring Asparagus

The robins are singing, the rhubarb is flourishing and asparagus is making its appearance in our gardens for spring. But, when did asparagus make its first appearance as a culinary delight? Asparagus is "older than soil." I have changed that old English idiom a bit as to not offend any Master Gardener Volunteers. So next time, you or something you cherish is referred to as "older than soil," you can now defend yourself by saying, "at least I'm younger than asparagus." Wild asparagus was harvested by the ancient Greeks. It was first cultivated by the Romans more than 2,000 years ago. So, we could say that asparagus is very old, indeed. But, that brings up another idiom: What came first the soil or the asparagus?



### Roasted Asparagus

Asparagus, washed, tough ends removed and thick skin peeled  
olive oil  
soy sauce  
sesame seeds, optional

Place asparagus in a single layer on a sheet pan. Drizzle with olive oil, toss to coat. Drizzle with soy sauce, toss to coat. Roast in a 415F preheated oven for 5-10 minutes until crisp tender. Time is dependent on the diameter of the asparagus. Turn about half way through roasting. Arrange on a serving platter and sprinkle with sesame seeds. In the highly unlikely event that there are leftovers, it makes a great addition to a salad.



## Easy Herb Gardens

By Lisa Mosbey

### Wild Spring Salad

I was recently out for a morning walk in my father-in-law's woods when I decided to share a wild weedy salad recipe this month. (**\*Remember to avoid areas sprayed with pesticides and be positive of plant ID before adding it to your salad.**)

I started my salad with dandelion leaves (*Taraxicum officinalis*), a bitter green that supports healthy digestion, is a mild diuretic with anti-inflammatory properties. Choose the young, tender leaves. Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) have 5 white deeply notched petals and a single row of hairs along the stems with an egg-shaped leaf. It's a very juicy, moist plant. Two sub-species found in the north are *Cerastium fontanum* and *C. fontana*, same flower and leaf shape with very fuzzy leaves (*Cerastium fontanum*) and stem. Often referred to as a spring tonic, it may cool inflammation and move lymph fluids. It also works to soothe the digestive tract.



Chickweed

To add a bit of zest, try ramps i.e. wild leeks (*Allium tricoccum*). They have a strong onion and garlic flavor, so don't use too many. Valued for their rich vitamin and mineral content, flavonoids and sulfur-containing nutrients, they support the cardiovascular system. Another tangy-peppery flavor comes from wintercress (*Barbarea vulgaris*), bundles of tiny yellow flowers with leaves that look a little like arugula. It's best when leaves are young and tender before it starts to flower. Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) and Field Penny-cress (*Thlaspi arvense*) both have tiny white flowers with leaves that form a basal rosette at ground level. Shepherd's Purse has a turnip scent and mild peppery flavor, the leaves have a very distinct heart shape and the flowers resemble wild mustard only white and much smaller. Field Penny-cress has oval, flat wide winged leaves mildly bitter when young and more bitter as it ages. Sprouting the seeds of this plant may be a better choice for the weed salad. I prefer to let the dandelions be the bitter for my salad.

Nature's bounty is plentiful. All of these plants are nutrient dense and contain powerful antioxidants that neutralize free radicals to promote healthy bodies. If you're not ready to go all out "Wild and Weedy," may I suggest you try just a few dandelion leaves in your next salad? Then top it off with a fresh squeeze of lime and a couple edible violets.

*Precautions: Because many herbs are potent, small amounts used regularly may be safest. Anything beyond culinary amounts may be too strong for certain individuals, such as women who are pregnant or nursing; individuals with some health conditions (e.g., liver disease); or those taking medications such as blood thinners and blood sugar-lowering drugs. For the science and studies on herbal remedies visit [www.Pubmed.gov](http://www.Pubmed.gov).*



Lisa, who received her MG training in Nevada, is a Holistic Health Practitioner, Herbalist and Aromatherapist whose mission is to educate and empower people to use herb and essential oil plant remedies to aid their health and well-being. She writes a blog on herbs, gardening tips and recipes.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Deb Pederstuen

## MEMBERSHIP TOTAL

Our 2016 Master Gardener family is up to 198 members! An amazing 90 percent of our 2015 membership rejoined. **Mark Hafner** was the 179th member to rejoin at the March meeting.

## NEW VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS LEADERS

For six years, **Deb Andazola**, has been a member of the Photo Committee. Now she will coordinate the committee to ensure one of the seven members can photograph our events. Deb is also our Facebook Manager and Tour Coordinator. **Barb Nelson** retired as coordinator in February, but remains on the Photo Committee.

**Teresa Davis**, 2014 MG, and **Judi Brunner**, 2005 MG, are eager to scrapbook our digital and printed photos into a beautiful book for our 20th year anniversary. A "win-win" for the cousins to spend time together! Check out our new photo sharing site on Shutterfly that Teresa set up. To donate photos or scrapbooking supplies, contact Teresa at [brunnete.80@gmail.com](mailto:brunnete.80@gmail.com).

## DISPLAY BOARDS TO BE UPDATED

**Shauna Knott**, 2008 MG, will give our three display boards a new colorful face-lift with updated information. The boards are used at expos, county fairs, and workshops. As 2011 Volunteer Coordinator, Shauna artistically designed our first 2011 business cards and brochures.

## ASK-A-MASTER GARDENER

We occasionally receive questions from the public in our "Contact Us" section. **Matt Schmitz**, 1999 MG, offered to answer the "woody plant" questions. He is a twenty-year Bailey's Nurseries employee with a UW-RF Horticulture degree, and is currently Vice President/Member-At-Large Director on the WIMGA Board. **Diana Alfuth**, UW-Extension Horticulture Educator, will

answer the other horticulture questions until other Master Gardeners volunteer. If interested, contact Barb Peterson at [barb.peterson.wildwood@gmail.com](mailto:barb.peterson.wildwood@gmail.com).

## PERMANENT WEBSITE ASSISTANTS

**Mari Marson** and **Debby Walters**, 2015 MGs, will assist Webmaster **Ellen Montgomery** on a permanent basis. Send requests for website postings to BOTH Mari and Debby. Ellen will continue addressing the overall architecture and organization of the website.

## ST. CROIX COUNTY FAIR

Special thanks to **Yvonne Koch-Proctor** for coordinating in 2014-2015. Due to time constraints, Yvonne regrettably retired, but will volunteer three shifts on opening day, Thursday, July 21st. In December 2015, **Brenda Bodelson** also retired. **Norma Rudesill**, 2016 Coordinator, encourages Master Gardeners to volunteer for a shift on July 20-24 on our website's [Sign-Up Genius](#).

## NEWS FROM HEIDI DOERING

Master Gardeners will find **Heidi Doering's** new position very interesting! She is a Technical Sales Representative for Koppert Biological Systems in Hovell, Michigan with contacts in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the Chicago area. Koppert Biological Systems provides biological insect control (beneficial insects) to greenhouse ornamental and vegetable growers so they use fewer chemicals. They also provide pollination products (bumblebees) to greenhouse and outdoor fruit and vegetable growers.

Heidi promises to share with us her experiences in helping growers use fewer pesticides and achieve better pollination in their fruit and vegetable crops. Heidi's last day as St. Croix County Horticultural Educator was on March 15, 2016. She was recognized for her contributions as a SCVMGA speaker at 2016 Garden U.

## IN MEMORY OF ANNE KERFOOT

It was a shock to hear we lost another founding member of SCVMGA. Anne Kerfoot of River Falls and ten-year SCVMGA member, passed away on her 76th birthday on September 28, 2013 in Le Segundo, California.

I'll remember Anne for her beautiful watercolor paintings she donated as prints and posters for several Artful Garden Tours. The tours were hosted by Hudson Garden Club of which she was a member. Anne also had her cottage-like gardens on the tour.

After the loss of her husband in 2012, Anne moved to California to be near her daughter. Several MGs helped Anne prepare for her moving sale. Donna Davis recalls walking through her entire five-acre prairie searching for Anne's seven cement dwarfs! You can read Anne's obituary in the [River Falls Journal](#).

## SCVMGA photos available to all members

SCVMGA now has a spot on Shutterfly.com to store, upload, and download photos from members. **Teresa Davis**, Scrapbook coordinator, will supervise the free, private group site. All you need to do is create a personal password and enter your email address at [Shutterfly.com](#). Then type in St Croix Valley Masters Gardener Association in the Search box, and ask to join the group. Teresa will be notified, check the SCVMGA membership list, and allow access. If you have photos to share, please include **identification information** (names of members, plants, gardens, places) for each photo.



# Flower flies mimic bees

by Jerry Bridge

Many flies mimic bees as a protective strategy – a non-dangerous insect looking like a dangerous (stinging) insect to warn away predators. There are many different groups of flies that mimic bees: flower flies, robber flies, bee flies, March flies, to name a few. Many fly specialists are convinced that flies are the most important group of pollinators. One study showed that 80 percent of all flowering plants are visited by flower flies (also called hover flies). One of the foremost dipterists in America believes that the drone fly, a flower fly, is the most important pollinator of all insects. Some beetles and moths are also bee or wasp mimics.

Flies have one pair of wings and often short, stubby antennae or hair-thin antennae. Bees have two pairs of wings and usually possess elbowed antennae. Flower flies tend to hover over flowers whereas bees fly steadily from one flower to another. The adults of most flower flies are nectar feeders whereas the larvae are often predators, many being heavy feeders of aphids. The flower flies, of family Syrphidae, include about 900 de-



scribed species in North America. This group is one of the best studied of all fly families, often called the “butterflies of flies” because of the great interest in them by naturalists and photographers. However, for a number of other groups of flies, it is estimated that only 10 percent of its members have been named and identified, let alone studied.

The image shown is of the Drone Fly (*Eristalis tenax*), which resembles a male honey bee. The fly is Eurasian in origin and now is found worldwide. The adult is a nectar feeder with larvae found in very wet soil or polluted water. The larvae of this species, often called rat-tailed maggots, feed on rotting organic matter.

Over two thousand years ago Aristotle stated, referring to the drone fly, “no two-winged insect has a sting in the rear” solving a long standing bee/fly mystery; he then gave the name *diptera* to these and other related two-winged insects. It took another thousand years to show that the flies were not produced by decaying matter in putrid water (spontaneous generation).

## Record crowd at Garden U

Attendance at Garden U last March was the highest – 167 – in its 17-year history. Thanks to the work and organization of coordinators Carolyn Barrette and Mitzi Roy, the event grossed over \$5,000. All three speakers, Nicole Mattson (Japanese gardens at Como Park), Duane Otto (four-season plantings at the Minnesota Arboretum) and Soni Forsman (container water gardens) received high ratings by attendees. Twelve vendors and four information booths offered gardeners a wide range of products and services. This was the second year that SCVMGA provided used garden books for a free-will offering. Excellent publicity by Heather Lacke brought in 10 people who read about the event in their local newspapers. Others were informed through monthly meeting announcements, Facebook, and the SCVMGA website.



Carolyn Barrette (left), Mitzi Roy, event coordinators



SCVMGA President Barb Peterson (left), Pierce County Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth



Darla Fischer (left), Bev Hoppe, Kathye Beebe at SCVMGA apparel table.

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

Note: click on underlined names for direct email links.

## BALDWIN-WOODVILLE

### B-W Giezendanner School Forest

[Debby Walters](#)

control invasive species

### Viking Middle School

[Debby Walters](#)

maintain prairie restoration project

## ELLSWORTH

### Pierce County Fair (Aug. 11-14)

[Leroy Clark](#)

plan, setup displays, staff booth

### Pierce County Fairground Gardens

[Karen O'Brien](#)

plant, maintain flower gardens

## 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](#)

maintain garden

### Glenwood City "Welcome Cows"

Bonnie Walters

help 4-H club with planting, maintaining sign plot

### St. Croix County Fair (July 20-24)

Norma Rudesill, 715-688-2160

plan, setup displays, staff booth

Reserve your volunteer spot at the St. Croix County Fair!

Thanks to MGV Norma Rudesill, you can use "Signup Genius."

## HUDSON

### Hudson Farmers Market (Plaza 94)

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

[Janet Jones](#)

set up, tear down MGV table, answer questions, provide info to public

### Hudson Farmers Market

(Faith Community Church)

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

Dawn Kleinknecht, 612-203-9030

set up, tear down MGV table, answer questions, provide info to public

### Lakefront Park (April-Oct)

[Ramona Robinson](#)

help design, maintain, harvest, share edible landscape

### Octagon House (Mondays)

[Janet Haut](#)

maintain gardens

### Willow River Elementary School

[Ramona Robinson](#)

help design, supervise, maintain education garden

### Willow River State Park

[Tashina Lahr-Manifold](#)

give tours, maintain Nature Center

### Hudson Middle School

[Mike Deneen](#)

restore, maintain courtyard garden, help with outdoor classrooms

### Birkmose Park Indian Mounds

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

maintain native plantings

### 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

## NEW RICHMOND

### New Richmond Community Garden

[JoAnn Ryan](#)

plant, weed, harvest, donate produce

### Deerfield Gables Care Center

[Carolyn Craig](#)

spring cleanup, fertilizing, mulching therapy garden, bird sanctuary

### Cancer Center of Western Wisconsin

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

design, maintain Journey Garden

## PRESCOTT

### Great River Road Visitor Center

[Deb Kittilson](#)

garden maintenance

## RIVER FALLS

### Boulevard Flower Plot

[Donna Reuter](#)

rejuvenate flower plot

### 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) [Terry Anderson](#)

plant, maintain, harvest herbs

### Have a Heart Farm

[Bobbie Kuhn](#)

maintain three raised beds

### River Falls Farmers Market

Tuesdays and Saturdays

[Elaine Baker](#)

staff booth, answer questions

### St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity

[Dennis Schmidt](#)

work on new gardens for Habitat families

### Wings of Spring Bird Festival

Saturday, May 7

[Wendy Hill](#)

staff booth, provide hands-on pollinator activity

### Westside Elementary School

April-Oct

[Becky Cunningham](#)

guidance on seed, plant selection, coordinate student garden work

## SOMERSET

### Parnell Prairie Reserve (May-Sept)

[Jean Hoffman](#)

transplanting, general maintenance

## ANYWHERE

### SCVMGA Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, June 4

[Corky Weeks](#)

donate plants, help with sale

### Hospitality Committee

[Trina Frank](#)

bring treats to monthly meetings

### Sprinklings Newsletter

[Colleen Callahan](#)

contribute articles

### Garden Book Collection

[Joni Garbe](#)

donate used gardening books, bring to monthly meetings

### Visual Communications Team

[Deb Andazola](#)

take photos of SCVMGA events

### MGV Helping Hands

[Gail Behr](#)

help fellow Master Gardeners in time of need

\* \* \* \* \*

## MARCH MEETING

## Raising Monarch butterflies

by Sandy Madsen

Mary Ellen Brue gave us an inspiring presentation on Monarch butterflies at our March meeting. She has become an enthusiastic expert on Monarchs and their chosen plant, milkweed, through total immersion in the process over the last 10 years. Her education began simply by planting milkweed, finding an egg and nurturing it until emergence. She learned that most Monarch eggs never make it through the life cycle to adulthood. About 2 out of 100 caterpillars survive to become butterflies. She decided to assist the process as often as she could by protecting whatever stage she found, be it egg, caterpillar or chrysalis. Some years she has nurtured more than 150!

Mary Ellen showed a beautifully photographed PowerPoint called "The Birth of a Monarch." It began with an egg on the back of a milkweed leaf, then a tiny caterpillar eating its eggshell and emerging. Each goes through 5 instars of development. When the caterpillar grows to the size of a little finger, it creates a web and develops a chrysalis in under two minutes!

After 10 days the chrysalis turns from clear green to black; the Monarch is ready to emerge. This usually happens in the morning so the wings can totally unfurl and be dry by night-fall. The wings are made of a scale-like material that can be damaged when touched. The butterfly is very vulnerable as it emerges and can be swept up by birds.

All butterflies need nectar, preferring pink or purple flowers with a "flat landing pad" shaped flower. They especially prefer native plants, perhaps because the nectar is sweeter. They need desirable flowers blooming from mid-May through mid-September. There also needs to be a water

supply. Monarchs especially prefer regular milkweed since it seems to have a poison that keeps predators away. The migration pathway of our Monarchs begins in Mexico. They fly to Texas, mate and lay eggs. Those eggs go through their life cycle and fly to Oklahoma or Missouri where they mate and lay eggs. Those eggs go through another life cycle and fly to Minnesota or Wisconsin. Here they mate and lay eggs.

These go through a third life cycle here and then fly all the way back to Mexico where they overwinter!

Several things have seriously reduced the number of Monarchs. Many of the trees that warmed the preferred area in the mountains of Mexico have been cut down. More volatile weather patterns have led to more storms along their migration route. But the most impacting affect is that desirable flowers have been seriously diminished by development and reduction of native plants. Additionally there is the extensive use of pesticides. Our government has allocated \$32 million to promote citizen participation in all

parts of Monarch support.

Monarch promotion can start with planting milkweed. Individual butterfly protection can be done by gathering any stage of development, an egg, a caterpillar or a chrysalis. There are screened containers available or you can make one from some plastic screen and an ice cream bucket. Keep the bottom of the container clean of droppings. Supply food and water. Stay attentive when emergence is imminent. Do not over crowd since it could lead to disease spread. Please do whatever you can to promote all kinds of butterflies.



## JUNE MEETING



The June 23 meeting will be at Vansomerens Gardens, Baldwin. Vansomerens Gardens has been a mainstay at local farmers markets for a number of years. They have beautiful gardens and this is an opportunity to see what goes into market gardening and the resultant produce. Their gardens are one mile north of Baldwin on Hwy 63.

## Sprinklings

*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 at <http://scvmga.weebly.com>

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, June 3** for the June issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to [giverny@me.com](mailto:giverny@me.com).

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