



Sprinklings

ST. CROIX VALLEY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Holiday Remedies

p. 7



November-December 2015

MGVs teach 4th graders about perilous plants at annual Safety Day



Seven MGVs taught 518 kids at the Pierce County Fairgrounds during the annual Safety Days on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Pictured above are **Ben Ries**, **Mary Pat Finnegan** and **Shirley Terrien**. Other MGVs included **Heather Lacke**, **Denise Gathman**, **Pam O'Reilly**, and **Colleen Callahan**.

"I've heard wonderful reports about the great job the MGVs did," said Diana Alfuth, horticulture educator for Pierce County. "This is a great use of Master Gardeners' knowledge. Where else can you connect with 518 kids? That's a lot of impact!"

JANUARY'S "OPEN HOUSE KICKOFF"

Adventures of the Trumpeter Swan

Thursday, Jan. 28 is our annual "Open House Kickoff" meeting to welcome new Master Gardener Volunteers and catch up with old friends. We will begin at 6 p.m. with pizza at First Covenant Church in River Falls.

Our guest speaker will be SCVMGV **Margaret Smith**, executive director of The Trumpeter Swan Society. Margaret will explain the Society's mission and share the exciting adventures of how Trumpeter Swans came back to Mississippi Flyway. Trumpeter Swans are North America's largest waterfowl, and just a few short decades ago were on the brink of extinction. Thanks to the Society's efforts, you can now see these beautiful birds during the winter in Hudson and in the summer at Crex Meadows in Burnett County.



NOVEMBER MEETING

Grant projects, seed-sharing, elections highlight last meeting of year

By Carolyn Barrette

Prairie plantings, window boxes, a vegetable garden, a secret garden and a greenhouse upgrade were some of the projects supported by more than \$4,000 in SCVMGA grants this year. Six recipients spoke at the October meeting. On Thursday, Nov. 19, five more projects will be presented.

Debbie Walters wanted to restore six acres of prairie at Viking Middle School in Baldwin and **Anita Voiles** of the Botany Belles and Beaus Garden Club worked with students to create and manage the prairie. **Sandy Madsen**, coordinator of the Houlton Elementary School MGV project, sought money to enlarge the school's greenhouse. Kim Osterhues of Willow River Elementary School's parent group in Hudson used her grant for a school vegetable garden. **Barb Nelson** received three grants for Baldwin Main Street window boxes, for "Play and Learn in the Park," a summer educational program for children, and for Glenwood City Community Garden. Justin Townsend of St. Croix County Parks and Michael Phernetton created a "Secret Garden" on the Bookworm Trail at Homestead Park in Hudson.

This is also the time of year when we share seeds with another. Envelopes for seeds can be downloaded from the [web-site](#). Plant family signs will be posted on tables; please drop off seed packets at the appropriate location between 6:30-6:45 p.m. before the meeting begins. Members will be able to select seeds during the break. (See page 9 for more details.)

Elections for Board of Directors positions will take place during the meeting. (See page 3 for details.) Please note there is no meeting in December.

Thursday, Nov. 19

- 6:30 p.m. Seed-sharing setup
- 6:45 p.m. Meeting
- 7:15 p.m. Break
- Seed-sharing activity
- 7:30 p.m. Speakers

First Covenant Church

1374 N. Main St. River Falls
Use Quarry Road entrance



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP before Dec. 31
[Click here for membership form](#)

President's Message

It is hard to believe that it is already early November, particularly with the beautiful fall we have all enjoyed. I am guessing that as you have used these great fall days to advantage and put your gardens to bed, you have been assessing what worked and what didn't and began to make plans for 2016. Next weekend some of those who hold leadership positions in SCVMGA will be gathering for a retreat to do the same for our Association.

You might be amazed to learn that the invitation to attend the retreat meeting went out to almost 40 members whose responsibilities include officer, program director, committee/county fair/farmers market/interest group coordinator.

Having such a large number of people who are willing to share their time and talents in leadership roles is one of the reasons we have such an effective organization.

The retreat meeting will have several purposes including



Barb Peterson

getting to know one another better to facilitate information/knowledge sharing, identifying ways to make it easier for members to carry out their leadership responsibilities and considering several options/changes for 2016. When you read **Carolyn Barrette's** New Richmond Community Garden report (p. 7), you will learn of her concern for the future of this project that has provided garden fresh produce for many who would not otherwise have it. I plan for this to be on our agenda too. I will share the results of the retreat in my January column.

I look forward to seeing you all at our November meeting when we will have the opportunity to share the seed we learned how to save at the Fall Workshop thanks to **Peg Wastell** and her great group of volunteers. We will also hear from more of our grant recipients about how they made a difference in their communities using the dollars we raised at our June plant sale. It's also our Annual Meeting when we approve our budget for 2016 and our slate of officers. It should be a great meeting!

See you on the 19th.

What's happening in Nov-Dec?

CORALBERRY

During fall clean up, are you thinking of "winter interest"? At Christian Community Homes (CCH) in Hudson, we MGV found a gem. It's the First Editions Candy Coralberry! It has the most interesting winter interest--plump, candy-pink fall berries that resemble bubble gum clusters on a stick! This lovely shrub is very hardy to 30 below zero and survived its first winter problem-free.

Coralberry is smaller in size, 2-3 feet high and wide, great for zone 4-9, and tolerates full sun or shade as under the river birch tree at CCH. In the spring, the dark green leaves are abundantly covered with small pink flowers that swell to pearls in the fall.

For unique winter interest, try coralberry. Perennials and shrubs can still be planted as long as the soil isn't frozen.

— JoAnn Ryan & Deb Pederstuen



mud, leaving a small opening at the top for ventilation. When the mud freezes, the lodge is warm, and safe from predators. The walls are 2-3 feet thick. Inside are two levels: a first-floor "kitchen" of branches, a few inches above the water for eating, and a second-floor "bedroom" softened with wood fibers and grasses for sleeping. At least two underwater exits are part of every beaver's lodge design.

PHEASANTS, DEER

November is the time when ring-necked pheasants nestle among cattails, native grasses or shrubs to hide from predators and reduce the effects of drifting snow and wind-chill exposure. Food plots that include corn, grain sorghum, sunflowers and soybeans can help pheasants (and other wildlife) through harsh winters.

White-tailed deer, the official Wisconsin wildlife animal, munch on twigs of yew, white cedar, hemlock, mountain ash, and red maple trees in winter. In late December and early January, bucks will shed their antlers.

FROGS DIG IN FOR WINTER

Different frog species deal with winter in very different ways. The bull frog, which thrives in water, burrows

down into the mucky bottom of a pond and stays until spring.

The American Toad avoids the cold by digging deep in the ground below the frost line.



Wood frog

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Protecting bird habitat is one of the purposes of Audubon's annual bird count program. Every year from Dec. 14 - Jan. 5, thousands of volunteers across the U.S. and Canada participate in collecting census data. To join the project, [click here](#).

MGV NAME BADGES

Official MGV name badges will soon be available for those who placed orders this past year. The minimum number of 100 requests was reached in October. The badges should be arriving shortly. **Marilyn Gorham**, SCVMGA's state representative, will contact everyone who placed an order as soon as she receives them.



Sprinklings

MEMBERSHIP NEWS By Deb Pederstuen

In late September, our family tree grew to 202 members after a little growth spurt! Joining were three 2015 MGV students, **Christine McGinnis, Beth Oman, and Mitzi Roy.**

It's wonderful Christine McGinnis of Hudson, former 2007 SCVMGA member, is back. Christine, known for her native landscape design at Hudson Hospital & Clinics, exhibited her gardens in the 2014 Artful Garden Tour.

Beth Oman, a new homeowner in Beldenville with an established vegetable garden, apple trees, raspberries, and shade garden, looks forward to applying her new gardening information and sharing with others.

Mitzi Roy of Hudson is delighted I encouraged her to take Diana's class. Years ago, her Milwaukee neighbor implied the MG course was so intensive and difficult that she could never be a Master Gardener.

All graduates of the 2015 MGV Class are invited to attend our Jan. 28, 2016 "Open House Kickoff" at the First Covenant Church in River Falls. If joining SCVMGA, please arrive by 5:30 p.m.

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to three MGV Hudsonites. **JoAnn Ryan and Jane Hanson** unexpectedly lost their husbands — Joe Ryan on Sept. 21 and Robert (Bob) Hanson on Oct. 8. **Daphne Brackley** lost her husband, MGV **Tom Brackley**, on Sept. 27.

Lastly, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to three MGV Hudsonites. **JoAnn Ryan and Jane Hanson** unexpectedly lost their husbands — Joe Ryan on Sept. 21 and Robert (Bob) Hanson on Oct. 8. **Daphne Brackley** lost her husband, MGV **Tom Brackley**, on Sept. 27.

IN MEMORY OF TOM BRACKLEY

Sadly, our family tree lost another branch with the passing of one of our original members, Tom Brackley. Like many of you, I missed the chance of meeting Tom, but enjoyed his won-



Tom Brackley

derful English accent when we talked on the phone during membership renewal. Tom and his wife, Daphne, both 1998-certified MGVs, have been supporting SCVMGA members for the past 18 years.

Tom was our first St. Croix County Representative (Director 1) serving on the Board from 1998-1999. His Master Gardener friends were Herbert Glotczyk, former SCVMGA member and father of MGV Andrea Nelson, who he worked with at 3M; and Houlton residents Sue Klatt, Donna Davis, and Carolyn Barrette. Sue said he enjoyed flower and vegetable gardening, beekeeping, and his seasonal job at Stillwater Floral. Carolyn, our Garden U coordinator, informed me his daughter, Michelle Knefelkamp, recently sold tote bags made from recycled feed/bird seed bags at Garden U. It hurts all of us to lose a wonderful member of our MGV family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Daphne and her family.

To read Tom's obituary, [click here](#).

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Lisa Mosbey and Deb Schommer, our first MGV Volunteer Coordinator team, responded in November, 2014 after Pauline Goerdt, our former coordinator, resigned. A perfect combination with one MGV being available at all times. Unfortunately, Deb experienced more foot complications and couldn't help. Our thanks to Deb for her interest in serving and we wish her healing and strength. Lisa will continue as Volunteer Coordinator in 2016. We appreciate her dedicated service in creating more projects and keeping us informed of all the service opportunities available.

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET

A special thanks to **Bev Hoppe** for keeping MGV presence at the River Falls Market and for two years of dedicated service in 2013 and 2015. Coordinating with **Elaine Baker** this past year, strived to please both their customers and the MGV. They provided seasonal recipes, updated the UW-Extension information, prepared a laminated "MGV Guidelines for Engaging Market Customers" sheet, and purchased a new market table. Elaine will continue as market coordinator in January 2016.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

For two months, Gardening with Native Plants, formerly led by Pat Tremaine, was missing a group leader. The 16-member group identifies native plants in the St. Croix Valley and collects phenological information, and maintains a native plant pollinator garden at Demonstration and Learning Garden (DLG) in River Falls.



Gail Behr, a member of the Native Plant Group, volunteered to lead the group. She will contact group members in January, 2016.

NOVEMBER 2016 ELECTION

Nominations for Board of Directors (BOD) Positions at the Annual Meeting on November 19, 2015 are:

Vice President: **Trent Kowalchyk**

Secretary: **Karen Jilek**

Pierce County Rep: **Leroy Clark**

St. Croix County Rep: **Julie Weinberg**

WIMGA Rep: **Paul VanDenMeerondonk**

All positions are two-year terms, except for WIMGA Rep which is three. For nominations or questions, contact a member of the Nominations Committee. The Board currently meets at the Hudson Public Library on the second Tuesday of the month 6-8 p.m.

— Respectfully submitted by Nominating Committee: **Kathy Beebe, Donna Davis, Deb Pederstuen, JoAnn Ryan**

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Don't Wait – Renew Your Membership before Dec. 31! The annual \$5 Wisconsin MGV state fee is included in your dues and will be paid for you. Avoid the \$10 late fee and renew before Dec. 31.

Email [Deb Pederstuen](#) or call her at 715-386-6681 if you have any questions.

Annual Dues

\$15 – Graduate of Fall 2015 MGV Class
\$15 – Individual member
\$20 - Family (all must qualify)

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

before Dec. 31

[Click here for membership form](#)

2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

January

NEW PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT—Barb Peterson and Trent Kowalchyk are 2008 MGVs who demonstrated leadership in previous roles. Barb was hospitality coordinator (2009-2011) and Vice President for 2014. Trent, new to Board of Directors, was program speaker in 2012 & 2014.

NEW VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS - Lisa Mosbey and Deb Schommer – 2013 MGV teamed up to organize our volunteer projects. Much appreciation to Pauline Goerdt, Coordinator in 2013-2014.

HOME, REMODELING, & GARDEN SHOW at UWRF Knowles Center—Jan. 16-17 Six MGVs with Coordinator Barb Peterson engaged attendees with “Are You Smarter than a Rutabaga?” game, Trent Kowalchyk’s “Food Plots for Wildlife” and Peg Wastell’s landscape design, “Real Solutions to Real Problems.” More sessions planned for our “free 2016 booth” due to significant interest.

OPEN HOUSE KICKOFF. Debbie Lonne, manager at Bailey’s and Hort Editor of Northern Gardener magazine, revealed “New Plant Introductions” for 88 members/5 guests at Jan. Open House/Pizza party at Hudson’s Methodist Church. Diana Alfuth distributed MGV certificates and we welcomed 14 (of 19) 2014 MGV interns.

ELEVEN of 38 original members are active in SCVMGA since mid-1997--18^{1/2} yrs. ago. We appreciate the groundwork prepared by Carolyn Barrette, Debbie & Jim Barron, Jill Berke, Daphne Brackley, Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, Kathleen Oss, Betty Schultz, Margaret Smith, and Peg Wastell!

NEW - MGV INTERN NAME BADGE, included in MG class fee, is awarded upon MGV certification. Associations pay intern's WIMGA dues as MGV training fee no longer includes a year's membership.

NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION Committee, aka “calling tree” was arranged by St. Croix Co. Rep, Paul VanDenMeerondonk, to notify members when meetings are cancelled in bad weather.

February

DR. DAVID ZLESAK, UW-RF Hort prof, informed 61 members/3 guests about “Lilies” on February 26th, first meeting at First Covenant Church in River Falls. A larger, brighter space with improved parking conditions for the same rental fee as U. Unitarian Society House where we met 2010-2014.

AUDIT Committee, Kathye Beebe, Pat Tremaine, and Peg Wastell, found Jackie Daharsh’s records well organized & documented. WIMGA sample form, modified by Deb Pederstuen, was implemented. Jackie used New State of WI Certificate of Tax Exempt Status for Garden U expenses.

NEW MEETING SECRETARY COORDINATOR is Sprinklings editor, Colleen Callahan. Thanks to Lisa Bigaouette, Annie Blide, Sandy Madsen, Donna Cadenhead, Trent Kowalchyk for excellent summaries of program speakers and to Kathy Williams, for coordinating secretaries 2013-2014.

3rd Yr. WEBSITE/ 2nd Yr. WEBMASTER—Ellen Montgomery added MGV Bulletin Board to advertise horticulture/gardening jobs; Events/Garden Tours; Accomplishment Reports; Scholarship Requirements; Forms--reimbursement, WIMGA

time sheets, & photo permission. Password protected are Membership directory, Year in Review, and Volunteer Opps.

March

16TH ANNUAL GARDEN U on Mar. 21st (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) drew 140 attendees/16 vendors at first year Hudson House Grand Hotel. Lise Wolff - Herbal First Aid; Lee Frelich - Climate Change and Forests; & Janna Jonely - Need for Prairie Restoration. Thanks to Coordinator Carolyn Barrette --favorable comments on location, topics, speakers and profits nearly \$1,000 applied toward grants & scholarships!

CATHY OLYPHANT, St. Croix Valley Bird Club member, advised 65 members/3 guests to draw Birds of St. Croix Valley by planting native seed-bearing flowers & grasses & trees for food and shelter.

EDUCATION CLASSES offered: Dr. Brian Hudelson - Mar. 18—"The Science & Art of Plant Disease Diagnosis"; Diana Alfuth - March 23- "School Garden Safety and Success" & April 2- "Getting the Most from Your Vegetable Garden."

WAYNE PETERSON, former President (2001-2002) and 13-yr. member, passed away on February 28, 2015. A very generous and active Glenwood City community member, known for his farm's summer concerts and donating floral containers at the St. Croix Co. Fair.

April

JONI GARBE, MGV and amateur mycologist, shared her mushroom expertise with 74 members/17 grant recipients at the April 23rd meeting, including ID, safe vs. non-safe, places to look, & cooking ideas. Her new role as Hospitality Co-Coordinator began at the March 26 meeting.

ST. CROIX VALLEY MAGAZINE'S April issue, following its March debut, promoted SCVMGA and Diana Alfuth's MG classes after interviews with Diana Alfuth, Carolyn Barrette, President Barb Peterson, and Deb Pederstuen.

STATE OF WI POTENTIAL BUDGET CUTS TO UW-EX- prompted Dr. Susan Mahr, WIMGA Coordinator, to request MGV support of UW- Extension prior to April 30 Capitol Connections Day.

15th ANNUAL GRANT PROGRAM - New Grant Coordinator Phyllis Jaworski and four MGVs awarded \$4,475 to 20 applicants –17 MGVs involved in projects. Thanks to Dianne Wright for her 6 years of dedicated service. \$125 St. Croix Electric Grant was applied toward two new canopies.

ONLINE GOOGLE SURVEY revealed need for more youth-oriented activities and new member mentoring from 62 responses (31%). Special thanks to Project Manager Suzy Naschansky, Diana Alfuth, Barb Peterson, Colleen Callahan, Ellen Montgomery, & Deb Pederstuen for their input.

May

JERRY BRIDGE, MGV presented “The Fascinating World of Insects” for 74 members/1 guest at May 28 meeting, highlighting common insect pests, ID info, and insect resource lists. Also in June Sprinklings - Common Insects in St. Croix/ Pierce Counties and Managing Insects in June.

OCTAGON HOUSE DONATION of \$500 was given for the building of a new restroom. MGVs will benefit as our Annual Plant Sale has been held at Hudson's Octagon House
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for past 11 years!

NEW "HELPING HANDS" Project Coordinator, Gail Behr, recruits Helping Hands MGV to assist active MGVs who are ill or incapacitated to do their own gardening. MGVs Pat Tremaine and JoAnn Ryan were first year beneficiaries. A very worthy project and MGV get volunteer credit too!

NEW PROJECT: Collection of Old Garden Books--Project leader Joni Garbe is accepting old garden books. Suggestions for redistributing or selling them are most welcomed.

MATT SCHMITZ, WIMGA VP/At-large Director & Marilyn Gorham, WIMGA Rep, are on planning committee for Midwest Regional Gardener Conference scheduled Sept. 14-17, 2016 in Wisconsin Dells.

UW-EXT DEMONSTRATION AND LEARNING GARDEN (DLG) in River Falls - 4th year - Coordinator Diana Alfuth recruited Ellsworth HS students to start seeds again and held three public garden classes. Using Pat Tremaine's design, MGV planted veggies, herbs, native plants, and seed trial (cherry tomatoes) gardens. In Pat's memory, the scarecrow was redesigned in her image with a clipboard in its hand.

June

11th ANNUAL PLANT SALE at Hudson's Octagon House Sat., June 6 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) -New Committee of Equipment Mgr. Tim Wilson and Education & Display Coordinator Donna Davis worked w/Coordinators, Corky Weeks & Heather Lane, making all-time high of \$4,200 in profits. Grant recipients and other non-profits accepted leftover plants; \$100 donation for St. Croix Historical Society.

COLLEEN CALLAHAN, Sprinklings Editor & retired UW-RF journalism prof, presented "Through the Lens: The Beauty of Horticulture" for 60 members/2 guests at June 25 meeting.

RIVER FALLS FARMERS MARKET New Coordinators Bev Hoppe & Elaine Baker appreciated MGV staffing June-October Tues. eve./ Sat. 8 a.m.-noon, updated UW-Ext materials, created a MGV Volunteering Guide & bought new folding table. Thanks to Bev's 2 yr. dedicated service & good luck to Elaine in 2016.

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET Plaza 94 – 3rd Yr Coordinator Janet Jones reported 10 MGVs had approx. 8 questions/week on Thursdays June 25-Oct 1st with 90% of questions answered with help of two new resource books (\$100). Only one cookbook sold in 14 weeks despite sales efforts!

3rd JUNIOR GARDEN U, held Sat, June 27, (9 a.m.-noon) at River Falls DLG Garden for 20 kids, ages 5-12. MGVs Lisa Mosbey, Laurie Green, Dot Seebach, Maria Scheidegger, Marilyn Gorham, Cindy Gleason, Deb Andazola, and Susan Mooney taught three 45-minute stations on good and bad bugs, composting & transplanting. Kids took home plants, magnifying glass, lighted bug, and bug stickers.

ARTFUL GARDEN TOUR IN HUDSON—June 27 & 28—Houlton Elementary School, coordinated by MGVs Sandy Madsen and Julie Weinberg since 2008 for grades K-5 include one-acre prairie garden, rain garden, plant seed trial garden, vegetable garden/grade, weekly noon garden club, after school flower group, greenhouse, & composting. Donna

Davis & Jane Hanson were tour guides. Daphne Brackley, SCVMGA sprinkling can logo designer, also created the 2015 Artful Garden poster.

NEW PHOTO PERMISSION FORM, needed for photographing children or non-members at events, was created by Suzy Naschansky, Sprinklings Assistant Editor, and is available on website. Webmaster Ellen Montgomery keeps a file of completed photo permission forms.

July

MIKE HICKS, "Afton Garlic Guru," explained Growing and Storing Garlic on his one acre plot to 57 members/1 guest at July 23 meeting. Hand planting of 1,000 cloves begins in October for a July harvest.

SPRINKLINGS EDITOR & ASSISTANT- 2nd yr – Colleen Callahan and Suzy Naschansky created fun, interesting & informative issues, plus profiles of Marilyn Gorham, Wendy Kramer, and Peg Wastell. New Active Hyperlinks for easy website access and email addresses; "Bug of the Month" by MGV Jerry Bridge, "Karalyn's Kitchen" by MGV Karalyn Littlefield, & UW-RF Food Science & Animal Science Prof, features information/recipes for seasonal fruits and vegetables; Herbs by MGV Lisa Mosbey; What's Happening – Phenology of First Blooms, Insects, Birds, Fruit, etc.

ST. CROIX CO. FAIR COORDINATORS – 2nd Year – Brenda Bodelson, Yvonne Koch-Proctor, & Norma Rudesill--14 MGV from Wed- Sat. a.m. after Friday p.m. storm destroyed UW-Ext tent. Theme: Tomato Varieties (Norma's posters), Peg Wastell's Plant Seed Trial Info; & Yvonne's drawing board & critter box.

August

MIKE MILLER impressed 38 members/2 guests at his Pure Prairie Seed Co. at Aug. 27 meeting with native grasses tour, excellent prairie seed cleaning demo, and Virgin's Bower seedlings & figwort seeds.

PIERCE COUNTY FAIR - 2015 Fair Coordinator Leroy Clark reported a full schedule of MGVs, great weather and a UW-Ext. replacement tent arrived in time. Highlighted Theme: Tomato Varieties, plant seed trials program, kids' drawing board/critter box, and Pierce Co. Biggest Veggie/Weed Contest.

PAT TREMAINE, 2nd term Pierce Co. Rep, passed away on Aug. 31, 2015 at Hudson's Christian Community Home. SCVMGA member (2010-2015), from the Milwaukee area, was well known at the UW-Extension Demonstration and Learning Garden (DLG) for her garden design skills and as Garden Group Leader of Gardening with Native Plants.

September

NEW TOUR COORDINATOR, Maria Sanocki, with MGVs Sandy Madsen and Julie Weinberg, arranged a Sept. 10 student-guided tour of Houlton Elementary School gardens for 14 MGVs and school board guests and students' parents. Snacks of fresh garden veggies were a nutritious treat! Thanks to Ron Campbell, our 1st Tour Coordinator, for his service in 2014. First planned Gladiolus tour canceled.

DIANA ALFUTH, UW-Ext. Hort Educator, drew 69 members/ 8 guests at Sept. 24 meeting for "Putting Your Gardens and Landscapes to Bed" talk. Early vs. late blight, spotted

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wing drosophila, lawn care, pruning, care of roses, clematis, and hydrangeas, and transplanting were major concerns.

NEW PIERCE COUNTY REP--Dot Seebach, 2013 MGV, filled Pat Tremaine's last year of her 2nd term. Dot, one of Pat's "Helping Hands" and MGV at the DLG, will serve Pierce Co. MGV in 2016.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS Garden Group - 15 MGVs have new Coordinator, Gail Behr, 2009 MGV, after loss of Pat Tremaine. They contributed phenological data of local native plants (June/July Sprinklings), created pollinator plot at DLG; toured Freedom Park & Carpenter Nature Center.

FLOWER GARDEN DESIGN Garden Group of 9 MGVs met 3 times with 5th Yr Coordinator, JoAnn Ryan, and new assistant, Jane Miller. MGV work in pairs to solve gardening dilemmas in each other's gardens; and using acquired design skills, recommend redesigns for "ugly" landscaped houses.

NEW RICHMOND SCVMGA COMMUNITY GARDEN- Coordinator Carolyn Barrette reported 24 MGVs spent 306 hours and donated 2,000 lbs. of produce. Students of St. Anne's Summer Stretch and New Richmond Service Day (May 28) volunteered 145 plus hours. Blighted tomatoes & lack of volunteers were major issues. SCVMGA Community Garden Guide, an invaluable MGV online resource for New Richmond garden, was created by Suzy Naschansky, with Carolyn Barrette's assistance.

MGV CLOTHING – Salesperson Kathye Beebe sold \$890 of SCVMGA clothing from Imaging World in 2015. As of September 2013, proceeds of \$800 have been generated for the MGV Education Fund.

COOKBOOK Fundraiser – 5th yr – Nine cookbooks at \$12 ea. sold for \$108 in gross sales. Jackie Daharesh still has 35 "Garden to Table Recipes" cookbooks available. Field guides all sold in 2014.

NEW MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT, Lynn Steely, 2015 MG student, helped Membership Director, Deb Pederstuen with 2016 dues collection starting at the September meeting.

WESTERN DISTRICT MGV WORKSHOP– 7th year— Coordinator Peg Wastell reported 65 MGVs (incl. 2 former mbrs) enjoyed "Seed Saving" theme on Sat., Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Seyforth Bldg in Ellsworth. UW -Extension speakers, Diana Alfuth -"Beyond the Basics of Seed Saving" and Ginny Gaynor -"Ethics of Seed Collection" & Ardith Beveridge, Director of Institute of Flowers, "Dried & Fresh Floral Arrangements." Suzy Naschansky's origami seed packet designs and seed donations from Donna Davis & Diana Alfuth. Same cost of \$15 included lunch: unintended \$328 profit. Thanks to all!!

TOM BRACKLEY, one of our original members and great SCVMGA supporter, passed away on Sept. 27, 2015. An avid gardener and beekeeper and a friend of many members who will miss him.

October

Six of twenty **GRANT RECIPIENTS**, August Hoffman, Jeanne Schmidt, Susan Mooney, Heidi Doering, John

Norquist, and Sherry Gilles, discussed their projects for 47 members/2 guests at the Oct. 22 meeting. New MGV Vickie Reschke from IL, informed us about IL Speaker Bureau.

RURAL & FARM SAFETY DAYS (Sept. 30-Oct. 1) - MGVs Ben Ries, Denise Gathman, Pam O'Reilly Colleen Callahan, Mary Pat Finnegan, Heather Lacke, and Shirley Terrien held 15-minute sessions on Dangers of Perilous Plants (wild parsnip, stinging nettle, etc.) for 518 Pierce County fourth graders.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTER ON-LINE TRAINING qualifies for 1 hr. education and is required for new 2016 MGV certification. MGV certificates of completion on file at the Pierce Co. UW-Ext. office.

November

1st SCVMGA LEADERSHIP RETREAT held 8:30-11:30 a.m. Sat., Nov. 14 at President Barb Peterson's home for Board of Directors, Committee Coordinators, and Project Leaders to get acquainted and discuss member survey results, position descriptions, and seek ways to increase leadership effectiveness.

NOVEMBER 19 ANNUAL MEETING included election of officers, budget approval, grant recipient reports, acknowledgement of four outgoing BOD officers, and our 2nd Seed Exchange.



PHOTO BY BARB NELSON

New Richmond Community Garden

WIMGA EDUCATIONAL GRANTS - thanks to grant committee for getting \$250 for Plant Seed Trials signage. Since 1998,

Byron Hacker, WIMGA Treasurer, reported

we received \$1,900 in 9 grants, incl. 2015.

SPECIAL THANKS to BOD Secretary Kathy Williams (2012-2015); Pierce Co Rep, Kathye Beebe (2012-2015); St. Croix Rep, Paul VanDenMeerondonk (2011-2015); and WIMGA Rep, Marilyn Gorham (2013-2015) for their awesome dedication and service.

MEMBERSHIP --202 members--130 certified MGV for 2015 (88%). Total includes 176 renewals, 8 new members, 4 - 2015 MG students, and 14 of 19 (73.6%) 2014 MGV interns. Nineteen MGV (9%) discontinued membership Dec, 2014 and 3 deceased - Wayne Peterson, Pat Tremaine, Tom Brackley.

FOR 16 YEARS, Pierce Co. UW-Ext. Horticulture Educator Diana Alfuth, has blessed us with her support, her expertise, and her friendship as our advisor. As an instructor, her annual MG training class has contributed significantly to our large membership, recruiting new and talented MGV every year.

My apologies if I failed to include your event or accomplishment in this Year in Review – Deb Pederstuen



Holiday Herbal Remedies

By Lisa Mosbey

It's that time of the year when we celebrate the seasons with lots of food. Herbal tips to the rescue for when one has over indulged:

Peppermint Tea (candy cane flavor in a cup) serves double duty as a digestive aid that soothes the stomach after meals. It also stimulates the satiety center of the brain to help curb appetite when smelled (the essential oil) or consumed before meals. For a simple after-dinner tummy tamer or the perfect holiday tea just steep 1-3 tsp. of dried peppermint in a cup of hot water for 10 minutes, strain and serve.

The tummy-taming herb Ginger (*Zingiber officinalis*) is a common household remedy for nausea or upset stomach if this winter sneaks up on you and you need to support the body during the fever or flu. Try this tasty beverage: Add 3 oz. of juiced ginger to 8 oz. of hot water, a tbsp. of honey and a pinch of cayenne, stir and sip.

To have a fresh supply of ginger year round, grow your own container. Purchase a piece of organic ginger root (rhizome), break into a couple pieces and soak in water overnight. Fill a 14" container with rich potting soil, I add about 25 percent sand so I get good drainage, place in a sunny spot avoiding direct sun. Plant 3-4 two-inch pieces 2" deep with growing buds facing up. The leaves will get 2-3' tall, ginger is ready for harvest when leaves die down in about 8-10 months. Harvest, preserve and start again. Wishing you healthy holidays!

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.

2015 Wrap-Up

New Richmond Community Garden

By Carolyn Barrette

The Community Garden is done. The tomatoes were pulled and bagged in black plastic to kill the blight. The final crop of Brussels sprouts harvested and taken to Ruby's Pantry food distribution in New Richmond. Over 100 pounds of winter squash was harvested from just a few plants. The garden produced just under 2,000 pounds distribution to senior meal centers, senior living quarters, Grace Place, food shelves and others.

The tomatoes - both Sungolds and reds - were hit early with the blight - decreasing our harvest about one third. The onions were DOA, but we managed to find enough bulbs to grow and pick 70 lbs. for distribution. The beans were good, the yellows ever popular, and garnered over 400 pounds. The zucchini and summer squash didn't die early so we got about 600 lbs. The peppers were still producing until the frost and final visit on Oct. 18.

The results have been decreasing annually since our highs of over 4,500 lbs. in 2007 and 2008. That is due to two reasons: one section was taken out of production to lie fallow starting in

2009 and the greenhouse has taken one of the first four sections.

But, more importantly, it's due to the lack of volunteer help. The volunteers from the early years are getting older and physically are able to spend only one or two hours a day at the garden, rather than the four or five we used to spend. Back problems, hip surgery, other life changing events all take their toll. We need new volunteers to help.

The Garden started as a Master Gardener project to provide fresh vegetables to those who can't grow their own in the summer. It provides a chance to work with youth during New Richmond Service Day in May. In summer, church youth groups come to help out. It's a "share the bounty" project that the seniors, food distribution, and food shelf recipients appreciate.

The Community Garden is a project worth keeping. Perhaps the emphasis needs to change. Maybe we need to grow flowers. We DO need more volunteers, maybe new leadership. I'd hate to say to our recipients that "sorry, we're not doing that this year." Something to think about.

Karalyn's Kitchen

By Karalyn Littlefield

Brown butter is a warm butter sauce that can be used to accompany many foods. I especially like it on vegetables. If you can spare a bit of patience, this sauce will add exceptional flavor to your meal with minimal effort.

First, cook your vegetable of choice by steaming or boiling until almost to your desired texture/doneness. While the vegetables are cooking, melt butter in a heavy skillet on medium heat. A light-colored skillet will let you see the browning better; once melted, reduce heat. The butter will foam as the water evaporates and the solids sink. If using herbs and/or nuts, add at this time. Watch carefully as brown specks form at the bottom of the skillet. You do not want the specks to go from brown to black. If it does, I suggest starting over.

Green Beans with Brown Butter Sauce, Sage and Almonds

Wash and trim enough green beans for the meal. Steam until crisp-tender. Drain and sprinkle with salt, to taste.

In a separate skillet large enough to hold the beans, melt 4 tablespoons butter. Thinly slice (chiffonade) 4-6 fresh sage leaves and add to the melted butter along with 1/4 cup slivered almonds. When butter solids have reached the desired brown color, add the green beans.

Stir to coat. Enjoy!

Multicolored Asian Beetles

By Jerry Bridge

The family of Lady Beetles number 500 species in North America with about 70 species in Wisconsin, ten or so being non-native here. Except for a few species that feed on plants and fungi, most are predators. Both adult and larva feed on aphids, scales, mites and some other small soft-bodied insects.

The MALB (*Harmonia axyridis*) is native to eastern Asian and has more colored and spotted forms than any other lady beetle (*pictured*). One common feature is a black M-shaped mark on the white section behind the head. The mark may be solid or broken into pieces or dots.

The beetles were introduced to America by the USDA in the 1960s and 1980s (as well as in other years) to a number of states as a control for certain crop pests, mainly aphids. MALB first appeared in large numbers in Wisconsin in the mid 1990s. This beetle is now found throughout much of North America often with very high populations, frequently

displacing native species. The beetles are voracious feeders, able to eat about 5,000 aphids during the life of a single beetle. Like most lady beetles, the color and markings tend to warn predators of the insect's unpalatable taste. Also, a noxious liquid is released from joints in the legs which serves the same purpose. Usually one sees two generations a year in this part of the country.

In the fall masses of adult MALB try entering houses and other structures to overwinter. They can be quite a nuisance. The best management strategy is to block up entry points to the dwelling, such as spaces around doors, windows and holes where cables enter. Also an approved insecticide such as bifenthrin, permethrin or cyfluthrin can be used to spray on the **outside** of

houses where the beetles are likely to come in. Application should be done before the beetles start entering the home. These beetles do not reproduce inside the home.

Bug of the month



INSECTIMAGES.ORG

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Putting our gardens to bed

By Sandy Madsen

Forty-seven members and three guests attended the September meeting. Our delightful Horticulture Educator, Diana Alfuth, was the guest speaker. She inspired us to gather just a bit more energy to wrap up the season with these tips:

For the best flowers, plant spring bulbs until the ground freezes. Many shrubs, trees and perennials can be planted now and are available at discounted prices. Woody plants can be transplanted and some perennials can be divided.

Keep all plants watered until the ground freezes. Some evergreens, yews, dwarf Alberta spruce or spirals need to be protected with burlap wraps.

Clean up every bed by removing dead, dying and diseased material and weed seeds. Some seed heads can be left for "winter interest." Be thorough handling tomato plant material that may be carrying either early or late blight. DO NOT COMPOST late blight. Bury, burn or solarize in black plastic bags, then add to trash. Spray any contaminated tomato cages with 10 percent bleach solution. Be alert to signs of Spotted Wing Drosophila on your raspberries and spray every five days when present.

It's best to delay pruning shrubs and trees until they are completely dormant. Prune roses and clematis when growth starts in the spring. Prune away dead hydrangea material in the spring. Protect young trees and shrubs from wildlife now by wrapping.

Take notes while information is fresh in your mind. Consider mentioning overcrowding and plants that did not do well and need to be moved or replaced. Take pictures of beds to recall the good, the bad and the ugly. Then, over the winter, use reading material to inspire your plans and changes. Enjoy the break from the hectic growing season.

Diana's presentation is available on our [website](#).

OCTOBER MEETING

Grant recipients present projects



Six SCVMGA grant projects totaling \$1,065 were presented at the October meeting. Grants are funded by proceeds from the annual SCVMGA Octagon House plant sale. *Back row from left:* John Norquist, Sea Wing Park garden in Diamond Bluff; August Hoffman and Clark Hagemeyer, St. Patrick School playground gardens, Hudson; and Heidi Doering, St. Croix Beekeepers Association, bee habitat, Baldwin. *Front row from left:* Jeanne Schmidt and Maggie Wooley, community garden at First Presbyterian Church, Hudson; and Sharon Gilles, landscaping at Spring Bond Park, Plum City. Not pictured is Susan Mooney, native plants at Grow to Share Community Garden, River Falls.



Sara Karlson (River Falls) creates an origami seed packet, Teresa Davis (Elmwood) and Wil Kowalchyk (Ellsworth) collect seeds donated by Pure Prairie Seeds, and Donna Davis (Houlton) arranges a display of seeds from her gardens.

Seeds for everyone at Fall Workshop

By Peg Wastell

Our workshop was a wonderful success with many outstanding comments on evaluation sheets and 67 people came on a beautiful day. So many people did so much! We could not have events like this workshop without all off our master gardeners who volunteer to make it happen.

I know so much was done by so many because I would turn around and, my goodness, chairs are all set up as if by magic! Turn again and all the tables are ready! Our volunteers' positive attitude impressed our visitors from other organizations. One wrote that it was well worth the 100-mile trip and they will be back.

There were people who helped make this workshop happen by supplying hands-on activities: **Suzy Naschansky** and **Donna Davis**. Didn't you all enjoy those seed packets Suzy designed and made available to us? Two sizes of her seed packet templates are available [on our website](#). How

Sharing seeds at November meeting

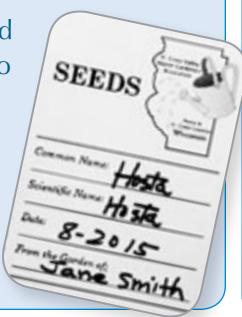
Here's a chance to give your extra seeds to others and receive new varieties for your gardens. Flower, herb, vegetable, tree, and shrub seeds are wanted!

They must be dried and stored in an envelope marked with your name, the plant name, date harvested, and any special growing instructions. You can download seed packets from our [website](#).

Bring open-pollinated seeds. Leftover seeds from purchases in the last two years are welcome as long as you note the age of the seed on the packet.

Please do not include collected hybrid seeds as they will not breed true. And, no patented seeds - it's against the law!

We ask that you drop off your seeds between 6:30 and 6:45 at tables organized by plant families. You'll be able to select seed packets to take home during the break after the business meeting.



about Donna who gave us the idea for seed packets and then brought so many examples of what can be collected from our gardens? Donna has 30 years of seed-saving experience and will be bringing seed to our seed-sharing event in November.

Our speakers increased our knowledge with **Diana Alfuth** giving us a refresher in botany along with seed-saving information. Photo dormancy is not one that I remembered. Seed deterioration from moisture and heat was another good reminder.

Our guest speaker Ginny Gaynor brought her knowledge and experience about the Confessions of a Wild Seed Collector. Our interest in native plants keeps increasing so it was welcome to have guidelines to follow.

Ardith Beveridge brought a load of materials in along with her vast knowledge of flower design. She makes every step look so simple yet elegant. Her generosity to our group was almost overwhelming. Many people took home beautiful arrangements and plant materials.

I want to extend special thanks to **Carolyn Barrette** for keeping everyone supplied with "good tasting" coffee all day. And **Sara Karlson**, who set up our projector and computer. How about **Corky Weeks** and Carolyn who at the last minute brought watering cans for Ardithe? **Ken and Barb Kolbe** were there with those hot cookies but also with encouragement and helping hands. Thanks to **Ken Kolbe** and **Wil Kowalchyk** for putting up Plant Trials display. **Rose Kuebker** and **Colleen Callahan** made lunch happen on time. **Kathy Williams** pitched in at the registration table. And **Barb Peterson** made our introductions of speakers. I lost track of all you who brought all those treats. Please extend my thanks to anyone I inadvertently didn't include. Hope our volunteers this year will volunteer again next year!



Ardith Beveridge

MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM



A Gardener's Paradise

By Dick Hasselman

The Arboretum is much more than you expect. The dictionary defines it as "a place for study and exhibition of trees." That's true, but The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, Minnesota (about an hour away) has much more to offer including display gardens, trails, model landscapes and nature-inspired exhibits and programs. Here are some of the highlights:

- 1. Sculpture Garden:** 26 renowned contemporary sculptures from around the world at a magnificent three-acre site with plantings and native grasses around them.
- 2. Wildlife Garden:** Is a working laboratory designed to demonstrate the most effective ways to attract an assortment of birds, insects and mammals; even a Bee Garden for plants that attract bees, humming birds and pollinators.
- 3. Horticultural Library:** Covers horticulture plant sciences and natural history collections. Rare books too, and nearly 60,000 historic seed and nursery catalogs.
- 4. Apple House:** A large selection of University of Minnesota favorites and new varieties of apples, especially the Honeycrisp, pumpkin and squash varieties.
- 5. Birds:** Within its approximately 1,200 acres, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has identified over 200 bird species.



MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM PHOTO
Arboretum entrance

- 7. Trees:** Tree Collections, with both native species and favorites such as sugar bush maple, pines, magnolias, crab apple blossoms. The Tree-Mile Drive provides a view of them all, whether on the narrated Tram, Visitor Circulators or walking.

8. Classes: On a wide variety of trees, shrubs, painting, photography, cooking and much more. See the web for more details.

9. Maze Garden: A special garden for families that includes both junior and adult maze entrances: two mazes in one, to the delight and challenge of all ages.

10. Fitness and Scenic Views: There are exercise trails of almost every type – walking, cross country, skiing, and snowshoeing.

What does all of this have to do with the Wisconsin Master Gardeners? The Arboretum is a great place to learn, get answers to your horticultural questions, and have some fun while you are there.

Minnesota Master Gardeners staff weekend "Plant Questions and Answers" and "Plant Maker Studio."

The Andersen Horticultural Library offers plant information online, seed catalogs and botanical publications. The easiest way to reach these rich resources is through the web at www.arboretum.umn.edu. Don't forget to look at their "Events of the Season" schedule.

ABOVE PHOTOS: *Comphrena haageana* (Rio Grande globe amaranth), maple leaves floating in a brook, and *Allium tanguticum* (Summer Beauty) taken in August by Colleen Callahan.

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. The next deadline is **Friday, Jan. 8** for the Jan/Feb issue. Please email submissions or inquiries to giverny@me.com.

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