Our November meeting features small group interaction and information sharing, a recap of this year's grants, and a brief report by Diana Alfuth, Master Gardener mentor and guide, who will recap the year's activities including highlights from Farm Tech Days.

The meeting will be the 3rd Thursday, November 18, at the Unitarian Universalist Society of River Falls on Hwy 65 southeast of River Falls.

Always a fun evening, it will be a good opportunity to talk about the year and wish everyone a happy holiday since it's our last meeting for 2010.

**Important Announcements**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW! AVOID LATE FEE!**

If you're a member of St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Association (SCVMGA), it's easy to get your education and community service hours for master gardener certification. We need to hear from you before the end of the year. Renew your membership at the November 18th meeting or send your check, payable to SCVMGA, to:

Deb Pederstuen
470 Green Mill Lane
Hudson, WI 54016

A late fee of $10 for all existing members who do not renew before January 1st is still in effect this year. All dues postmarked after Dec. 31, 2010 must include the late fee.

If you choose to discontinue your membership, please notify Deb Pederstuen, our membership director, 715-386-6681 or debnrick@gmail.com.

**Annual Dues**

- Fall 2010 MG Class Student or Graduate: $10
- Individual member prior to Dec. 31, 2010: $15
- Individual member postmarked after Dec. 31, 2010: $25
- Family (all members must qualify) prior to Dec. 31, 2010: $20
- Family postmarked after December 31, 2010: $30

Checks payable to SCVMGA or St. Croix Valley Master Gardeners Assoc.

Dues are accepted at Sept., Oct., and Nov. meetings, or send your check with registration forms to:

Deb Pederstuen
470 Green Mill Lane
Hudson, WI 54016

Registration and Gardening Interest Forms:

1. Complete side 1 and 2 of the registration form and the gardening interest form included in this newsletter, and return with your check.
2. Your suggestions for education topics and speakers or your willingness to be a program speaker help us plan our schedule of events.
3. Special projects that you work on help us organize our volunteer opportunities.
4. Any questions regarding registration forms or membership dues, please contact Deb Pederstuen.
SEPTEMBER NEWCOMERS!!

Please welcome three new members. Kathy Williams (Hudson) and Norma Rudesill (Baldwin) are students in the Fall 2010 MGV training class.

Pat Tremaine recently transferred to River Falls after she completed her MGV training in the Milwaukee area. Our three newcomers push our 2010 total membership to 187! Please remember how important it is to wear your nametags and reach out to new members!

SCVMGA 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW
Complied by Deb Pederstuen

Our tireless and dedicated Membership Director, Deb Pederstuen, has put together a wonderful, easy-to-read, month-by-month summary of our organization’s activities and accomplishments for this year.

The review is included as an attached supplement to this month’s newsletter so please take a look and delight in all that we do and share as an organization.

2011 Preview: Monthly Education Speakers and Garden U!!

Suggestions have been (almost) pouring in for subjects you would like to hear during 2011. Among them prairies in January with Troy Meacham, a request for Margaret Smith to give another photography session, a trip to Ecuador’s gardens and horticulture by Deb Andazola, a Master Gardener E-Line project, beekeeping, a field trip visit to the Hudson Middle and Prairie school gardens in the fall, houseplants, putting your garden to bed, and small fruits and berries and grapes.

One of our meetings might be a break out session in which we hold a small group discussion on your favorite garden subject whether it’s roses, vegetables, landscaping, dahlias, etc. We’re going to ask you to think and share on that one.

Andrew Sankey, our English garden speaker, will be back in September with another new and different topic.

Garden U will be Saturday, March 19. Our speakers are Dr. Amanda Gevens, plant pathology and disease expert from UW-Madison, and Donna Frawley, herbalist, author, culinary specialist and owner of Frawley’s Fine Herbary, who will present on the use of herbs in cooking.

We are also trying to contact John McPherson, arborist and apple expert from Carpenter Nature Center to round out our Garden U 2011.

Exciting topics! We will keep you posted, as dates become firm!

If you have other suggestions, or we missed one, please contact Carolyn Barrette at tbarrett@pressenter.com or 715-549-6438.

NEW CONTACT PERSON FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!

Please welcome Shauna Knott as the new Volunteer Coordinator. Many of you may know Shauna as she was previously on the Hospitality Committee - the wonderful volunteers that coordinate the delicious food and beverages for our monthly meetings.

If you have a project that you need help with or are looking for volunteer opportunities please contact Shauna (shauna.knott@allina.com). She will have them posted in the Sprinklings or be able put you in touch with people that are looking for volunteers.

A MESSAGE FROM PAULINE GOERDT, SCVMGA PRESIDENT

Now that the much-awaited frost has ended this year’s garden adventure, I am looking over some of my notes and observations from the past season.

I like to feel that I have learned something every year; so now is the time to reflect on the knowledge I have at hand.

The number one thing I learned was that in a year with plenty of rain, weed control will wash through much more quickly than the 6-8 weeks the directions give you.
With plenty of rain, everything will grow wonderfully. Yes, growing and growing and growing until you have a lush jungle. Everything will be bigger than it should be, making it necessary to do extra pruning and trimming.

I learned that because most things grew beautifully this year generally most people do not do enough watering.

I also got to experience a plethora of mushrooms everywhere I looked, in every vibrant color you can imagine. And saw slugs big enough to ride.

I learned many different ways to outsmart slugs and get rid of them. Nothing magic, just persistent picking, copper foil and sand blasting sand.

It was a good year for iris borer, and if not caught early enough, the only solution is to pick the worms out of the tubers by hand; chickens love the borer larva.

It is a great time to divide bearded iris when they are all torn apart and picked through. But make sure you are not replanting the rotted ones. I learned that I would have to be extra attentive to the iris next year early on when I can spray the fans at the first sign of borers.

I learned that even if you plant new annuals the seeds from previous annuals can and will outgrow and out perform this year's annuals.

Deer and bunnies will eat things that are on the 'safe' list to plant. Deer get blamed for a lot of bunny damage because bunnies seem so much more innocent. But the bite style will tell you who is the guilty party.

Zone 5 plants are being rampantly sold here with disappointment to follow when they cannot tolerate our cold temperatures.

Make sure you keep your plants away from the AC unit. If the AC unit can't properly vent the heat your house doesn't cool correctly or efficiently and your plants dry out and suffer stress.

Elephant ears are cool.

I learned more than once this year that most houses have more compaction in the soil than you would guess. And that is the reason for a lot of plant failure.

Not all 'black dirt' is the same. Know your source!

Plants that are huge and lush in foliage but fail to give you any flowers are probably getting too much fertilizer or the wrong fertilizer.

Russian sage can be cut back mid season to keep it from getting too big and it will still flower.

Native prairie plants will suffer if mulched too heavily in garden beds. Their roots need to be able to breathe easily.

The best way to get vitamin D from the sun is to absorb it through your eyes.

Never put fabric under mulch. The mulch breaks down too quickly and you are left with a layer of fabric between your soil and composted mulch.

And finally, flying squirrels are not a known rabies carrier if you happen to get bit by one. Consider all that you have learned from your garden experience this year and share it with others.

Community Garden News

The final report for the produce from the Community Garden showed overall production of 2416 pounds. It sure wasn't a great year.

I'm blaming it all on the weather - too wet for the onions, too hot for the peppers and eggplant, and too much disease for the tomatoes. The second crop of beans froze out, but boy, that second planting of broccoli was beautiful.

Things are looking up for next year. Dick and Jonna arranged to get the entire garden chisel plowed and Barb and Jerry hauled two full loads of UWRF compost up while it was still nice, and that got plowed in.

Thank you to all of you who came and worked whether with the NR Service Day in May, during the summer, or for clean up day in Sept. We really needed your help and couldn't have got that far without you. I look forward to seeing you all next year when, hopefully, our production will be back up.
The St. Croix Valley Master Gardener Association is grouped within the Western District of WIMGA. The other Associations included in the Western District are Barron Co. MGA, Bluff Co. MGA, Chippewa Valley MGA, Clark Co., Coulee Region MGA, Dunn Co. MGA, Eau Claire Area MGA, and Polk Co. MGA.

The two directors of the Western District have to be current local state WIMGA representatives of one of the Western District MGAs. Our two directors, Laura Franta of Chippewa Valley MGA and Sylvia Schultz of Clark Co. MGA represent our District while serving on the State WIMGA board of directors.

A director’s term is three years. The Western District local representatives met in Eau Claire, WI on Saturday, November 6, 2010. Laura Franta’s three-year term had expired. We re-elected her to another three-year term.

We welcomed representatives from Dunn County. Their newly formed organization has been added to the Western District roster of associations. We shared news and events held by our groups. Barron MGA has strong connections with 4-H and the "Got Dirt" program. Clark County focused on rain barrels this last year. The Eau Claire area spent most of their efforts on their enabling and trial gardens located at the Expo site. Several volunteers worked at Bolton Refuge. Chippewa County sponsored families at their local community garden.

More accomplishments are shared on our local accomplishment reports. Several years worth of accomplishment reports are available on the WIMGA website.

Reading reports from around the state is inspiring and a source of new ideas. Please check out this link for latest WIMGA Board of Directors meeting summary. The summary of board meetings are always available online at the WIMGA site. http://wimastergardener.org/?q=WIMGALatestMeeting

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Help Your Woody Ornamentals Survive the Coming Winter

November 1, 2010 12:05 AM
Kathy Zuzek, UMN Extension Educator

The effects of winter sun, wind, temperature fluctuations, snow, and ice can all combine to make winter a high-hazard time for tree and shrub health. Animal browsing is an additional challenge in our winter landscapes. Here's a checklist for gardeners who want to minimize injury to woody ornamentals in the coming winter.

Apply tree wraps and tree guards to prevent sunscald. Sunscald occurs when winter sun heats up bark on the south or west side of a tree enough to stimulate cambial activity. When shading or sunset causes the air temperature to drop quickly, the activated cambium is killed resulting in dead bark on the south or west side of a tree in the form of sunken, dried, or cracked areas. To prevent sunscald, tree wraps and guards should be applied in fall. They should be light-colored to reflect sun and to keep bark at a lower temperature on sunny winter days. Pay special attention to trees that have bark newly exposed to sun from recent pruning to raise tree canopies, trees that have been recently transplanted from shady sites to sunny sites, and young trees and other thin-barked trees such as cherries, crabapples, plums, maples, mountain ash, basswood, and honey locust. You will need to protect newly planted and thin-barked trees for several years but remember to remove tree wraps each spring and reapply them in autumn.

Avoid over watering and late season fertilizing that can encourage late season succulent growth. Late season growth is vulnerable to winter injury.

Avoid under watering of your trees and shrubs. Remember to water trees and shrubs in your landscape until the ground freezes. As temperatures drop in autumn and plants are acclimating for winter, it is easy to forget that they still need water. Inadequate watering stresses plants. Avoid this stress by watering until the ground freezes. The average freeze date of soils in Minnesota ranges from mid-November through mid-December; the average date for Minneapolis and St. Paul is December 6.

Roots are less hardy than stems of woody plants and can be injured when soil temperatures reach 10-15 ° F. Thankfully, soil temperatures are much higher than air temperatures in winter. A moist soil holds more heat than dry soil and helps to prevent deep frost penetration.

Evergreen foliage that turns brown during winter due to desiccation and injury is called winter burn (Photo 1). One way this damage occurs is when winter sun and wind trigger transpiration in evergreen foliage. During transpiration stomata (the openings on foliage that allow gas and water exchange with the atmosphere) open and water is lost from the foliage. Because the soil is frozen, the plant cannot replace the lost water and foliage desiccates and turns brown. Damage often occurs on the south, southwest, or windward side of evergreens but in severe cases, an entire plant can be affected. Winter burn can affect all evergreens but yew, arborvitae, and hemlocks are particularly susceptible. Minimize winter burn by watering evergreens until the ground freezes in late autumn or early winter.

Construct a barrier around plants susceptible to winter burn to protect them from winter sun and wind. A second way that winter burn occurs is similar to sunscald damage on tree trunks. Cellular activity in evergreen foliage can be stimulated by sunny winter days that increase tissue temperature in evergreen foliage. When shading or sunset
occurs, foliage temperature drops, resulting in foliage injury or mortality. Whether it is caused by transpiration and water loss or by sun’s activation of foliage tissue, winter burn is an indication that evergreens were not sited properly in a landscape. A short term and aesthetically unappealing solution to this problem is to construct a barrier of burlap or cut evergreen branches around plants to protect them from winter sun and wind (Photo 2).

Don’t apply antitranspirant sprays to prevent winter burn. Most research shows that antitranspirant sprays do not protect evergreens from winter burn.

Apply several inches of mulch around your trees and shrubs to buffer soil temperatures. Mulch is especially important at preventing cold injury to roots during snow less winters. Snow is a great insulator and moderator of soil temperatures. In its absence, several inches of mulch will help to moderate soil temperature.

Protect your trees and shrubs from animal damage. Rodents, rabbits, and deer feed on twigs, bark, and foliage during winter. In severe cases, their feeding can girdle and kill stems or entire plants. Deer rubbing their antlers on trees can also cause damage. Protect tree trunks and shrubs from rodent and rabbit feeding damage by using tree guards or a hardware cloth wrap. Start your protection a few inches below the ground for mice and extend it 24 inches above the average snow line for rabbit protection. Or protect entire beds from rodents, rabbits and deer with wire fencing, repellent sprays, or by hanging repellent-drenched rags.

Prune to prevent snow and ice damage. Prune to eliminate multiple leaders and narrow branch angles (Photo 3) between branches or branches and trunks of trees. Removing these weak branch attachments makes trees less susceptible to snow and ice damage.

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**Prevent Snow Mold on Lawns Now**

November 1, 2010 12:01 AM
Michelle Grabowski, UMN Extension Educator

Photo 1: Snow mold damage on a lawn in spring 2010 Photo by T.Burnes.

In the spring of 2010 snow melted away from yards and landscapes to reveal round dinner plate sized patches of tan or gray matted turf. Two fungi, known as snow molds, were responsible for the damage. Many gardeners were dismayed to learn that little could be done in the spring to cure snow mold. Rather they had to wait for the weather to change and the grass to recover. This is because the time to prevent snow mold is not in the spring. The time is now.

Snow mold is caused by two different fungi, *Microdochium nivale* and *Typhula* sp. Both of these fungi thrive at temperatures just above or below freezing with high levels of moisture. Although snow cover is not a requirement for the growth for snow mold, snow cover provides ideal conditions for the fungi. Of course, gardeners cannot control how much snow Minnesota will receive this winter or how long that snow will stay. Gardeners can prepare their lawns for winter in a way that provides the best chance of a healthy spring.

Photo 2: Fluffy white mycelia of snow mold can often be seen in moist conditions Photo by T.Burnes.

Several factors can increase the chances of snow mold the following spring. Long turf that is bent over by snow creates a canopy that traps humidity at the base of the turf plant. Piles of leaves or other debris on the lawn have a similar effect. Snow mold thrives in these humid microclimates. Fertilizing lawns in
late September or early October can cause the grass to produce a flush of young succulent growth. This new succulent turf often does not have time to harden off before winter comes and is an easy meal for the snow mold fungi.

Several simple steps can be followed to prepare turf for the winter and reduce the risk of snow mold the following spring.

1. Rake up leaves and any other debris on the lawn.
2. Continue mowing until the grass goes dormant. A height of 2 inches will help the turf remain upright and facilitate air movement and drying of the turf.
3. Do not fertilize lawns until next year. A late season application of fertilizer can be done around Labor Day, but there is little benefit of fertilizing beyond that date.

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 Peg Wastell, 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 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

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!!

DIRECTIONS TO UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF RIVER FALLS, N8010 State Hwy 65, River Falls, WI

From the North:  Take Hwy 35 South to just beyond River Falls.  Merge/turn onto Hwy 65 near the roundabout.  The society is located just past the roundabout on the East side of Hwy 65.  It is between the old site of the humane society and Garden Divas.

Sprinklings Nov/Dec Issue Information

The next issue of Sprinklings, a publication of The St. Croix County Master Gardener’s Association will be published in January. Submissions should be received by Friday, January 7, 2011 for the Jan/Feb issue. Our goal is to ensure members will 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 Heather Lacke at tslacke@netzero.net. Phone number: 715/377-4629. E-mail attachment submissions are preferred.