

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

NEWS FOR U OF MN EXTENSION MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

January 2016



- Homero Gómez González

- *And I think the violets are little snips of the sky that fell down when the angels cut out holes for the stars to shine through. And the buttercups are made out of old sunshine; and I think the sweet peas will be butterflies when they go to heaven..*

-Lucy Maud Montgomery
Anne of Avonlea

Flutter with me on the wings of a monarch butterfly to settle in the warmth of the sun at [El Rosario Monarch Sanctuary in Michoacán México](#) .

One of 5 public Monarch preserves protected by the UNESCO Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, they are awaiting the official count of what appears to be a 200% population improvement over 2014. This reserve is 138,379 acres of oak-pine-fir forest habitat dedicated to the over-wintering of monarchs.

The preserve serves as the sole source of income for the local population since logging is now illegal. All efforts of the community are focused on preserving the butterfly population.

Take a winter break to learn more: [Tour Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Preserve](#)

****Upcoming Events****

Sunday
January
10th

Annual HCMG Awards & Recognition
Banquet

- 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. - Social Hour w/punch and nuts in the foyer
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. - Awards Ceremony
- 12:45 p.m. - 1:25 p.m. - Buffet
- 1:30 p.m. - Speaker: Dave Bedford, CFNR Horticultural Science Researcher, "How Apples Get their Names"
- 2:30 p.m. - Adjourn

Adath Jeshurun Congregation
10500 Hillside Ln W
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Upcoming Events:

Communications Planning Day

Saturday, January 30th

Stay tuned for further information!

Update Session: Annual Meeting

Monday, February 1; 7:00 p.m.
Minnetonka Community Center

Schoolyard Garden Conference

Friday, March 4, 8:30am - 4:00pm
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum,
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, MN 55318

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

As we snuggle in for what looks to be a short Minnesota winter, we are thrilled to hear that we may finally be welcoming a few inches of snow cover. Our Learning Tour committee will begin meeting in January and planning for our 9th annual tour on July 9th - easy to remember. Mark that date on your calendars as there will be plenty of volunteer opportunities.

We will have six gardens on our tour this year in the north and northwest area of the county. They're a little more spread out so we want to be sure that our patrons can get to them all. This year will be another year of showcasing our own HCMG gardens and offering outstanding learning opportunities to our visitors.

For additional info, please contact Deb Revier at drevier@comcast.net and/or Deb Reierson at reierson.deb@gmail.com

What's Happening with the Fund Raising Committee?

2015 was an amazing fundraising year for our program. The Plant Sale and the Learning Garden Tour were huge successes and both brought in some much needed finances for the Hennepin County program. As you have heard mentioned many times, the funds we make allow our program to strategically invest in different areas; sometimes these investments aren't as visible as others but they are important never the less and make a difference in the communities we serve. As mentioned in last month's article our two fundraising events provide our members unique opportunities to educate the public, support healthy gardens and hopefully instill in others a love of all things gardening. Both the Plant Sale and the Learning Garden Tour committees will begin meeting and planning starting in January. If you have thoughts about either event that you would like to share, please send them to Tina Falkner (rovic001@umn.edu) or Deb Revier (revierdeb@gmail.com). Your input is valuable. As you begin your 2016 charitable giving planning, please remember the Hennepin County Master Gardener program.

What's Happening with the Membership Committee?

As MGs we love to talk gardens and plants. One of the most common responses we get when asking what YOU love about volunteering is 'you love to talk with other Master Gardeners'. This year, with that in mind we are featuring a 'new' take on our monthly update sessions.

The June Update (our ice cream social) will not feature a speaker but will feature YOU! The plan is to have a panel of Master Gardeners front and center to answer your questions and to spark an interest in all things gardening.

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If you are an HCMG and would like to be on the panel, consider responding. Remember, this is not really a call for experts, but a call out to all the MGs who excel or truly love a particular thing about being a MG. Maybe you can ID many plants and want to share your tips; perhaps you have a way with the younger public and can point us all in the right direction on how to capture their interest. Maybe you can make any veggie grow and need to pass along the secrets. Or perhaps you have found apps that work perfectly and want to share them. Or you can organize an MG schedule like a pro and let us learn your secrets. Maybe you can decipher a question even if the person doesn't really know what they are asking.

Every single HCMG that I have ever talked to could easily be on this panel. Each of you brings a special gift to the program and I know I would love you to share that gift with the group. If you are shy- hate to give public talks, really all you will be doing is sitting with a bunch of master gardeners talking with other master gardeners.

Perhaps you are an intern who would love to share what made your intern year good/bad and answer the current interns' questions. Maybe you are a mentor who would love to explain what a mentor does and spark an interest in those who may be curious. Maybe you are part of a committee and really want to share all that goes into the work your group does.

If you know of a special HCMG or are willing to be brave and step forward, please contact Theresa Rooney- (my email: theresa@packinc.com) Thank you in advance for stepping forward to make this experiment succeed.

What's Happening with the Community Programs?

The Community-Based Programs team is looking forward to a jam-packed, fun-filled, and rewarding 2016! In addition to continuing with the great work that we started in previous years, we are looking forward to the exciting new opportunities that are flowing in. Please visit our table at the Opportunity Fairs to learn more about them. We would love to have you join us in the fun.

We captured your thoughts at the Planning Meeting and the Intern Celebration about ways to address some of the issues with the Habitat for Humanity engagement. We'll try to include as many ideas as possible as we plan the 2016 rollout. Still, it is gratifying to know that this remains one of the most popular and satisfying volunteer opportunities. Thanks for your continued support for this important work.

While requests for our presence at Garden Centers continue to decline, Farmers Market and Special Event information booth requests are on the rise. We hope to develop materials to provide a consistent experience at the various sites. Rather than wait for folks to stop by our tables and ask questions, we can have engaging demos and materials to invite them in to learn more about gardening. The Garden Moments were just the start. Container planting, square foot gardening to take advantage of small space, and hydroponic salad benches are samples of the type of demos we can set up to intrigue shoppers.

Opportunities continue to flow in for Community Garden Support opportunities, too. For 2016 seven sites have been identified by the Hennepin County Health Department for us to work with next year. Four gardens are in home groups where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in Minneapolis, St Louis Park,

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Plymouth, and Crystal, and three are with communities of faith located in Brooklyn Park and Brooklyn Center. We have also been asked to support the MLK and Pleasant Ave Community Gardens in south Minneapolis and three community gardens in the Harrison neighborhood in conjunction with the Harrison Neighborhood Association.

We hope to continue the Latino community outreach as part of the RAM Engagement in 2016. We are also looking for opportunities to deepen our participation in the Native and/or East and West African gardening cultures in the county.

Look for all of these opportunities to show up on SignUp Genius in late January or early February in advance of the Opportunity Fairs. In the meantime, let me know if you would like more information on them.

Happy New Year!

Farmer Del

What's Happening in Youth Education?

Looking for ways to keep your gardening skills vibrant over these winter and early spring months? Signs ups for our Junior Master Gardening program at Champlin Brooklyn Park Academy are now live on [SignUp Genius](#) for both the 4th and 5th grade classes, many of which are held in the school's heated greenhouse.

Feeling like you could use some additional skills in working with youth? The Youth Ed committee is planning a mini skills building workshop on **Monday evening, February 22nd**. More details will be forthcoming but please save the date!

And don't forget the upcoming 2016 Schoolyard Gardens Conference, *An Ecosystem of Learning, Sharing Common Ground* to be held on Friday, March 4, 2016 8:30-4:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, MacMillan Auditorium. More details [here](#).

What's Happening with Adult Education?

The Vegetable Growing Basics program is growing like zucchinis. In 2016 we will be running five programs. Since each program has five classes, that means we have 25 teaching spots open to you vegetable-growing Master Gardeners. Watch for the opportunities at the winter sign up events. New Interns, you can be involved by being a designer at the fourth class in the series, starting April 23rd. You work one on one with a class participant to plan their own garden. It's a great way to see what the program is about.

Thank you to Leslie MacKenzie for initiating a new program in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis, to Colette Lubbers for expanding the St Louis Park program to two sites due to popular demand, and to Susan Trent and Lynn Olson for continuing to coordinate at Rev Martin Luther King Jr Park and Heritage Park.

Two other counties will be offering Vegetable Growing Basics using our curriculum. The curriculum was

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developed by many vegetable-growing Master Gardener gurus and has been polished over the years. Thank you to the many Master Gardeners who volunteer each year for this program and welcome to new volunteers in 2016.

What's your gardening passion? Is it something that you think a group of adult learners would like to learn? Is there University-based research that you can use for your materials? If all of the above are true AND you're willing to develop a presentation and lead a team, please send your topic idea to Adult Education Chair Sue Ponsford at sponsford@gmail.com.

What's Happening in Communications?

One if by Land, Two if by Sea!! The Communications Committee Wants YOU!

If you receive communication from HCMG or want to help us communicate well, come to the Communications Planning Day on Saturday, January 30th! We want YOUR ideas and participation.

We need ideas and input on written communication, web design and coding. All of these are important underpinnings of effective communication. If you have interest in any of these facets, please contact [Melinda Mattox](#) for details.

HELP! What kinds of questions are people in the community asking you? Please contact [Kathy Frederickson, Editor](#) so we can find answers and post them on Facebook or herein!! Photos Welcome!!!

Newsletter Article Due Date Schedule in 2016 – estimate only pending publishing of the HCMG calendar!
For your convenience, here are the estimated hard deadlines for newsletter articles for the next three months:

Newsletter	Articles due to Kathy Frederickson
February	Thursday January 28th
March	Thursday, February 25th
April	Thursday, March 24th

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January CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

As we interact with Hennepin County's diverse audiences through our volunteering, we learn more about each other. Understanding the holidays and events of a culture provides one opportunity for insight. We would like to share several cultural observances and encourage Master Gardeners to check out additional ones at:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 1 | NEW YEAR'S DAY
The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes. |
| January 1 | TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist
Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple. |
| January 3 | MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni)
The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad which occurs in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims. |
| January 5 | MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist
In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January. |
| January 5 | GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh
Guru Gobind Singh was the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the Father of the Khalsa. |
| January 6 | CHRISTMAS • Armenian
Orthodox Christian Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th. |
| January 7 | CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian
Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar. |
| January 8 | MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi'a)
The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad which occurs in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims. |
| January 14 | MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu
Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days. |

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- January 18 **WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í**
Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.
- January 19 **DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY**
The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.
- January 19 **NO NAME-CALLING WEEK**
Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
- January 27 **U.N. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY**
Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Goes to **Janet Heidinger** for pointing out [Race: Are we so different?](#) on Level 4 of the Science Museum of Minnesota. You can make reservations and buy tickets on-line.

Take a cultural and scientific look at race throughout history and discover the many reasons we should celebrate our differences and embrace our shared histories (some of which will surprise you).

There is also a Native American Exhibit showing on the same level.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!! MSHS is 150! A Big Year Ahead:

- [Features](#), [MSHS Events](#), [MSHS 150th Anniversary](#) - [no comments](#)

2016 is a big year for MSHS! This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the [Minnesota State Horticultural Society](#).

A new version of the Plant Elements of Design plant selection program is now available from University of Minnesota: <http://www.landscapeplants.extension.umn.edu/>

Designed to encourage plant selection based on site conditions and design requirements, Plant Elements of Design is open to the public and free of charge. Visitors are required only to create a user name and password. To search for plants, users identify site conditions (soil, light, zone, etc.) and plant characteristics

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desired (plant type, size, flower, texture, form, use, etc.) from drop-down menus. Many plants have downloadable images. Desired plants can be exported to a spreadsheet.

The current program features about 2,800 woody and herbaceous plants and about 3,500 plant images. More plants and images are being added weekly. Users are encouraged to read the user manual and participate in the user blog. Links are provided in the program. Contact: Julie Weisenhorn, U of MN Extension educator - Horticulture, weise019@umn.edu

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Terry Straub, Program Coordinator, at 612-596-2130 or straub097@umn.edu to sign-up for volunteer opportunities unless otherwise noted.

Hennepin County Volunteer Opportunities are posted in Sign-up Genius. Just sign into your account at www.signupgenius.com and look in "Items I've Been Invited To."

Landscape Arboretum

The University of MN Landscape Arboretum has many volunteer opportunities. Learn how to help at http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/volunteer_opportunities.aspx. There are ways to work with both youth and adults! Training is required for most opportunities – check them out today!

Volunteering for the Yard & Garden Desk and Hotline

Please help staff the Hennepin County slots at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Yard & Garden Desk on Saturdays. The hotline needs staffing, too. It's a good way for interns to complete their required 15 researched calls. Visit the State Master Gardener website at www.mg.umn.edu and click on "For Volunteers."

Answering the Yard and Garden Line Info – *Reminder!* Accessing the phone line messages on your own computer is here! The steps are outlined here: [yard-and-garden-line messaging instructions.pdf](#).

These directions are pretty clear, but the account number should be: 31426 (five digit code) not 31426@umn.edu. This PDF is located on the Master Gardener site:

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/master-gardener/>) in the 'For volunteer' section under 'Yard and Garden Line'. Under 'Training'.

Volunteers can click on "Tutorial: Answering questions from your computer".

Visit www.mg.umn.edu to sign-up for a shift. Thanks!

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Be sure to review the Hennepin County web site for educational opportunities at <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/educational-opportunities/>

Opportunities Coming Up at the MN Landscape Arboretum

The landscape arboretum is proceeding apace with their 2016 schedule. Classes and registration information may be found online at <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/gardeningclasses.aspx>.

Coming Up from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

Held at various locations. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration is required. You can find a list of classes on their web site at <http://www.northerngardener.org/classes/mshs-classes>. Click on the class title to register. If you have any difficulties with registering online, please call their office at 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747.

RESOURCES FOR MASTER GARDENERS

Our own State University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Volunteer web site has a very extensive list on the page “**Find gardening answers online.**” Sign into the site as a volunteer to access the page. To find it:

- Sign in as you normally would to report your hours.
- You will come to the “For volunteers” page
- The page has a number of resources for master gardeners. Here is where you will find the gardening answers on line section.

HCMG LEADERSHIP TEAM 2016

Mary Cichon (Youth Education)
Del Hampton (Community Programs)
Tina Falkner (Fundraising)
Carol Garner (Chair)
Darren Lochner (Membership)

Melinda Mattox (Communications & Marketing)
Kate Netwal (Chair Emeritus)
Sue Ponsford (Adult Education)
Theresa Rooney (Member Education Chair)
Stephanie Steel (Secretary / Treasurer)

See the HCMG Directory for contact information.

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Garden Confidential is available online each month at <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/administration/newsletters/>. To receive the newsletter electronically, notify the Program Coordinator at strau097@umn.edu and a link will be sent to your e-mail address every month.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hennepin County

479 Prairie Center Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344-5378

8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Program Coordinator: Terry Straub
612-596-2130 and strau097@umn.edu

Phone: 612-596-2130
Fax: 952-828-7280
HCMG Hotline: 612-596-2118

HCMG website: <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/>