

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016



- Photo courtesy of Tom Thorson

*“Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year.”
— Chad Sugg*

‘Tis time to ponder some nipping and whether we tucked our beds in properly last fall. What we do now will offer the encouragement our bushes and trees need as we get closer to spring.

Pruning helps keep our bushes and trees in good health, prevents damage and shapes them up. It does the same to our souls.

Have a look see at the guidelines of what to prune and when here: [Time to take action? \(from the University of MN Extension\)](#)

This is also a reminder to get your orders placed from those lovely seed catalogs and if you didn’t clean your tools before you put them away, do it now. Spring isn’t that far away!

Make sure you read the Hat Tip of the Month for the ANNUAL SEED TRIALS later in this newsletter!

Reminder: Let’s welcome all of the new interns every time you see them and wear your nametag to every event or meeting!

Monday, March 7 Update Meeting

Botanical Names (or Latin 101)

Speaker: Alex Eilts, Research Associate, U of M CBS Ecology

Location: Hennepin County Technical College
Main Theater /Auditorium / J120 9000
Brooklyn Boulevard Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
(Entrance on the NE side of the building is close to the auditorium; Parking in Student Lot 4, also on NE side, recommended).

Alex has experience growing a wide variety of plants, from aquatics to succulents, and everything in between. He loves plants and the science that seeks to understand them. Currently, he is embarking on a path of creating film productions that both deepen an audience's understanding of the natural world while building a love of the species that populate our planet.

Upcoming Events:

Schoolyard Garden Conference

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

*****Next Update Session:*****

April 4: Holistic Approach to Sustainable Gardening.
Hopkins High School Cafeteria, Minnetonka

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations Newly Certified Master Gardener Volunteers!!!

We are thrilled to announce our newly certified Extension Master Gardener Volunteers – Hennepin County. They are: Roger Andre, Mary Ellen Becker, Nancy Bendickson, Sonya Burke, Dan Conley, Janet Contursi, Margo Denessen, Ann Dybvig, Justin Eibenholz, Carole Fitzsimmons, Susan Fleming, James Fulton, Lucy Hahn, Teri Haugland, Mary Hedberg, Peggy Hickey, Sandra Hofman, Daniel Hudson, Kurtis Hunsberger, Sherrie Hunt, Linda Jahnke, Suzanne Kane, Joyce Krook, Mel Lleras, Leslie MacKenzie, Candace McClenahan, Catherine McDonnell- Forney, Carol McMullin, Lori Murphy, Megan Nichols, Judith Noun, Ann Olson, Rachelle Pass, Joyce Powell, Mark Preissing, Karen Ruth, Donna Sankey, Jonathan Scoll, Rachelle Selvog, Jamie Stang, Amy Swendsrud, Adam Tomczik, Michelle Ugurlu, Page Vanatta, Gavin Watt, Stuart Weinstein, Linda Wilkins, Timothy Woldt, Beth Woldt, and Mary Young.



Members of the Class of 2015!

Thank you 2015 Recognition and Awards Luncheon Planning Committee!

The 2015 Recognition and Awards Luncheon was held at the Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Sunday, January 10th. We had yet another record attendance and a scrumptious meal -- thanks to the efforts of: Co-Chairs Theresa Rooney and Debby Wolk and committee members Suzy Chesin, Mary Dooley, Diane Feldman, Teri Haugland, Lucinda Kircher, Colette Lubbers, Pamela Nelson, Kate Netwal, Anna Olsen, Stephen Rutz, Jeanne Sielaff, Carol Skalko, Trish Tennyson, Susan Thompson, Jill Waterhouse, and Linda Wilkins.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Award Recipients for 2015 Contributions

Archie Caple Award

Congratulations to *Charlene DeStefano!*

Stanley Crist Outstanding Intern Award

Congratulations to *Megan Nichols!*

Martha Reborn Dazzling Daisy Presenter Award

Congratulations to *Sharon Decker!*

Unsung Gardener Award

Congratulations to *Susan Thompson!*

Golden Trowel Award

Congratulations to *Charlene DeStefano!*

Community Gardener Award

Congratulations to *Pam McMurry!*

Golden Apple Award

This year's award goes to *Susan Wieczorek!*

Outstanding Teamwork Award

This year's award goes to the Gopher Adventures Planning Team: *Kathy Doerr, Betsy Massie, Kate Wodtke and Susan Wieczorek*

Thank you 2015 Mentors!

Mary Bisek, Mary Cichon, Rhonda Converse, Janelle Dahman, , Sharon Decker, Tina Falkner, Lynda Forbes, Barb Gasterland, Bruce Gillman, Sarah Green-Toews, Mary Hunstiger, Amy Johnson, Lorraine Kretchman, Michaeleen Kruger, Nancy Larkin, Darren Lochner, Betsy Massie, Melinda Mattox, Val McGruder, Kate Netwal, Anna Olsen, Kari Pastir-Smith, Mary Plumb, Sue Ponsford, Jodi Pritchard, Deb Reiersen, Deb Revier, Theresa Rooney, Amy Sitze, Stephanie Steel, Deb Stepanek, Diana Straate, Elaine Strom, Susan Thompson, Dave Tobelman, Verna Von Goltz, and Susan Wieczorek.

Introducing the 2016 Leadership Team!

Mary Cichon, Youth Education Chair; Tina Falkner, Fundraising Chair; Carol Garner, Chair; Darrel Lochner, Membership Chair; Del Hampton, Community Programs Chair; Melinda Mattox, Communications & Marketing Chair; Stephanie Steel, Secretary/Treasurer; Kate Netwal, Chairman Emeritus; Sue Ponsford, Adult Education Chair; and Theresa Rooney, Member Education Chair.

Thank You for Your Hours of Service in 2015!!

Over 125 Hours of Service: Marilyn Arnlund, Dan Conley, Tina Falkner, Susan Fleming, Carol Garner, Faith Kelley, Joyce Kuyava, Colette Lubbers, Carol McMullin, Cindy Pearsall, Donna Sankey, Michael Slinkard, Diana Straate, Linda Wilkins, and Norma Wubbena

Over 150 Hours of Service: Lori Anderson, Sharon Decker, Barbara Gasterland, Mary Hedberg, Megan Nichols, Mary Plumb, Sue Ponsford, Joyce Powell, Deb Reiersen, Christine Roth, Stu Weinstein, and Sandra Winslow.

Over 200 Hours of Service: Michaeleen Kruger, Betsy Massie, Anna Olsen, and Sue Schiess.

Over 250 Hours of Service: Grace Anderson, Claire Kari, Valerie McGruder, Debra Revier, Theresa Rooney, Susan Thompson, Susan Trent, Susan Wieczorek, and Vicki Young.

Over 300 Hours of Service: Larry Cipolla, Mollie Dean, Dennis Mielke, Kate Netwal, and Janet Schreier.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Over 350 Hours of Service: Lynn Olson, Mary Tessman and Dennis White

Over 500 Hours of Service: Del Hampton and Mary Cichon

Program Service Milestones

The following were acknowledged by the State Master Gardener Program Office for their hours of service since joining the Extension Master Gardener Program:

Over 1000 Hours of Service: Judy Anderson, Stephanie Brody, Barbara Dow, Karen Frazier, Del Hampton, Betsy Massie, Sue Schiess, Jill Waterhouse, and Doris Wickstrom.

Over 3000 Hours of Service: Larry Cipolla

Thank You for Your Years of Service!!

39 Years: Archie Caple

25 Years: Karen Frazier, Lucie Lund, Veronica Malone, and Mary Jane Smetanka

20 Years: Caroline Bassett, Linda Cordie, Gordon Hanson, Katie Jensen, Ruth McCoy, Bruce Nelson, Kathy Pollock, Rosemary Reinhardt, and Norma Wubben.

15 Years: Julie Drake, Cindy Goehring, Anita Sapp, and Kathleen Wanner.

10 Years: PJ Anzalone, Elisabeth Creighton, John Dahl, Sharon Eddleston, Sue Hanson, Denise Leezer, Pamela McMurry, Cheryl Michaelson, Julie Muscha, David Nackerud, Wayne Olson, Kirky Otto, Susan Schaefer, Pat Stacken, Christine Swanson, Robyn Swenson, and Deborah Wolk,

5 Years: John Azer, Jacqueline Bowker, Mary Burchette, Donell Clauser, Janelle Dahmen, Joe Donner, Joanne Ellison, Kate Gaynor, Faith Kelley, Marilyn Kelly, Mary Jo Kingston, Patti Lauer, Judi Martin, Betsy Massie, Kathy Nelson, Jane Reinking, Carrie Schmitz, Susan Scofield, Claire Selkurt, Jennifer Shaltz, Stephanie Steel, Susan Thompson, Megan Vossler, Nancy Ward, and Kate Wodtke.

Thank You Sponsors

All volunteers celebrating their 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5 year anniversaries with our program are given gift certificates donated by local garden centers! Thank you Bachman's, Malmberg's Garden Center, Mother Earth Gardens, Otten Brothers, and Tangletown Gardens for helping to honor our long-term volunteers!

COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Leadership Team?

Background Checks

Just a reminder that All Extension Master Gardener staff and volunteers must have a current background check (within the last three years) and have a recurring background check every three years. Due to our size, Hennepin County will be the first group to go through the new process. All background checks must be completed by March 31, 2016. Notification of this policy, plus instructions on how to complete the checks, will be coming from the State Master Gardener Program Office.

Values

Each October all Extension Master Gardener Volunteers in Hennepin County are invited to attend our planning day. Often we talk about goals and strategies for our program to help carry our work forward into the New Year and beyond. This past October 28 of your peers, including both interns and seasoned MGs, attended this meeting where we focused on defining our Organizational Values. Five interdependent Program Values were identified:

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

- Education
- Service
- Community
- Diversity
- Inclusiveness.

After the values were identified, we broke into various work groups to discuss how to use these values as guiding principles for the EMG-HC Program Goals. All Committees and Sub-Committees are expected to use these values when setting goals, objectives and activities. A graphic showing our values can be found on page 14 of the [2016 Program Manual](#). All are encouraged to consider them in all you do as a Master Gardener Volunteer. Please see Kate Netwal, Carol Garner, Terry or another member of the Leadership Team for more information.

What's Happening with the Plant Sale Committee?

Save the date! The 2016 HCMG Plant Sale is Saturday, May 21st.

The plant sale is our Master Gardener Program's major fund raiser for the year. Profits go to funding our community outreach programs including our JR Master Gardener program, community gardens, new equipment for presentations and more! Funds also support our annual banquet and summer tours.

Our plant sale would not be a success without your plant contributions. With more of our Hennepin County gardens getting shadier as the trees mature, consider what shade plants from your garden you could divide? And, this is truly the year of the pollinator so what plants in your garden attract bees and butterflies? Plant and variety name must be known or, with a picture, we might be able to assist identification. A future newsletter will provide lists of both shade plants and pollinators plants that are most desirable and have sold well in the past.

One of the major new offerings at our plant sale in recent years was "Master Gardener Favorites." These plants were started by Master Gardeners from seed and included many of your favorite annual flowers and vegetables. If you like growing plants from seed, please consider starting some for the plant sale. If anyone loves starting Moon Flowers, we get requests every year for them! Again, make sure that you know plant variety so we can properly label the plants.

We thank you for your support and look forward to your help in making this year's sale bigger and better. Look for opportunities including plant digs and potting days as well as volunteering for set-up and day of sale. *Signups will start being posted next month.*

What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

The garden tour committee met a few days ago to kick off the planning process for our July 9th "Learning Garden Tour." The garden selection went smoothly last October, (you just can't peruse potential gardens buried under a snowdrift), and now the intense planning happens.

The planning group is divided into 10 different subcommittees, all of which depend on the others to pull this event off. We have beefed up our publicity plans to include more social media and our advertisers will include

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

some new businesses. The creative lead staff for the "Garden Shed" filled all 30 volunteer spots on sign up genius in less than a day and a half!! And, the "Education Station" committee is looking into some new and exciting offerings including a featured Habitat for Humanity station as well as a spotlight on the "Urban Garden Outreach Program."

The sign up to work the day of the tour will appear on Sign Up Genius near the end of May. Any folks who are interested in working on one of the behind the scene planning committees should simply contact Deb Revier at drevier@comcast.net or Deb Reiersen at reiersen.deb@gmail.com.

What's Happening with the Community Programs?

The Community-Based Programs team is actively recruiting volunteers for the rewarding opportunities we have lined up already for 2016! Hopefully, you had a chance to visit our table at the Opportunity Fairs to learn more about them. We would love to have you join us in the fun.

We are beginning to post the 2016 Farmers Market and Special Event information booth opportunities. They will continue to be added so check back frequently for the new items. In most cases they will go live at 6 pm on Fridays every week.

We have already posted many of the 2016 Community and Giving Garden Support opportunities. Click [HERE](#) to see an updated summary list of the opportunities, then click [HERE](#) to go to the tab in SignUp Genius to scroll through them and sign up for one. Some are already filled, but there are still plenty of exciting new opportunities. The featured item this month is [THIS](#) exciting new project, supporting the hydroponic salad tables and benches that were installed last year at some of the high-rise residences in Minneapolis. The [Lake Street Station](#) opportunity is another gem waiting for a lead volunteer. Our contact there, Annie Young, is fantastic.

We have been approved to continue the Latino community outreach as part of the RAM Engagement in 2016. More on that next month as those plans are confirmed. And plans are falling together to deep dive on the American Indian gardening culture in 2016. Activities could include setting up a American Indian trail garden for foraging and for medicinal and spiritual plants, having a progressive garden tour to the American Indian gardens in south Minneapolis ([Little Earth Urban Farm](#), [Mashkiikii Gitigan](#), [Good JuJu](#), etc.), and helping to build a seed library of the indigenous plants passed on through the generations.

There will only be ten Habitat for Humanity sites for 2016, down significantly from the past years. Habitat is working on a large townhouse project in Washington County so we get a break. Most of the slots are already filled, but if you are still interested please let Norma know so that she can add you to the notification list. Thanks for your continued support for this important work.

What's Happening in Youth Education?

Looking for ways to keep your gardening skills vibrant over these winter and early spring months? Sign 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?

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016



SAVE THE DATE!!

HCMG Youth Education Skills Building Event

Monday February 22nd 2016

6:00pm – 8:30pm (light dinner included)

Ridgedale Library ~ 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305

Plant the seed, Fertilize young minds and Watch them Grow!!

If you enjoy working with youth, want to learn more about the HCMG Youth Ed programs or just brush up on your youth mentoring/teaching skills...

Reserve your spot on Sign Up Genius under:

“HCMG Youth Education Skills Building Event 2016”

Or contact Mary Cichon at marycichon@mac.com

Workshop Agenda:

- HCMG Youth Ed curriculum
- Teaching resources and strategies
- Classroom management
- Tips & tricks

*** *And yes*, this contributes to your Continuing Education hours!!!

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?

Did you know that the Adult Education Speakers Bureau did 166 presentations in 2015? This included 51 library classes, 27 community education groups, 8 for staff at government locations, 7 for corporate wellness groups and a whole bunch of ungroupable locations. Our Vegetable Growing Basics program presented 5 sessions at 3 different locations. Our new and improved evaluation forms garnered a total of 411 responses (up from 0 submitted last year!)

After learning about worm composting from Team Compost, 100% of students were able to answer correctly this question: “If I want my worms to consume 5 pounds of food scraps per week, my worm bin should have at least X square feet of surface area”. (See answer below.) The Fall Yard and Garden Team's evaluations indicated that 95% of participants increased their knowledge of when to time fall lawn care tasks by "much" or "very much".

Our goals for 2016 Adult Ed Presentations include adding 2 additional Vegetable Growing Basics sites, which will require a total of 25 teachers and 100 garden designers (over all 5 sites). We're going to increase our outreach to corporate sites and community groups in an effort to provide gardening education for people in convenient accessible places.

If you're interested in volunteering with Vegetable Growing Basics, you can either sign up for a specific opportunity on Sign Up Genius or you can contact Mollie Dean for more information: molliedean@icloud.com.

If you've ever wanted to learn to present to adults but were a little nervous, now is a great time to join a speaker's

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

bureau team. Each of the teams has great materials developed, including a Powerpoint slide show, speakers notes, hand-outs and evaluations. If you join a team, you'll be mentored as you learn the materials and get comfortable presenting. Most teams can offer co-presenting opportunities and technology helpers to make sure you're comfortable when you go out into the community. So, if you're passionate about a topic and want to commit to presenting this year, please consider joining a team! To do so, contact the Lead of team you'd like to join and they'll get you looped in:

Composting: Karin Ciano compostress@gmail.com

Butterfly Gardening: Joy Kuyava joykuyava@gmail.com

Fall Yard and Garden Care: Theresa Rooney theresa@packinc.com

Vegetable Gardening: Emily Strong stron075@gmail.com

Perennial Gardening: Kate Netwal knetwal@hotmail.com

Spring Flowering Bulbs: Jodi Pritchard jodi.r.pritchard@gmail.com

The Evolving Garden (gardening tip for those whose ability to garden is changing): Kate Netwal/Theresa Rooney knetwal@hotmail.com/theresa@packinc.com

Sustainable Gardening: Dave Tobelmann dtobelmann@gmail.com

Edible Landscaping: Theresa Rooney theresa@packinc.com

Container Gardening: Betty Lentz lentzhq@comcast.net

Herb Gardening: Carrie Schmitz carrie.j.schmitz@gmail.com

Care of Houseplants: Ellen Campbell ec.gardensprite@gmail.com

If you're interested in developing a new presentation and leading a team or if you'd like to join the adult education committee, please contact Sue Ponsford sponsford@gmail.com.

Finally, the answer to the composting question is 5 square feet.

What's Happening in Communications?

We had a rousing Communication Committee Planning session on January 30th. Turnout was terrific and enthusiasm high.

We need action on the written communication, web design and coding recommendations made in the session. All of these are important underpinnings of effective communication. If you have interest in any of these facets, please contact [Melinda Mattox](#) for details. We'll be advising those who signed up at the session of our next step and if you didn't have an opportunity to attend contact Melinda Mattox!

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!!!

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Newsletter Article Due Date Schedule in 2016

For your convenience, here are the estimated hard deadlines for newsletter articles for the next three months:

| Newsletter | Articles due to Kathy Frederickson |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| March | Thursday, February 25th |
| April | Thursday, March 24th |
| May | Thursday, April 21st |

February 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:

(Source: <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/CALENDAR-OF-OBSERVANCES-2016.pdf>)

Month of February: **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

- February 1 **CLEAN MONDAY** • Eastern Christian
The beginning of Great Lent for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.
- February 1 **NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY**
Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
- February 8 **LUNAR NEW YEAR**
On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.
- February 9 **SHROVE TUESDAY** • Western Christian
A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.
- February 10 **ASH WEDNESDAY** • Western Christian
The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
- February 14 **VALENTINE'S DAY**
Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
- February 14 **RACE RELATIONS DAY**
The National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.
- February 15 **SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY**

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.

February 15

NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist

Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8th.

February 15

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.

February 26–

AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í

March 1

The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year.

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Goes to *Sue Scheiss* for her pointing out a new TED talk [How can we make crops survive without water?!?!](#) By Professor Jill Farrant

To Top it off she just announced:

!!ANNUAL SEED TRIALS!!

With great pride we announce a new version of the Master Gardener Annual Seed Trials for 2016, designed to focus on the interaction of pollinators and annual flowers! Working with Tim Kenny, Statewide Director of the Extension Master Gardener Program, and Julie Weisenhorn, Associate Extension Professor (and former Statewide Director of EMG), we have designed these trials to address how home gardeners might help reverse pollinator decline. While there's lots of research on how native plants help pollinators, there's not much on the interaction of pollinators and annual flowers. In order to shine some needed light on the topic, this year's Minnesota Master Gardener Seed Trial participants will grow annual flowers and report pollinator attraction.

Participants in this study will count pollinators on their choice of four selected varieties of six annual flowers* + alyssum (as a control) to determine which ones pollinators like best. Pollinator identification training and Extension educator support will be provided throughout the study (June – August). Involved Master Gardeners will improve their proficiency in identifying pollinators, be able to speak knowledgeably about annual flowers that attract pollinators, and hone their observation skills. The results of the study will be used for new educational materials for use by Extension Master Gardeners and the Arboretum in 2017.

You may sign up for as many of the six trials as you wish - provided you have sufficient room in your garden. We want you to grow a minimum of six healthy plants of each variety, planted in a block (as opposed to a row). Each variety will require a minimum of 3'x2'. Since there are 4 varieties per trial + the alyssum control, each trial will require 30 square feet of garden space.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Four of our test flowers - sunflowers, rudbeckia, marigolds, and zinnias - plus alyssum - will be sown directly into the sunny garden. The other two - salvia and snapdragons - must be started indoors under strong sunlight or artificial lights approximately eight weeks before transplanting into the garden.

Since some of you are dedicated vegetable growers and/or grow the seed trials in community, school, and church gardens where you are expected to provide edible produce, on request we will send you (at no additional cost) a selection of vegetable seeds** to grow in addition to the trial flowers. If you tend a particularly large garden, you may request multiple bundles of these seeds. We'll do our best to provide what you need. (Any participant may request a vegetable bundle.)

The participation fee will remain at \$10. Here's

how it will work:

1. You commit to growing one or more flower trial and identifying pollinators and counting their presence on your trial flowers twice a week for eight weeks***.
2. You tell us which of the trials you would like to grow and your order of preference.
3. You tell us how many total trials you are willing to accommodate.
4. You tell us whether or not you want a bundle (or more) of vegetable seed.
5. You go to <https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/state-seed-trial/> and fill out the attached sign up sheet along with a \$10 participation fee.

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR THE TRIALS IS FEBRUARY 15 by USPS or MARCH 1 electronically.

While we can't promise everything you request, we will divvy up the trial seed as fairly as we can and mail it to you around March 20. Planting instructions and pollinator evaluation forms will be included with the seed.

Questions? Please call or email any of us. We realize these trials are different from what we've done in the past, but we're excited about contributing new insights toward solving a challenging problem - and hope you'll share this enthusiasm.

Minnesota Master Gardener Annual Seed Trials Committee, Sue Schiess, sschiess@mac.com, 952-929-7311 Lisa Gilliland, lagilliland@comcast.net Marc Battistini, marc.battistini@yahoo.com Larry Cipolla, larryc@cci4360.com Mary Dalsin, marydalsin@yahoo.com Janice Gestner, janicemgg@comcast.net

*Salvia varieties: White Swan Clary Sage, Coral Nymph, Evolution Violet, Maestro.

*Zinnia varieties: Inca, PopArt Red+White, Red Spider, Envy *Rudbeckia varieties: Maya, Cherry Brandy, Irish Eyes, Orange Fudge *Sunflower varieties: Sunrich Orange Summer, Chocolate, Ring of Fire, Lemon Queen *Marigold varieties: Bambino, Tangerine Gem, Mexican Tarragon, Yummy Mummy *Snapdragon varieties: Chantilly Cream Yellow, Bronze Dragon, Defiance, Twinny Peach

*Alyssum: Snow Crystals (winner of our 2014 Alyssum trial)

**Each bundle will include: 10 seeds Pepper Summer Sweet (yellow), 10 seeds Kale Winterbor, 10 seeds Tomato Tumbling Tom, 25 seeds Carrot SugarSnax, 10 seeds Eggplant Orient Charm, 10 seeds Cauliflower

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Snow Crown, and 10 seeds Bean Roma II. (Each of these varieties has won a past MG seed trial.)

***Instructions will be included for handling vacation time.

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 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

An educational opportunity!

Registration is now open for our February 20, 2016 Design With Nature Conference. More details here:

Regular registration closes February 10.

Registration is open now at: www.designwithnatureconference.org

2016 Wild Ones Design With Nature Conference Saturday

February 20, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

James B. Woulfe Alumni Hall

Anderson Student Center, St. Thomas University,

2115 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN

Public ramp and free street parking available.

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."

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

Learning Garden Tour Garden Shed Boutique

Ever wonder how decisions are made about what gets sold (and made and sold) at the Learning Garden Boutique? Here's your chance to learn how and get involved. Committee Chairs Faith Kelly and Cindy Pearsall invite you to their first meeting of the year. Sign-up and location located [here](#).

INTERNS: You are more than welcome to participate in the opportunities above. As they are planning sessions, there isn't a specific intern slot – all are welcome.

The Tree Care Advisor program has set the Core Course dates for 2016. If you are committed to volunteerism, to helping make your community and state a healthier place to live and if you think that trees, shrubs, wildflowers and other natural resources add to the quality of life in your community, then the Tree Care Advisors has a home for you.

Learn the most up to date research and gain hands on experience planting, pruning and so much more.

If you're interested in gaining an in depth understanding of your urban forest and are committed to volunteerism the Core Course dates are set for 2016. Look at what it takes to become a Tree Care Advisor at [www.mntca.org/become-tca/Landscape Arboretum](http://www.mntca.org/become-tca/LandscapeArboretum)

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 ACCESS HAS CHANGED!!! From the December Yard and Garden Newsletter: New PHONE NUMBER IS:

612-626-0001

You will then need to press the "*" and use the "#" signs. Mailbox ID is 17590 and PW=427336 Updates to the training will be available soon on the web.

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

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

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

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

Arboretum Let's Talk Plants Volunteer Opportunities

“Let's Talk Plants” programs are designed to help Arboretum visitors of all ages enjoy a richer experience with plants and nature. A hands-on studio, demonstrations, welcome station, tours and gardening information are all part of the mix. These programs are only possible with the support of a dedicated corps of volunteers! Anyone interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity is invited to attend the 2016 Arboretum Basic Training on Monday, February 29, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon in the MacMillan Auditorium. It will cover Arboretum mission, gardens and new features for 2016. It will also describe the four “Let's Talk Plants” programs: Plant Maker Studio, Garden Demonstrations, Yard and Garden Desk Q&A, and Arboretum Guides. Each of these then has separate training and volunteer service requirements. “Let's Talk Plants” is a collaborative effort of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Minnesota's State Master Gardener Program.

The “Let's Talk Plants” welcome station and tours are provided by Arboretum Guides. Admission to join the Arboretum Guides is by application. For those interested in applying, there will be an Arboretum Guides Info Session on Monday February 29 at 12:30 p.m. in the Carlson Dining Room. Basic Training participants may grab a sandwich in the Restaurant and enjoy lunch during this informal session. It will cover goals, training, commitment requested, and how to apply. Prospective volunteers may meet current Guides and program staff. Questions welcome!

To **RSVP** for the Arboretum Basic Training session or the Arboretum Guides Info Session, please email ltplants@umn.edu.

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.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

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.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

February 2016

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/>