

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

April 2016



- Photo – Creative Commons

*A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.*  
-Gertrude Jekyll

With Spring come the winds of change. Nature has a way of adapting, much to our dismay. This includes the Emerald Ash Borer.

[The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed an infestation of emerald ash borers in American fringe trees in Ohio and parts of Illinois, ending the belief that this bug attacked only ash species.](#)

That is NOT pleasant news. Minnesota currently has 11 counties under quarantine for EAB.

It also leads me to [EXTOXNET](#) as an excellent resource for upcoming discussions about pest control. It has a pretty thorough list of FAQ's we encounter

In the meantime, study up and get in shape for the upcoming gardening season!

## Monday, May 2nd Update Meeting

### EMG-HC Day at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska

Tours and education just for us!

**4:00 to 6:00 p.m.:** Tours of various gardens, tram, library and learning center.

**6:00 to 7:00 p.m.:** FREE Box lunches served (you'll choose your sandwich when you sign-up.)

**7:00 to 8:00 p.m.:** Various Speakers: State office staff; Interim Arboretum Director, Peter Moe; and others with updates on Arboretum projects and research.

Come and explore the MN Landscape Arboretum with other Master Gardener volunteers from Hennepin County! This is a great way to check out the Arboretum in all its glory, whether you were just there for the Core Course, or haven't been out to visit for a while. The whole experience is free!

*Reminder: Let's welcome all of the new interns every time you see them! Wear your nametag to every event or meeting so everyone knows who you are!*

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

June 6th: **Ice Cream Social & Update:  
Sharing the Knowledge Panel, Experienced  
Master Gardeners**

**When:** Mon, June 6, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Where:** Minnetonka Community Center, 14600  
Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### What's Happening with the Plant Sale Committee?

#### Why do we hold a plant sale?

- It's our main fund-raising event.
- It's a great way to educate the public about plants, plant selection, plant placement, and care needs.
- It allows us to share the plants we love with others (and a chance to thin plants in our garden).
- Who doesn't love a plant sale?

#### What volunteer opportunities are available?

- Keep reading and sign up to volunteer at SignUp Genius. We look forward to all of you contributing in some way to the success of our plant sale.

#### Start plants from seeds

- It's not too late to start some seeds. Our customers love to purchase our favorites that we grow from seed. If you are going to do this, please let Vicki Young (vyoung@mchsi.com) know what you are growing, so she can print labels.

#### Participate at a dig

- Several Master Gardeners with many plant selections have offered their gardens for a dig where we descend upon their yard and dig their donations. You can choose to dig, divide and pot, or label depending on your physical ability and interest. We will provide instruction.

#### Contribute plants

- Even a small clump from your garden can yield many plants. It's best if you know the Latin name and variety of the plants but if you don't, send a picture of it and our experts may be able to help identify. Pollinator plants are the hot topic this year and we always need shade plants. But other plants are needed as well. To help you decide what to donate, we've compiled a list of the plants we need most and which are most likely to sell. Use this link.

#### Join a potting day

- If you have plants from the desired plant list that you want to donate, bring these to a potting day to get assistance with dividing and potting them up for the sale. Even a small clump can yield numerous starters to plant. We need many volunteers to help pot and label.

#### Help with set-up day: May 20th

- The day before the sale we need lots of hands on deck to sort and set up plants for sale. We also often have some last minute labeling with which we need assistance. Sign up for just a few hours or for the whole day.

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

### Help with the day of sale: May 21st

- There are many opportunities from assisting customers, to providing master gardener expertise, to cashiering, to greeting, to helping carry out plants to customer's cars, to clean up. Morning and afternoon shifts available.

### Collect 'berry boxes'

- The plant sale can always use berry boxes for our customers to carry their purchases. Believe it or not, the sale uses about 800 boxes each year!

At all of these activities, we will provide water and snacks. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served on set-up day and day of sale. Thanks for volunteering!

## What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

The 9th annual garden tour plans are off and running. Because we have only 6 gardens this year, we have selected some extraordinary ones for viewing. The educational component is being fine-tuned and the education stations selected. We plan to enlist speaker's bureau/adult education members to do the presenting, taking our educational quality standards to a new level. The ever popular live demo will highlight raised beds and hydroponics! Four of our host gardens will be involved in a tour version of a larger Arboretum/MG initiative to conduct seed trials involving annuals and pollinator preferences!

In addition we will highlight MG involvement in the Habitat for Humanity program. Save the date; **July 9th** is the big day. SignUp Genius will go live for folks to work the day of the tour towards the middle of May.

## What's Happening with the Community Programs?

Thanks to the 40 or so attendees of the Spring 2016 Community Garden Support Workshop on March 12<sup>th</sup>. The energy in the room was great and we shared helpful stories about our experiences. Click [HERE](#) for the agenda. You can scroll down to the bottom of the first page to get to a link to the presentation and the other handouts. We hope to get Michele Grabowski to a mini-session or as a guest speaker in the future.

We still have some available support opportunities if you are interested. Click [HERE](#) to go to the tab in SignUp Genius to scroll through them and sign up. The featured item again this month is [THIS](#) new project, supporting the HOPE Harbor permanent-supportive housing residents at the Salvation Army in downtown Minneapolis. They have some small plots in the courtyard that are perfect for teaching square-foot gardening techniques.

Other volunteer opportunities continue to flow in and we are opening up existing opportunities to a broader audience so check back often. For example, you may have seen the great garden that has developed over the years on the south side of the [Gethsemane Episcopal Church](#) in Downtown Minneapolis. They started a fairly small garden on a lot next to the church with the owner's permission. It was later taken over by a group who developed it into community garden space and greatly enlarged the area. This group has abandoned the garden and the owner has said they would be able to grow vegetables for their food shelf. In the future they would like to be able to let other community groups use the remainder of the lot but they are not in a position to do that now. They are looking for our help determine what to do with the remainder of the lot to make it look nice with little effort and how to begin the gardening process this spring. Let Del Hampton ([farmerdelmn@aol.com](mailto:farmerdelmn@aol.com)) know if you are interested in helping with this.

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

## What's Happening in Youth Education?

The snow is melting and requests are coming in for help with Schoolyard Gardens this spring. These appear to be across grade levels, including some high schools, and across the county. Indeed, we just learned of some dozen or so of our Minneapolis Public Schools that are interested in our help with their Schoolyard Garden projects. If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up to be part of our Schoolyard Gardens Resource group, where you'll receive support in working with schools. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Olson ([lynnolson25@gmail.com](mailto:lynnolson25@gmail.com))

Schedules for our summer Youth Ed programs are getting worked on as well. These are particularly fun programs, where spontaneity and creativity merge with solid gardening knowledge to make it a fun experience for everyone. Some of our programs will be listed soon (under Youth Ed Summer Programs on SignUp Genius), while others will be coming on line as soon as details can get worked out. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Cichon ([marycichon@mac.com](mailto:marycichon@mac.com)).

## What's Happening in Communications?

We still 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. 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!!!*

---

### 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
May	Thursday, April 21st
June	Thursday, May 26th
July	Thursday, June 23rd

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

## March 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>)

- April 14                    VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh  
The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.
- April 15                    RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu  
Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.
- April 15                    DAY OF SILENCE  
Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.
- April 21–May 2            FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í  
Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'i is suspend work.
- April 22–23                THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist  
In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.
- April 22–30                PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish  
The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
- April 24                    ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY  
Memorializes the genocide of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

## NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

### \*Hat Tip of the Month\*

Goes to 3 MIT students who invented the Sprout Pencil in 2013. The [Sprout Pencil](#) is the first plantable pencil in the world. What a terrific idea! Maybe we should have some of them for our students!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Statewide Conference 2016**

**Registration now open!**

**June 24 and 25, 2016**

**Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

Registration is open! Become inspired by speakers who will empower Extension Master Gardener Volunteers to take action in their communities and share their stories.

Enhance your knowledge and engage in workshops featuring experts in water conservation, ecology, and horticultural research and practices.

Network with your peers through a collaborative educational experience called SHARE, which will examine various local Master Gardener projects from around Minnesota.

Explore the ways Extension Master Gardener Volunteers can use horticulture to make a difference in our environment to create a healthy planet, through healthy plants, for healthy people.

**[Learn more](#)** and **[register](#)**

### **Rain Garden Planting for Pollinators Training**

There's still room for those of you wishing to work with Metro Blooms this year. All folks who wish to participate in rain garden workshops (this year's theme is planting for pollinators and rain garden maintenance) are asked to attend. You'll find the sign-up [here](#).

Speaking of pollinators: *New Bee Briefing !!!*

It's out! The LWV Minnesota's Bee briefing paper, *The Impact of Neonicotinoids on Honey Bees* can be found on the League of Women Voters Minnesota website under Media – publications – you'll find it at the top of the list of "Briefing Papers": <https://www.lwvmn.org/media/publications>

[Hennepin County calendar and Directory under Admin section of our website.](#)

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

## Core course access and reference manual

All Master Gardener volunteers can access the online Core Course (view [instructions](#)) free of charge.

[View Core Course instructions](#)

[Purchase reference manual](#)

## Classes at the Arboretum

\*\*\*\*\*

[Minnehaha Creek Watershed Water Garden Grants taking applications:](#)

### About the grants

No matter where you live, you have waterfront property. When rain falls on your property, it washes off into a nearby storm drain and ends up in a nearby lake, stream or wetland. On the way it picks up all kinds of pollutants and debris. This “storm water runoff” is the #1 source of water pollution in Minnesota.

The best way to prevent this pollution is by keeping water where it lands, letting it soak into the ground and be naturally filtered by the earth. The MCWD can help pay for up to 75% of projects that catch runoff and educate the community on the importance of storm water management.

### What you need to know

- Grants are open to any person or organization. The project must be in the MCWD. Check if you are in the District [here](#).
- Homeowners are eligible for up to \$2,500 for projects in their yard and up to \$5,000 for native shorelines
- Grants can reimburse costs of design, materials and labor
- MCWD requires a design before issuing a grant. A list of design professionals is available at [www.bluethumb.org/partners](http://www.bluethumb.org/partners). The District does not design projects.
- 

### 2016 Deadlines:

**Homeowner projects:** Apply by June 17

**Non-homeowner projects:**

- Fall - Apply by September 26

[Read More](#)

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 2016

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Terry Straub, Program Coordinator, at 612-596-2130 or [straub097@umn.edu](mailto: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](http://www.signupgenius.com) and look in “Items I’ve Been Invited To.”

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](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](http://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](http://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

---

April 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

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 Volunteers. 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.*

*The University of Minnesota, including the Minnesota Extension Service, is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.*

---

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

---

April 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](mailto: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](mailto:strau097@umn.edu)

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

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