

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016



Photo – K. Frederickson

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!

- Sitting Bull

Neural mechanisms: Neural circuits and neurons that have influence on voluntary and involuntary behaviors of the brain.

So what does that have to do with gardening?!?!? Look to the monarch butterfly. Have you ever wondered how it makes its way from one end of the country to its winter home? Turns out monarch butterflies use their head.

They have their own biological clock which takes readings on the position of the sun and match it to their circadian clock. They will adjust direction accordingly.

[Scientist have cracked the mystery of monarch migration and navigation.](#)

That link goes to a very interesting study in layman's language of how they can manage to find their way without asking for directions or using a Garmin.

One more mystery of nature solved.

Monday June 6th

Ice Cream Social & Update Session
Sharing the Knowledge Panel

Panel: Experienced Master Gardeners

Minnetonka Community Center
14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

6:00 -7:00 p.m.: Ice Cream Social: Come celebrate the great work already done by Extension Master Gardeners – Hennepin County at our annual social featuring Golden Gopher Ice Cream!

6:15: Mini-Session: Bacterial Canker Update with Michelle Grabowski, Extension Educator. Eight community gardens in Hennepin County tested positive for this tomato disease. Learn about hot water treatment of seeds to help curb the spread of this disease.

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.: Share the Knowledge Panel: Experienced Master Gardener Volunteers share their learning with us.

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

*******Upcoming Events*******

June 24-25

Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Conference MN Landscape Arboretum, Chaska

July 26

Tour of Seed Savers, Decorah, IA

August 27 - September 7

Minnesota State Fair, Saint Paul

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Membership Committee

It has been exciting to see the Master Gardener interns digging in and getting involved with the many volunteer opportunities this spring. As you complete each volunteer experiences we encourage you to record your volunteer hours. Volunteering during the first year can be a little overwhelming. While there are many ways that you can volunteer, we do encourage you to distribute the volunteer hours throughout the year and make sure you volunteer with a variety of HCMG programs and events. Please contact your mentors and/or the coordinators of each volunteer opportunity (indicated on Sign-Up Genius) if you would like more information on any of the activities available to Master Gardeners.

As a reminder, all interns need to have the Master Gardener core course completed by Tuesday, May 31. Please contact Terry if you have any questions about the completion of the core course.

Finally, we encourage everyone to attend the June Update Session and Ice Cream Social. I recently heard a Master Gardener comment, "I scream, You Scream, We all Scream for University of Minnesota ice cream." Good news - we will once again be featuring many flavors of ice cream from the University of Minnesota at the Ice Cream Social. The ice cream social is an opportunity to celebrate and thank you for the great work we do as Hennepin County Master Gardeners!

What's Happening with the Plant Sale Committee?

[Sign Up! Sign UP!! SIGN UP!!!!](#)

PLANT SALE Q & A

Q. I am working the plant sale set-up. What do I need to know?

A. The Master Gardeners in charge of the Plant Sale set-up have plenty of experience and will provide guidance as to your responsibilities. There are a wide variety of tasks that must be accomplished to get the Hopkins Pavilion set up and ready for our sale. These tasks may include: unloading and moving plants to predetermined locations in the pavilion; labeling miss-labeled plants; cleaning up plants so they look great for day of sale; hanging signage; and a whole host of 'other duties as assigned' to be ready for Saturday. Please follow the instructions you are given. If you have suggestions for set-up for future plants sales, please provide those on the post-sale survey. A continental breakfast and lunch will be available for volunteers.

Q. I signed up to be a driver for set-up day. What do I need to know?

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

A. Drivers are a very important part of the sale, since you are the ones who get the plants from our host sites to the Pavilion. You will be assigned a plant host location where you will be responsible for picking up the trays of potted plants and drive them to the Hopkins Pavilion. Depending on the number of plants being stored at that location, you may need to go to and from the site several times. Also, after you have completed bringing all the plants from your assigned site to the Pavilion, you may be asked to go to a different site if there are still plants there to be moved.

Q. I am working the day of the sale. What do I need to know?

A. If you didn't sign up for a particular area of the sale (i.e., sun, shade, natives, etc.) you will be assigned an area when you arrive. We schedule Master Gardeners in particular areas so we can help our customers find and understand about the plants at the sale. If you aren't helping customers, please check to see if the tables need to be restocked with plants (stored under the table), or need to be tidied, or can be consolidated. A few things to know: there are no pre-sales to Master Gardeners and no pick-up and hold will be allowed. This preserves the integrity of our sale. If you are working the morning shift, you will be able to shop and purchase plants at your first break. There are no discounts for Master Gardeners, and there are no reductions at the end of the sale. If you are concerned that the plant(s) you want may be gone by the time you are allowed to shop, please ask a friend or a Master Gardener who isn't working at that time to purchase the plant for you. Any left-over plants are donated first to our own projects i.e., Habitat for Humanity, Jr. Master Gardener Program), second to other non-profit gardening groups (i.e., Metro Blooms), and others. A continental breakfast and lunch will be available for workers.

Q. Why do we limit what plants we sell at the sale?

A. Based on past selling history, we may limit the sale of certain plants. Additionally, there are some plants we know are more invasive than others so we are hesitant to sell them to new gardeners.

Q. Are berry boxes still needed for the sale?

A. Absolutely! If you can pick some up that would be greatly appreciated.

Q. Are there still volunteer opportunities available?

A. Yes! Please check out [Sign-Up Genius for the Plant Sale!!!](#)

What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

The 9th annual MG Learning Garden tour (**July 9th**), is looking like our best garden tour yet!! We have selected 6 outstanding gardens this year. The education stations will include not only popular new topics but each will feature a "tough site" topic as well. We are also continuing with our uber popular live demos; this year we will demonstrate composting bin construction and best practices as well as elevated garden bed construction. And due to popular demand we will also highlight hydroponics. New this year, we will feature

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

some of our MG partners including Habitat for Humanity and the MN state Horticultural Society. We have even included a live interactive activity that focuses on Annuals and how they attract pollinators. The garden shed will feature 11 brand new hand-crafted products. Our gift bag team has some fabulous items and resources to include in this year's complimentary bags. To top it off, every guest will receive a bag of *Cowsmo* cow manure!!!

Look for the sign up for volunteers (for the day of the tour) opening May25th. You won't want to miss out on the fun.

What's Happening with the Community Programs?

The April showers finally arrived and it's just what we needed to get us all sprouting and set outside for the season. The In-The-Garden support and other teams are filling. Planning meetings are going great. But the activity is moving outside. Gardens are getting built-out or rebuilt all over. The Farmers Markets are starting up. The Garden Centers are buzzing. And the Habitat projects are starting. Fantastic work, everybody! It's so exciting...

Thanks to Jim Fulton stepping up to cover the [Salvation Army HOPE Harbor](#) opportunity and Larry Cipolla for the Hydroponic Salad Table support and [Gethsemane Episcopal Church](#) in Downtown Minneapolis. We could still use a back-up for HOPE Harbor if you are interested. I'm in negotiations with Mike Slinkard to take point on the [Hennepin County Health Department](#) sites. There are three active sites now with four more in the wings. We have lots of interns signed up to help but we need a lead MG.

We still have other support opportunities available if you are interested. The featured item this month is [THIS](#) new project, supporting PPL at one of their residences in North Minneapolis. This is a great opportunity to expand the existing relationship we have with Project for Pride and Living. Also still available is working with the New Creation Baptist Church Community Garden - click [HERE](#) if interested.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the tab in SignUp Genius to scroll through them and sign up.

What's Happening in Youth Education?

Within another month or so, our youth ed summer programs will be in full swing. We are still looking for volunteers to work in our urban-based youth ed programs at Heritage Park, Mashkiikii Gitigan and Dr. Martin Luther King Park, as well as a new opportunity (soon to be posted on Sign Up Genius) at Franklin Cooperative Housing in the Seward neighborhood. These programs really do offer youth who would otherwise not have this opportunity a chance to experience and explore the wonders of nature through gardening.

Follow this link [Youth Ed](#) to the Sign Up Genius page for one of the programs, and tab between them to find one that might work for you. You just might find this work to be the most rewarding of your HCMG experiences all year! Contact Mary Cichon (marycichon@mac.com) if you need more info.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

Another wonderful Youth Ed opportunity is our Gopher Adventures program, held at the U of M St. Paul Campus Trial Garden area. This program takes full advantage of what the U of M St. Paul Campus has to offer, and although led by HCMGs, offers the opportunity to work with MGs from other Counties. Sessions for kids from 8 to 12 years old are held on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to Noon, generally from June through mid-August. Dates for 2016 will be posted in Sign Up Genius soon. For more information contact Betsy Massie (betsymassie@me.com).

If you're not available during the weekdays, but would like to help with summer youth ed programming on the weekends, check out our offerings at the Bloomington and Richfield Farmer's markets ([Farmer's Markets](#)). These quick educational opportunities are fun for all...including the HCMGs who work these events! Mary Plumb is the lead HCMG for these events; contact her for more information (mgplumb@finenorthernoak.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 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!!! Bugs, Birds and Bees 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
June	Thursday, May 26th
July	Thursday, June 23rd
August	Thursday, 21st

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

May 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>)

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| May Full Month | ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. |
| May Full Month | JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievement of American Jews. |
| May 1 | INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY
Also known as May Day, it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day. |
| May 3 | WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY
Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news. |
| May 5 | ASCENSION DAY • Christian
Celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. |
| May 5 | CINCO DE MAYO
In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla |
| May 5 | YOM HASHOAH • Jewish
"Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust. |
| May 8 | MOTHER'S DAY
Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers. |
| May 15 | BUDDHA DAY • Buddhist
Also known as Vesak or Visakha Puja, it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha. |

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

- May 15 PENTECOST • Christian
- Also known as Whitsunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.
- May 21 WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT
- Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.
- May 23 DECLARATION OF THE BAB • Bahá'í
- Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.
- May 26 LAG B'OMER • Jewish
- Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).
- May 29 ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í
- Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
- May 30 MEMORIAL DAY
- Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Goes to Mary Kay Haas of Washington County for her timely reminder of an excellent resource to review before manning "Ask the Master Gardener" booths and especially for the State Fair!

[Best Plants for 30 Tough Sites](#)

The Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardeners invite you to our Summer Garden Festival, Tuesday, June 14th, 6:30 - 8:30. Rain or Shine in our Teaching Garden at the Scott County Fairgrounds, 7151 190th St. W., Jordan, MN 55352. Free of charge; no registration required.

Presentations include Mushroom Foraging, Food Preservation and Getting in Shape to Garden. For more information and other summer offerings, see Evenings in the Garden under Programming at www.carverscottmastergardeners.org. 952-492-5379

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

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](#)**

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.](#)

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

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

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. The District does not design projects.
-

2016 Deadlines:

Homeowner projects: Apply by June 17

Non-homeowner projects:

- Fall - Apply by September 26

[Read More](#)

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.”

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/LandscapeArboretum

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

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!

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.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 2016

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.

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

May 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/>