

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016



Photo – C. Commons

Half the interest of a garden is the constant exercise of the imagination. ~Mrs. C.W. Earle, A Taste for Gardens (1897)

There are strange creatures in my garden, I see evidence of their presence every day. A rusty red splotch here, a cluster of brownish dots there, a small trail of silver over yonder. Hints of this, that, or another pest. All of which sent me to hunt down the best source for diagnosis of Minnesota creatures: [Jeff Hahn's June 2016 reference guide.](#)

Observation of the evidence is one thing, knowing how to recognize benevolent vs. destructive is important as well. It also occurs to me that this is not just worthy of bookmarking, but a good review prior to your volunteer stint at any Farmer's Market or "Ask the Master Gardener" session, especially with the State Fair coming up!

Speaking of incoming insects – see Jeff Hahn's article on [Mosquitoes and Zika Virus](#)

OH NO!!! Japanese Beetles have been [sighted!](#)



****Next Update****
Monday September 12th**

Sign-Up Opportunities:

Farmer's Markets Galore: They Ask YOU!
(Various times, places and dates are open all summer long!)

August 27 - September 7
Minnesota State Fair Fairgrounds, Saint Paul
Mark your calendars!



Learning Garden Tour
Saturday, July 9, 9am
NW Suburbs

Experience some serious garden envy at the Hennepin County Learning Garden Tour on Saturday July 9 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. This self-guided 2016 tour features the gardens of six Extension Master Gardener volunteers who live in the west and northwest suburbs. Master Gardeners from across the county will be on hand to answer all of your questions and will be giving short presentations at each garden. We hope to see you there!

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Membership Education Committee

We are concentrating our learning on: Four lined plant bugs, Apple maggots, aphids, cabbage loopers and the list goes on. There seem to be so many insects that we battle in the garden. By the time many of us see the damage to the plants the insect has pupated or has moved on and is no longer an issue. How do you manage your insect pests? I prefer benign neglect to be my first response when dealing with most pests.

Most of the time, in my experience, the damage done to the plants is minimal. Sawflies are found early-mid spring and can be controlled by hand picking or a strong spray of water to wash them from your pines. Each year my azaleas are infested with sawfly larva, I just let them be and even though the bush looks quite bare for a few weeks after, it leafs out well and flowers wonderfully each year. They seem to prefer the 'White Lights' azalea over all the others in my yard.

The next pest for me is the four lined plant bugs. Those little red nymphs move fast, a quick clap of your hands on the plants (squishing the leaves and bugs) will get most of them and do little damage to the plants themselves. Insecticidal soap works well too. I find that the plants outgrow most of the damage and by time you read this you are seeing only the adults in your garden. For those heavily infested plants you can cut them back to crown level after frost kill and send the eggs to the compost bin -- yours or the city compost.

Cabbage loopers are best handled by protective row covers. These will also protect your squash plants from vine borers. Remove the row covers from the squash plants as they flower. Mixing your plants in your perennial beds rather than planting all the cabbage or squash in one area will help hide them from the pests.

The apple maggot fly usually appears in our area about the 3rd week of June. You can hang traps to find out when she is around. The red traps work well. My suggestion: cover the traps with handi-wrap or a plastic bag, apply the 'tangle foot' over the plastic and hang. Clean up will be easier. If you want to spray, you can start your spray routine according to directions when you trap the first maggot fly. You can also bag your apples as soon as they are large enough for you to see them -- about dime or quarter size and that will prevent most of the damage from the apple maggot fly.

Japanese beetles are a voracious pest. If you have encountered them before, be on the early look out for them. When you spot the first advanced guard, early in the morning when it is cool, knock them into a bucket of soapy water. JB's emit a pheromone that will attract other JB's to the area. If you can knock down the first infestation numbers you can really cut down on the future population for this year.

Aphids can be hosed off with a strong stream of water or killed with insecticidal soap.

Remember I mentioned I prefer benign neglect? Every time I interfere with how my garden responds I am taking the place of nature in the war on insect pests. I will never do the job as well as nature would. So I prefer whenever possible to just let it be and let nature take its course and reach an equilibrium. So I will let the aphid population grow to attract the ladybugs. I invite nature to take out as many insects as possible by making my yard a nice place for the birds and for the predator insects. Good luck to you in your gardening.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

What's Happening with the Plant Sale Committee?

- 15,542 - number of plants available for sale
- 21 and 4 - number of small and large cases of plastic pots used, respectively
- 85 - number of bags of potting soil
- 15 - average number of plants that even a single small clump from your garden can yield
- \$67.50 - potential sale from a single small clump of plants
- \$37,000 - total sales from 2016 HCMG Plant Sale
- 113 - number of Master Gardener Volunteers that donated hours to make our plant sale a success

Priceless -- what \$37, 000 can contribute to our efforts to support community gardens, youth gardening activities, presentations to new and old gardeners, and other efforts that support gardening in Hennepin County.

Again, thank you all for your efforts and enthusiasm.

What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

It's the final countdown to the Hennepin county MG learning garden tour. "Not even one week to go" (and, hey plants I'm talkin' to you now, "ONE" week to grow!!!).

We have a fabulous lineup this year. The beautiful gardens are just one part of the experience. The education stations address a variety of popular topics but we have added a new element. In addition to an education station, each garden will feature a "tough site" issue and how the garden host addressed it. The "garden shed" will preview a new line of really cool items and the new "book nook" will carry some hot new titles.

We will be hosting the MN State Horticulture Society at one garden and Habitat for Humanity at another. The ever popular raptors will make their annual appearance as well. Finally, all guests will receive a gift bag with goodies and solid garden references.

Lastly, a big thank you to those who have volunteered to work on the tour. And for those of you that have not, you can still sign up on the [substitute list](#). If you just want to go on the tour, ticket sales are live and available for only \$15.00.

What's Happening in Youth Education?

Our summer youth ed programs are now in full swing, but there are still plenty of opportunities to join the fun! Even if you can only assist with a session or two, it will be most appreciated. We find that youth ed activities tend to go better if we are well staffed - two (or more) heads are always better than one! Click [here](#) for some of our summer urban youth education programs.

Don't forget our Gopher Adventures program (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-gopher2>), and our youth education activities on some Saturday mornings at both the Bloomington and Richfield Farmers Markets (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-little>) Thanks!

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

What's Happening in Communications?

Barb Gasterlund has suggested we sign every MASTGAR communication with our County in addition to our names. Our answers are frequently based on location. Minnesota ranges across multiple USDA Zones!!

We will always need articles, social media, and general gardening writings. If you have interest in any of these facets, please contact [Melinda Mattox](#) for details.

Be it a sentence, a poem or a quiet thought, be a contributor to our Garden Confidential Photos Welcome!!! Bugs, Birds and Bees Welcome!! Send them to me at the address below noting it's for the newsletter.

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
August	Thursday, July 21st
September	Thursday, August 25th
October	Thursday, September 22nd

JULY 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>)

- August 9 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.
- August 12 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.
- August 14 TISHA B'AV • Jewish
Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 BCE.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

- August 15 OBON • Buddhist
Also known as Bon, the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirits of past ancestors.
- August 17 ULAMBANA • Buddhist
Buddhist Ghost Festival. The unsettled spirits of dead ancestors are calmed with chanting and offerings to enable them to pass peacefully into the next world.
- August 18 RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu
Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.
- August 23 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION
Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.
- August 25 KRISHNA JAYANTI • Hindu
Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Goes to Lindsay Foy, Pennington County Master Gardener for

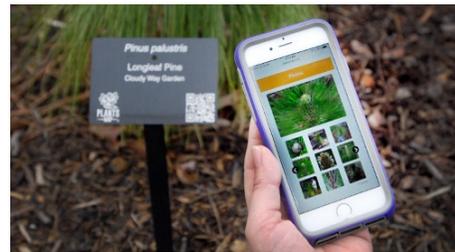
Introducing us to:

<http://info.plantsmap.com/help/my-plants-map/what-is-my-plants-map/>

“They are beautiful laser etched aluminum tags that are decently priced (\$3-\$5 a tag).

The best thing about these tags is that it features a QR code - when scanned with a smart phone it will bring up your custom page for that plant.

I'm smitten with the service and the owner (Bill) is A++++”



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](#)

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

[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. The District does not design projects.

2016 Deadlines for 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/Landscape Arboretum](http://www.mntca.org/become-tca/Landscape%20Arboretum)

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!

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

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.

Register for the Lunchtime Webinar Series: Wednesdays at noon

[Sign up now](#) to receive weekly email reminders for the 2016 Master Gardener Lunchtime Webinars! The webinar series runs through September (Wednesdays, noon to 12:30 p.m.). The webinars feature UMN Extension Educators sharing new research-based horticulture and environmental practices information.

A calendar with a complete listing is linked from the Continuing Education page on the state website. Make sure you don't miss these useful webinars - sign up to receive a weekly reminder! We're also linked to the calendar from our Hennepin County Education page.

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

What's that Weed?

Wednesday, June 29th, 7 – 8 p.m.

Nine Mile Creek Discovery Point (12800 Gerard Dr., Eden Prairie)

Want to know what weeds are creeping into your yard? Sam Bauer, an Extension Educator from the University of Minnesota will walk us through the basics of weed identification and what to do about them. Afterwards, enjoy a tour (and probably a little more weed id!) of the Discovery Point grounds.

RSVP to Gael at gzembal@ninemilecreek.org or 952-204-9691.

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Discovery Point

12800 Gerard Dr.

Eden Prairie, MN 55346

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.

NEW “Z” – Resource List Available!

Check out the cool new “z-list” created for our Learning Garden Tour (thank you Ann Thureen!) on the next page! What is this?

z.umn.edu is a URL shortening service provided by the University of Minnesota to make URLs (Uniform Resource Locator or a reference to a resource on the Internet) easier to read and use. You may have seen something similar called TinyURL used in other contexts. If you are someone with the right privileges (such as our own Terry Straub), you can rename a complicated link (URL) with something easier to use and register it with the university. Once this is done, anyone can use that shortened link anytime. For example instead of typing <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/landscaping/best-plants-for-tough-sites/docs/08464-complete.pdf> to access the Tough Sites PDF, you can now just type z.umn.edu/toughsites. These links will be posted on the Learning Garden Tour page of the website.

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

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

July 2016



Thank you for attending the 2016 Extension Master Gardener Program – Hennepin County Learning Garden Tour.

If you want to learn more about the topics we covered on the tour, we recommend these sites.

Boulevard Gardens	Tough Sites Book:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
Clay Soil	Tough Sites Book:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
Composting	Overview:	http://z.umn.edu/composting
	Addressing problems:	http://z.umn.edu/compostproblems
Dry Shade	Tough Sites Book:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
Elevated beds	Raised bed how to:	http://z.umn.edu/raisedbed
Hydroponics	Salad Table:	http://z.umn.edu/hydroponicsaladtables
Native plants	For Sustainable Landscapes:	http://z.umn.edu/nativeplants
	Native plant list:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
No mow Fescue	Grass overview including Fescue:	http://z.umn.edu/coolgrasses
	General discription:	http://z.umn.edu/nomow
	Video showing fescues:	http://z.umn.edu/nomowvideo
Perennials	List of perennials:	http://z.umn.edu/whatswrong
	Implementation, Maintenance:	http://z.umn.edu/sulis
	Plant selection: Elements of Design:	http://z.umn.edu/elementsofdesignintro
Pollinators	Best Practices:	http://z.umn.edu/polinatorbestmanagement
	Butterfly Gardening:	http://z.umn.edu/butterflygardening
	Flowers for bees:	http://z.umn.edu/beeplants
Propagating Perennials	Dividing perennials:	http://z.umn.edu/dividingperennials
	Wildflower seed:	http://z.umn.edu/wildflowerseed
Seed Trials	Program:	http://z.umn.edu/seedtrials
	2015 report:	http://z.umn.edu/seedtrialreport
Self seeding perennials	Tough Sites Book:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
Shade Gardening	Tough Sites Book:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
	Gardening in the Shade	http://z.umn.edu/shadegarden
Soil Testing	Information; Find a coupon in your gift bag	http://z.umn.edu/testyoursoil

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2016

Storing bulbs	Overview:	http://z.umn.edu/storingbulbs
Sudden sun to shade gardens	Tough Sites Book:	http://z.umn.edu/toughsites
Vegetable Gardening	Overview:	http://z.umn.edu/vegetables
	Planting:	http://z.umn.edu/plantveggies

This information is also online <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/events/hcmg-learning-garden-tour/> Find More Online Diagnostics Tools and Resources www.extension.umn.edu/garden

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 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/>