

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

December 2016



Photo Wikimedia Commons

*All the leaves are brown
And the sky is grey
I went for a walk
On a winter's day
I'd be safe and warm
If I was in L.A.
California dreamin'
On such a winter's day.
- Mamas and Papas, California Dreamin'*

Cup of coffee in hand, I was greeted with a cacophony of Canadian Geese gliding in for a landing this morning. Not exactly quiet, but it sure was a beautiful sight.

I laughed at the “winter interest” I left in the yard, still so very green. It is now a time for rest, relaxation over books and introspection. What will I change in the garden, what’s new? What will I ask for as gifts for Christmas? (See the “Hat Tip Of the Month” for a listing of hints).

Father Time will slowly trudge while Mother Nature flits around him with waves of snow and of cold. We will welcome the ever fewer touches of green. We’ll be briefly entertained with Christmas cheer and the New Year’s celebration of hope.

BIG REMINDER!!!! You still must log your volunteer hours for 2016!! Don’t forget!!!! Get thee to the [Master Gardener Log-In page](#) and after you’ve completed your time and event input, double check your information and update it too!

December 31 End of 2016 Program Year
REPORTING DEADLINE

www.mg.umn.edu

There are no Update meetings in December or
January

SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, January 29
Awards & Recognition Banquet
Adath Jeshurun Congregation



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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Speaker's Bureau?

Meet the Speaker's Bureau!!!

A couple of years back the Extension Master Gardener Program – Hennepin County Leadership Team confronted an excellent problem: we had lots of people wanting to take adult-education classes from us, but not enough volunteers to fill the need. What to do?

Enter the Speaker's Bureau – a group of new and experienced presenters willing to learn one or two topics in depth and to commit to teaching at least one class a year. Our mission: support enough volunteers to fill all the requests for our ten(ish) most requested presentations. We streamlined and updated our slides, uploaded them onto the HCMG website, taught a day-long seminar on presentation skills, and created several teams, each dedicated to presenting one of our most-requested topics.

Fast forward to now. Requests have gone up, demand continues to increase, and we've added more topics. But, thanks to the Speaker's Bureau presentation teams, we're filling almost all of those requests; and we're presenting to a wider audience than ever.

If you think you might enjoy teaching (or learning to teach) folks your own age, now's a great time to think about connecting with a Speaker's Bureau presentation team. The Speaker's Bureau's greatest hits include Butterfly Gardening, Edible Gardening, The Evolving Garden (“ideas and practices to help you and your garden to age gracefully together”), Square Foot Vegetable Gardening, Container Garden: A How-To Guide, Backyard Compost Basics, Worm Compost Basics, Care of Houseplants, The Heart of Herbs, Sustainable Lawn Care, Perennial Gardening Basics, Perennial Shade Gardening, Getting the Most From Your Perennial Garden, Rain Gardening, Your First Vegetable Garden, and Advanced Vegetable Gardening.

How to become a Speakers' Bureau presenter? It's simple. Pick a topic you like from the list I just mentioned, and connect with me or someone on the presentation team. We'll add you to Signup Genius so you can see and sign up for upcoming presentations. If you're new to the topic, review the slides and materials (on hennepinmastergardeners.org, password protected under the “Adult Education” link), watch someone more experienced present, then co-present with someone more experienced, and then you're ready to solo.

Please email Karin Ciano, Adult Education Chair, at compostress@gmail.com to be connected with a team, or for more information. Thank you!

What's Happening with the Membership Team?

CONGRATULATIONS to our newly selected interns! 45 NEW Extension Master Gardener Volunteers will join us in 2017: Susan Abelson, Amanda Abrams, Jonathan Allinder, Joshua Angel, Lisa Beier, Laura Brayn, Amy Clough, Darielle Dannen, Emily Dennis, Lynn Dunlap, Joyce Edmeier, Paula Fleming, Lisa Flynn, Dorothy (Sis) Hanson, Andrew Hatling, Phil Jubert, John Kelly, Madeline Kvale, Jim Langford, Shao Chyi (Angie) Lee, Bethany Lewis, Melissa Licht, Roger Mazze, Lynn Messman, Barbara Morin, Mary Ellen Murphy,

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Luke Nichols, Tonja Orr, Alberto Ortiz, Kristin Pavelka, Chelsea Pedersen, Christina Perfetti, Deedra Porter, Sandra Rader, Randall Rau, Lori Rolfs, Sunshine Sevigny, Andrew Sheard, Charlotte (Char) Squire, Jane Stanton, Derrick Strom, Jody Tableporter, Nathan Thompson, Maran Wolston, and Becky Wood. We also have 2 individuals transferring from other counties joining us: Peggy DeSanto comes from Kanabec County and Jessica Wilson joins us from Blue Earth County.

Of course, we could not welcome these new individuals properly without the assistance of our fantastic mentors! Thanks to the following for volunteering to mentor our new members: Grace Anderson, Mary Bisek, Janet Bones, Linda Brammer, Mary Cichon, Larry Cipolla, Rhonda Converse, Susan Flemming, Lynda Forbes, Barb Gasterland, Flo Golod, Kay Grady, Sarah Green Toews, Teri Haugland, Mary Hunstiger, Lorraine Kretchman, Michealeen Krueger, Nancy Larkin, Betty Lenz, Catherine McDonnel-Forney, Kate Netwal, Anna Olsen, Rhea Pappas, Kari Pastir-Smith, Rebecca Patient, Mary Plumb, Jodie Pritchard, Deb Reiersen, Deb Revier, Theresa Rooney, Karen Ruth, Laurie Salzl Saylor, Donna Sankey, Barry Schade, Jan Schulz, Susan Scofield, Deb Stepanek, Dianna Straate, Steve Thompson, Susan Thompson, David Tobelman, Kathleen White, Leah Wilcutt and Mary Young. Special thanks to Sarah Green Toews, Anna Olsen and Karen Ruth for working with two individuals this year!

A special thanks to our Application and Interview Task Force who met five times since June to review the processes, make recommendations and score applications! This led to some changes to the process, including new and improved questions on the application and in the interview. Thank you Chris Beach (who also offered us meeting space at the Lutheran Social Services Center for Changing Lives,) Mary Ellen Becker, Bernell Buchanan, Mary Cichon, Mollie Dean, Del Hampton, Kurtis Hunsberger, Michaela Krueger and Darren Lochner!

There's still time to get your award nominations in! Just visit our [Awards Page](#) to learn more!

What's Happening with the Fundraising Committee?

As we are nearing the end of 2016 and you are considering which charitable donations you might want to make, please think about including a tax-deductible donation to the Hennepin County Extension Master Gardener program. Just like the plant sale and the garden tour, donations allow us to invest in educating Hennepin County residents about all things horticultural.

All of our fundraising efforts allow us to meet our mission of "bringing research-based horticultural information to Hennepin County community through the following educational activities: teaching adults at community education classes, garden clubs, community gardens and other organizations; teaching youth in classrooms, community organizations, showing how to plant at their schools and other community locations; responding to gardening questions on the Garden Hotline; and answering gardening questions at local garden centers, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and other community locations; and assisting residents with environmental issues such as how to install a rain garden, low impact lawn or plant a tree."

Our efforts make a difference. Contact [Tina Falkner](#) for details on giving.

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What's Happening in Youth Education?

In this season of giving thanks, Youth Ed would like to extend our gratitude for the following:

First, here's a big THANK YOU to EMG-HCs who have brought forward proposals for presentations at the Schoolyard Garden Summit to be held at the Arboretum on March 3, 2017. Mary Tessman and Janice Schulz have offered a presentation entitled "Schoolyard Gardens: Extending the Seasons." Then Lynn Olson and Susan Fleming have arranged to showcase our work in a number of schools where various problems have been successfully addressed. The gardens at Anthony Middle School, Howe Elementary, Breck High School and Rogers Elementary STEM Magnet School will all be featured. Look for more information about this Summit in the near future.

We are also grateful for the funding support to the youth at the Green Garden Bakery from both a EMG-HC's foundation, as well as Hennepin County Extension's unencumbered funds. With this funding, the youth hope to be able to build a hoop house so that they can extend their growing season of the vegetables they use in their baked products. They are also hoping to install an irrigation system and purchase a number of gardening or harvesting related tools. The kids plan as well to build a shed to store their gardening tools near their garden site, along with a Farmers Market stand. Be sure to watch for their baked goods at the Lyndale Farmers Market Annex, area co-ops and festivals.

Finally, we're grateful for all the work EMG-HCs have done to educate youth across Hennepin County about gardening, nature and solid environmental practices. We are planning a year-end celebration of our efforts, and everyone is invited! Please plan to join us on Wednesday, 12-7-16 at 6:00 PM, at the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, 15320 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka, MN 55345. For more information, please contact Mary Cichon (marycichon@mac.com) or Betsy Massie (betsymassie@me.com).

What's Happening with the Community Programs?

What a great 2016! And I'm not just talking about the fabulous weather.

The EMG-HC Community Garden Support season-ending celebration and wrap-up was held on Saturday, November 12th. It was a well-attended, interactive session at the Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis. Notes from the meeting are forthcoming. You can find the agenda [HERE](#), and a link to the workshop materials is at the bottom of the first page of the agenda.

The 2017 goals for the Community Garden Support team are:

- Create Community Programs Intranet Web site – look for the link early next year in the for EMG-HC Master Gardeners section of the [EMG-HC home page](#)
- Create a resource distribution system for free plants and other gardening item offers
- Develop an evaluation process to determine how well we are meeting the customer needs
- Implement a succession plan

Committees are being set up to carry this work forward. Let us know if you are interested in joining any of them.

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What's Happening in Communications?

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.

Make sure you receive important program information

Keep current and **update your contact information** in the **database** so you receive important program information! You can re-subscribe to receive program updates by going **here**.

If you don't see program e-newsletters in your primary mailbox, be sure to check SPAM or filtered mail ("Promotions", "Updates", etc.). To make sure email from the state program goes to your primary box, add the mgweb@umn.edu "From" email address to your "Contacts" or move emails from mgweb@umn.edu to the "Primary" mail tab.

[Learn more](#)

[Update your information](#)

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 your contribution to Kathy 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
January	Thursday, December 22 th
February	Thursday, January 26th
March	Thursday, February 23rd

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December 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>)

December 1	WORLD AIDS DAY International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
December 3	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
December 8	BODHI DAY • Buddhist Also known as <i>Rohatsu</i> , it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
December 10	HUMAN RIGHTS DAY On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
December 12	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad which occurs in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.
December 12	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
December 15	BILL OF RIGHTS DAY Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
December 17	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi'a) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad which occurs in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

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December 21	WINTER SOLSTICE In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.
December 25	CHRISTMAS • Western Christian Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
December 24– January 1	CHANUKAH • Jewish Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
December 26– January 1, 2017	KWANZAA A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.
December 29	WOUNDED KNEE DAY On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Goes to Diane Booth, Crook County Master Gardener for her compilation of suggestions from the State-wide Masters for the following list of suggestions for reading and tools!

Christmas List of Recommended Books for Gardeners

2016

List from **Kent Petterson**, Terrace Horticulture Books in St. Paul:

He suggested 3 book types to form the information backbone of a gardener’s library:

A how to garden book – *The Garden Primer* by Barbara Damrosch

An encyclopedia of gardening – *Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening* by the Editors of Rodale Press

A botany book – *Ecology for Gardeners* by Steve Carroll and Steven Salt

Then he suggested the following specific titles:

- *Bringing Nature Home* by Douglas Tallamy; best book on the topic of insects and native plants

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- *Pollinators of Native Plants* by Heather Holm; a Minnesota author of a book loaded with specimen photos and information for gardeners about insects and native plants
- *Flower Growing in the North* by George Luxton; a Minnesota classic filled with anecdotal information
- *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates* by Mike Heger and John Whitman; filled with plant recommendations and photos
- *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota* by Lynn Steiner; talks about native plants and how to use them in your design
- *Canoe Country Flora* by Mark Stensaas; explores the native plants available and how to use them
- *The Victory Garden Companion* by Michael Weishan; offers advice for creating a beautiful landscape
- *Gardens to Go* by Sydney Eddison; one of many that offers how to and design tips for using containers in a display garden
- *Second Nature* by Michael Pollan; first book that is a wonderful winter read about his gardener education, one of many great gardening memoirs that gardeners love to read.

Other Books Recommended by U of M Extension Master Gardener Volunteers

- *Perennials for Minnesota and Wisconsin* by Don Engebretson & Don Williamson
- *Annuals for Minnesota and Wisconsin* by Don Engebretson & Don Williamson
- *The Well Tended Perennial Garden* by Tracy DiSabato-Aust
- *Annuals for Every Purpose* by Larry Hodgson
- *Perennials for Every Purpose* by Larry Hodgson
- *The Unexpected Houseplant* by Tovah Martin

Tools, Goodies, and MORE Tools!!!

Tools

- Nejiri Garden Hoe (Dewit Dutch Hand Hoe is similar)
- Cobra head Weeder
- Hori Hori Knife*

**You open the gift box. Yes! it's just what you wanted! You drop the wrapping paper, leave the wine glass, and the astonished friends, you zoom out to the garden even though it's perfectly dark by now, and you find that dandelion illuminated by the front door's light. You heft the hori hori in your hand. You are a warrior. You are invincible. The enemy will die. This sturdy, hefty tool feels great in the palm of your hand. It easily slides into the soil alongside the offending dandy. A little pressure, and pop! the root, the leaves, the whole rosette of the heinous green Medusa is airborne like a cork out of a bottle. You think yes! finally! the war is over, I am The Gardener. Review by Magdalena Bassett (Universal Garden Helper)*

- Ho Mi Easy Digger (Korean Garden Hoe)
- AM Leonard Deluxe Soil Knife with Holster
- ARS Fruit Snips with Holster

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- Good Trowel that Fits My Hand
- Waxed Canvas Bag with Many Pockets from Frost River in Duluth
- Large Bucket with Garden Tool Caddy
- Fiskar Big Grip Garden Tool
- Tubtrug for weeding, carrying water, etc.
- Over the Shoulder Harvesting Bucket (HOSS)
- Fiskars 7" Folding Saw
- Felco Bypass Pruners
- Wagon for hauling soil, tools, the occasional child
- Assortment of Flower Arranging Supplies: frogs, wet foam, floral tape, wire, picks, snippers, etc.

Garden Wear

- Rose Gloves: Heavy duty leather that come up to my elbows and are great for pruning roses or any other thorny shrub.
- Great pair of knee pads
- Garden hat
- Sweat bands
- Gardena Gloves – have rubber tips, wear well, are inexpensive and allow finger dexterity
- Crocs

Garden Décor

- Decorative metal chicken
- Rooster weather vane
- Fairy House
- 6' x 3' Outhouse for the Garden
- Clay pot painted and decorated by grandkids and filled with plants
- Garden bench
- Unique bird houses

Garden Supplies

- Trailer load of compost
- Flower bulbs

Other

- Gift certificates to favorite garden center
- Membership to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
- Green Prints – a quarterly magazine with garden stories, etc.
- Subscription to garden magazine like Northern Gardening
- Membership in Horticultural Society
- Coupon for 3 hrs or more of labor in my garden

From Terry: Calendars are in! If you're looking for that Holiday gift for that special gardener, the 2017 Gardening Calendars have arrived in the office. Cost is \$10 with the proceeds going to support our program.

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2017 Schoolyard Garden Conference

Mark your calendars! The 5th Annual Schoolyard Garden Conference will take place on March 3, 2017, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend. Two presentation opportunities listed below are open to you. Conference attendance and presentation hours will satisfy education hour requirements.

This year, the conference is introducing a new exhibitor showcase which highlights a collection of selected programs that have solved a problem by creating an innovative solution. Potential categories include:

- Irrigation
- Summer garden management
- Rabbit issues and other pests
- Funding obstacles
- Space obstacles
- Garden classroom management
- Community support
- Garden facilities (Hand washing, etc.)
- Extending the garden season
- Expanding use in the garden
- Portable gardens

These presentations will be short, informal, and offer information and problem solving to small groups that will move through the Showcase.

More info and registration: [Schoolyard Conference](#)

A message from Tim Kenny:

Latest Yard and Garden News: <http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/> Check for the latest issue and wise words about current Minnesota garden happenings.

Also from Tim:

Are you able to help out in a pinch when the Master Gardener Q & A desk has a last minute opening on weekends? If you want to know about openings at the desk, please send an email to [Ariel Dressler](#) to be included on our emergency contact list. When a last minute opening occurs, you will be called or emailed. Together we can make sure there are always two Master Gardeners at the Q & A desk on weekends to answer yard and garden questions and share sustainable gardening information with the public. Thank you for volunteering!

Place your order now for the 2017 [Minnesota Gardening calendar](#). Master Gardeners receive a 50% discount on the calendar by entering MG50 in the coupon code.

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

Opportunities Coming Up at the MN Landscape Arboretum

The landscape arboretum is proceeding apace with their 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.

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)

Karin Ciano (Adult Education)

Theresa Rooney (Member Education Chair)

Stephanie Steel (Secretary / Treasurer)

See the HCMG Directory for contact information.

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



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Hennepin County

479 Prairie Center Drive Eden
Prairie, MN 55344-5378

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

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

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

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