

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

January 2017



Photo credit Wikimedia

"I prefer winter and Fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape — the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show". ~Andrew Wyeth

Runners warm up and cool down, skiers do, too. Football players have their drills, basketball players practice their dribbles. Our athleticism may not be quite the same, but we'd do ourselves a favor by following their lead.

Getting into better shape for gardening is my one and only resolution for 2017. It has always been what I called an "achy-breaky" start to the gardening season. And I swear **THIS YEAR WON'T BE THAT WAY!**

AARP has a guide to some excellent gardening exercises to shape up and avoid that rotten start here: [More-Raking-Less-Aching](#)

Per this 2010 article, "An hour of [gardening](#) can reduce stress, boost bone density, and burn a whopping 300 calories."

I consider that a bonus!

*Annual Awards & Recognition Banquet

Sunday, January 29

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Adath Jeshurun Congregation

10500 Hillside Ln W, Minnetonka, MN 55305

[\(Map\)](#)

FREE Admission for EMG-HC Volunteers!
You're invited to bring a guest for \$10. Click [here](#) to register via Sign-up Genius.

**

(Don't forget your nametags!)

****There is no Update meeting in January**

FEBRUARY UPDATE SESSION

Monday, February 6

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. : Volunteer Fair

7:00 to 8:30 p.m. : Annual Meeting

Location: St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55408



Currier & Ives, Library of Congress

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with Member Education?

2017 promises to be a learning year for all of us. We hope all you can attend the Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet being held on January 29, 2017. Again we'll be at the Adath Jeshurun Congregation. The Banquet Committee has worked hard to make this an interesting and beautiful event. We must give credit to them all -- they have done a lot of extra decoration work this time around. The theme for this year's banquet will be Chinese New Year and many things Asian and Far East. Our speakers will talk about the new Chinese garden at the MN Landscape Arboretum. Compared to the Japanese Garden, the two are very different. *Have you ever heard a singing bowl? You will at the banquet.* Other treats are being planned. We can thank Japan and China for many of our plants because our climate here in Minnesota is so similar to many parts of Japan and China.

Our year of learning will continue from there with our annual business meeting, February 6, 2017. This meeting will feature our 'in house' specialists on all things HCMG and also will be the first meeting for our new MGs and our interns. Please make them feel welcome – as we know you will. Bring your questions and we will try to answer all of them for you.

The In-service Education Committee has met and is formulating tours and contacting interesting speakers for our update sessions. May we put out a call now for all those who are 'fermentation' experts and would like to be on our fermentation panel? Please contact Theresa by email: Theresa.Rooney@blackhawkid.com or cell 612.728.9092 if interested. You don't have a clue what I mean by fermentation?!? Then plan to attend the panel meeting! We'll have more info to follow.

We wish you all a bright and happy New Year.

What's Happening with the Learning Garden Tour?

The Hennepin County Master Gardener Program Learning Garden Tour turns 10 this year and we're celebrating by trying out some new things, including inviting food trucks and offering more hands-on demos like **Sauerkraut 101**. As always, we need your help to make the tour a success. This year's tour will be on Saturday, July 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and we will be posting volunteer opportunities on SignUp Genius earlier than usual. **Please save the date** and we'll keep you posted.

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What's Happening in Youth Education?

Want to get a head start on your HCMG volunteer hours for 2017? Check out the following opportunities in Youth Ed (and remember, you won't be there without other HCMGs to help!)

The JMG schedules for both 4th and 5th grades for the 2017 Winter / Spring sessions at CBPA are live! Here's the link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13572DC07A4CCE9C60-cbpawinterspring>

Also live are the sign-ups for SnowDAZE (a fun activity on the St. Paul campus of the U of M on Saturday, January 28th, for Little Brothers and Little Sisters along with their Big Brother and Big Sister volunteers). Here's the link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-snowdaze>

Sign-ups are live as well for an event at St. Louis Park High (their Family Science Night, on Thursday evening, 3-2-17.) Here's the link to that event <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-stlouis3>

Just a quick reminder that registration is now open for the Schoolyard Gardens Summit at the U of M Arboretum on Friday, March 3rd. Attendance at this conference will count towards our education hours requirement. Here is a link to more information about this conference:

<http://arboretum.umn.edu/Schoolyards2017.aspx>

We hope to see you in the New Year!

What's Happening with the Community Programs?

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to an exciting 2017 in Community Programs.

The 2016 Interns finished strong and we are looking forward to the new batch. Many of them have already expressed interest in the community program opportunities, especially community garden support. We also continue to hear about the wonderful experiences the MGs and 2016 interns had working the info tables at the Farmers Markets and other community events.

Look for the Community Programs table at the two Volunteer Fairs (Intern and at the first Update Meeting) to get more info on our offerings for 2017. And I am looking forward to catching up with what exciting things you have been doing during the off season.

See you at the Recognition Banquet.

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What's Happening in Adult Education?

The Memory Garden Program. Want to help us develop a new gardening instruction program for people with memory issues and their caregivers? Join us on **Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 pm** at the Edina Library (Grandview, not Southdale) for the initial meeting of the Memory Garden committee. Signups are available through Signup Genius; many thanks to HCMG **Ann Thureen** for taking the lead on this important outreach effort.

Building Your Community Engagement Toolkit. Want to learn or refine speaking techniques? Join us on **Friday, February 10 at 8:00 am** at the Arboretum for a free day-long training event from the state MG office. Jackie Froemming will present in the morning on developing effective presentation, handouts and evaluations; Julie Weisenhorn will present in the afternoon on finding resources and answering questions. Register online at <http://www.mnarbonline.com/Build-Your-Community-Engagement-Toolkit-152-02-10-17-P2122.aspx> or contact **Jackie Froemming** at froem022@umn.edu with questions.

Speakers Bureau Team Leaders. Many thanks to everyone who attended our December 5 appreciation meeting for the Speakers' Bureau team leaders! We received a lot of great feedback about how the Speakers Bureau has been evolving, and we'll use it to make our adult education presentations even better. If you were at the meeting (or even if you weren't) and would like to share your suggestions, please email me at compostress@gmail.com. Also, I'm looking for a few good container-garden enthusiasts to lead our **container gardening presentation team** in 2017, so please send me (Karin / compostress@gmail.com) nominations. Thank you!

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.

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Newsletter Article Due Date Schedule in 2017

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

Newsletter	Articles due to Kathy Frederickson
February	Thursday, January 26th
March	Thursday, February 23rd
April	Thursday, March 23rd

January 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-2017.pdf>)

January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.

January 1

TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist

Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.

January 5

GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh

Guru Gobind Singh was the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the Father of the Khalsa.

January 6

EPIPHANY • Christian

Known as *Theophany* in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.

January 6

CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian

Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.

January 7

CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian

Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian

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version of the Western calendar.

January 12–15

MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist

In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

January 14

MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu

Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.

January 15

WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í

Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 16

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY

The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.

January 16–20

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.

January 27

UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

January 28

LUNAR NEW YEAR

On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.

NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Goes to the 2017 New Interns. Welcome to the Extension Master Gardener Program - Hennepin County. You have challenges, fun and growth ahead of you!

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Arboretum Calendar of Events: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/eventcalendar.aspx?date=01/09/2017>

NEW: The Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardener Program's Annual Event

GARDEN FEVER 2017: ADAPTING LANDSCAPES TO OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

APRIL 1st, Registration 8-9am, Program: 9am-3pm

Oak Ridge Conference Center in Chaska (1 Oakridge Dr., Chaska, MN)

\$45 (\$50 at door), includes **breakfast** and a fantastic **buffet lunch**, vendor exhibits, silent auction, and door prizes.

Contact: info@carverscottmastergardeners.org or call 952.466.5300

Tickets: www.carverscottmastergardeners.org/garden-fever

Keynotes:

Climate Change and Minnesota Ecosystems from **Prof. Lee Frelich**, Director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Forest Ecology

Minnesota lies at the intersection of three biomes: boreal forests of spruce, fir, pine, birch and aspen, temperate forests of maple, oak and basswood, and grasslands/ oak savannas. This unique location of the state makes it uniquely vulnerable to large changes in ecosystems as the climate changes.

Uncommon facts about Common Birds from **Stan Tekiela**, popular naturalist, wildlife photographer, and author of many best-selling field guides on wildflowers, birds, and trees.

This is a fun and entertaining talk presenting fascinating facts and tidbits about some of the birds that people love to hate, plus some of the more common birds in our yard. Stan will challenge your preconceived ideas about some common birds. You will never look at these birds the same way again.

Break-out sessions:

Ornamental Plant Selection and Garden Design Tips; Tiny Earthworms, Big Impact; Energy Saving Landscapes; Minnesota's Bounty: The Farmer's Market Cookbook; Water Wisely; and New Invasives.

****Let's Keep Jeff Hahn hopping with our latest insect sightings:**

[What's hopping or crawling in your house, pots, greenhouse or gardens???](#)

A message from Tim Kenny:

Latest Yard and Garden News: <http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/>

Congratulations on being part of a winning volunteer team! According to

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second only to Utah in volunteering. And Twin Cities residents volunteer more than any other metro area in the country.

Register now for free event:

Build Your Community Engagement Toolkit

8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

February 10, 2017 at the Landscape Arboretum

[Register Now!](#)

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!

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

[View Core Course instructions](#)

[Purchase reference manual](#)

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”.

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 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.

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<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 schedule. Classes and registration information may be found online at <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/gardeningclasses.aspx>.

Coming Up from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

Held at various locations. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration is required. You can find a list of classes on their web site at <http://www.northerngardener.org/classes/mshs-classes>. Click on the class title to register. If you have any difficulties with registering online, please call their office at 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747.

RESOURCES FOR MASTER GARDENERS

Our own State University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Volunteer web site has a very extensive list on the page "**Find gardening answers online.**" Sign into the site as a volunteer to access the page. To find it:

- Sign in as you normally would to report your hours.
- You will come to the "For volunteers" page
- The page has a number of resources for master gardeners. Here is where you will find the gardening answers on line section.

HCMG LEADERSHIP TEAM 2017

Del Hampton (Community Programs)
Tina Falkner (Fundraising)
Carol Garner (Chair)
Darren Lochner (Membership)
Betsy Massie (Youth Education)

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/>