

# GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

March 2017



*"I grow plants for many reasons: to please my soul, to challenge the elements or to challenge my patience, for novelty or for nostalgia, but mostly for the joy in seeing them grow".*  
- David Hobson

Your neighborhood **Rusty Patched Bumblebee** (*Bombus affinis*) is about to enter the endangered category. This is a delay from the original January 21<sup>st</sup> listing.

We can be proactive in our efforts and it would be well worth our efforts to study up on this lovely creature.

"The endangered designation means that the rusty patched bumble bee is in danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a portion of its range. U.S. Fish and Wild Life Service Midwest Regional Director, Tom Melius said, "Our top priority is to act quickly to prevent extinction of the rusty patched bumble bee. Listing the bee as endangered will help us mobilize partners and focus resources on finding ways right now to stop the decline."

You can learn more [here](#) .

There is more concerning information specific to the Midwest [First U.S. wild bee map](#)

## Update Sessions

**Monday, March 6th**  
***Sustainable Ground Cover Crops***  
**Courtney Tschida**

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

[map](#)

6:30 p.m.: Mini-Sessions

7:00 p.m.: Update Session Begins

This talk will cover the benefits of using cover crops in your garden, types of cover crops that can be used and how to best use them during our short growing season.

Courtney Tschida, Student Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Minnesota since 2003. She also coordinates Cornercopia Student Organic Farm, which was created in 2005 for the purpose of giving students at the University a hands-on real world experience of growing organically as part of their college experience.

***Remember those name tags!***



**Next Update: April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

***Botanical Names or Latin 101***  
Alex Eilts, Research Associate,  
U of M CBS Ecology

**Hennepin Technical College Auditorium**  
9000 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park, 55445

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## COMMITTEE UPDATES

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

Planning for this year's Hennepin County Master Gardener Program Learning Garden Tour is going very well. So far, we are ahead of schedule with marketing and promotion; and we are now in the process of lining up the Education Stations and other activities that will be happening at each of the 8 featured gardens. We've got a lot of fun stuff planned for this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour. We hope you'll consider volunteering to help out. The tour will be held rain or shine on **Saturday, July 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.** and a list of volunteer positions (along with descriptions) will be posted on Sign-Up Genius.

There is **one very important job that we need to fill ASAP** and that is for a logistics person. Doc Czypinski has led the logistics team for years and still plans to help out, but since he is now chairing the garden tour committee, we could use another volunteer. Logistics mainly involves delivering supplies and other items to each site prior to the tour, as well as on tour day. To learn more, please contact

Doc at: [doc.czypinski@walkerart.org](mailto:doc.czypinski@walkerart.org)

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

**The date for the Plant Sale this year is Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

What a weird winter. It was 60+ degrees on Tuesday, February 21, and we are possibly in line to get 8-12" of snow on Friday, February 24. The warm weather has me itching to pull back my protective layer of leaves and see what might have survived another Minnesota winter (wimpy though it has been). When you are certain it's safe to uncover your gardens and start 'playing in the dirt' in earnest, please consider sharing parts of your garden with the 2017 plant sale; even small divisions enhance our sale.

Based on past sales, here is a short list of desired plants (a more holistic list will be published in the near future): colorful varieties of astilbe, brunnera, all varieties of bleeding heart, bloodroot, sensitive and painted ferns, heuchera, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, ligularia, meadow rue, phlox, turtle head, named hosta, named asters, cone flowers, named day lilies, named iris (bearded and Siberian), named monarda, peonies, named sedum, named grasses, ajuga, lamium, and many other sun and shade plants for pollinators, and natives of almost any variety.

The plant sale committee is in the process of setting up digs and potting days and plans to have dates available on Sign Up Genius in the very near future.

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## What's Happening in Youth Education?

**EMG-HC Youth Education Workshop • Saturday, March 11, 2017**

The Youth Ed Workshop is fast approaching! We invite you to come learn more about EMG-HC Youth Ed programming and expand your youth mentoring and teaching experiences. Don't have all day? No problem! This training is presented in two parts: The morning is dedicated to introducing interns and MGs new to Youth Education to our overall goals, programs and materials. The afternoon, targeted to MGs already familiar with Youth Ed programming, will provide ways to explore the programs with in-depth information and hands-on experiences. Lunch is available to all and will feature speaker Keri Sidle, Education Specialist from the Minnesota Department of Education. And, yes! This training fulfills continuing education requirements: 4 hours of CE Credits for the morning session, 3.5 CE Credits for the afternoon session and 6.5 CE Credits for those MGs who stay all day. [Sign Up Here!](#)

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***And look at what the Junior Master Gardeners gave us in appreciation of our efforts!***



## What's Happening in Community Programs?

- A date has been set for the Community Garden Support Spring Workshop! Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 25th**, from **9:30am until noon** and stay tuned as more details emerge. You can find the sign-up [HERE](#). For those of you who are new to these workshops, click [HERE](#) for last spring's agenda and [HERE](#) for the agenda for the fall workshop. Note that on both you can get to the workshop materials through the links on the bottom of page 1.
- We will be forming a new EMG-HC Community Garden Support committee to steer us through the best way to provide the service. If you are interested in serving on the committee please let [me](#) know. I am shooting for our first meeting to be during the second week of March so that we can prepare for the workshop.
- You have noticed we opened up the opportunities that are repeats from last year. For the most part we just extended the date on the sign-ups. Doing so, however, keeps the same people on who signed up previously. Our presumption is that more people will want to continue rather than drop, so those who want to do

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something different will need to drop off and sign up for another opportunity. There is reconfiguration work going on, too, and those will be opened up once we have them defined.

- We are receiving plenty of inquiries for new community programs opportunities. We will post them on SUG after we work through the intake process and define what level of service they are seeking. So keep your eyes open for them to pop up in SUG.

Let me know if you have any questions. Let's knock it out of the park this year!

## 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](mailto:mgweb@umn.edu) "From" email address to your "Contacts" or move emails from [mgweb@umn.edu](mailto: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.

Speaking of which, new intern Paula Fleming sent in a delightful example of Mother Nature designing on her own:

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*Paula says: My whole life, I've wanted to put up sparkly lights outside for the holidays. I enjoy them around the neighborhood so much. However, I never had a really good place to put them. Some years ago, one of the fir trees that crop up all over our property each year popped up next to the front porch. I let it grow. Now it's a perfect Xmas tree, and I got my lights!*

## 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 <a href="#">Kathy Frederickson</a>
April	Thursday, March 23rd
May	Thursday, April 20th
June	Thursday, May 25th

## 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-2017.pdf>)

### Full Month

#### NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

### March 1

#### ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian

The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual

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preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.

**March 2– March 20**      **NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í**

Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

**March 8**                      **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

**March 11-12**                **PURIM • Jewish**

The “Feast of Lots” marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

**March 12**                      **MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist**

Also known as *Sangha Day*, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 arahants, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

**March 13**                      **HOLLA MOHALLA • Sikh**

An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.

**March 13**                      **HOLI • Hindu**

Also called *Holaka* or *Phagwa*, this festival celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.

**March 17**                      **ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian**

Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

**March 20**                      **VERNAL EQUINOX**

The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.

**March 21**                      **INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF  
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

**March 21**                      **NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian**

A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz).

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March 31

## CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927–1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

## NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

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

*Goes to Barb Harlan of Anoka County for highlighting the following:*

*"If you find yourself with time on your hands, you can peruse this guide. Besides the bees, it also have photos of Syrphid flies: 1. Toxomerus marginatus. 2. Eristalis tenax. 3. Mallota bautias. Bee fly: 4. Bombylius major. Robber fly: 5 Laphria thoracica at the bottom of the page.*

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/475348> "

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Some new resources to peruse:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/springonset.htm>

[Monarch butterfly storm damage update](#)

[Extension Source write-up on our efforts](#)

### From Terry:

There are many county Master Gardener Programs holding "horticultural days." These are educational days open to the public; a few of our volunteers from Hennepin County have even presented (or will be presenting) at them. Below you'll find a list of the various opportunities coming up in 2017. You are welcome to attend one or more - -these events to count as continuing education (except the drive time!) Any questions, just let me know.

Here is an updated list of many of the upcoming events, some of which registration is already open! Others need a bit more time so keep checking back to the site or calling for updates.

### March

- 3/11/17: Burst into Spring, Cambridge, Isanti County. More info at <http://isanticountymastergardeners.com/burst-into-spring.html>
- 3/11/17: Gardeners' Day, Winona, Winona County. Call [507-457-6440](tel:507-457-6440) or [z.umn.edu/mgwinona](http://z.umn.edu/mgwinona) for more info
- 3/18/17: Houston County Garden Days, Caledonia, Houston County. Call [507-725-5807](tel:507-725-5807) for more info

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- 3/25/17: Gardening Education Day, Collegetown, Stearns County. More info at [z.umn.edu/GardenEdDay](http://z.umn.edu/GardenEdDay)
- 3/25/17: Hort Ed Day, Little Falls, Morrison County. Call [320-632-0161](tel:320-632-0161) for more info.
- 3/25/17: Learn and Grow Garden Expo, Big Lake, Sherburne County. More info at [z.umn.edu/gardenexpo2017](http://z.umn.edu/gardenexpo2017)
- 3/25/17: 15th Annual Pine County MG Hort Day, Pine City, Pine County. Call [800-657-3813](tel:800-657-3813) ext. 4 or [www.extension.umn.edu/county/pine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/pine) for more info

### April

- 4/1/17: McLeod County Horticulture Day, Hutchinson, McLeod County. Call [320-484-4334](tel:320-484-4334) for more info
- 4/1/17: Garden Fever 2017, Chaska, Carver/Scott County. More info at <https://eventgrid.com/Events/25758/garden-fever-2017>
- 4/1/17: Ready, Set, Grow! Garden Expo 2017, Brainerd, Crow Wing County. More info at [www.crowwingmastergardeners.org](http://www.crowwingmastergardeners.org)
- 4/8/17: Home Landscaping and Garden Fair, Bunker Hills, Anoka County. More info at [www.anokamastergardeners.org/](http://www.anokamastergardeners.org/)
- 4/8/17: Let's Get Growing, Alexandria, Douglas County. More info at [www.extension.umn.edu/county/douglas](http://www.extension.umn.edu/county/douglas)
- 4/11/17: Meeker County Gardener's Gala, Litchfield, Meeker County. Call [320-693-5275](tel:320-693-5275) for more info
- 4/25/17 Bertram County, Spring Garden Party on Saturday, March 25, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, Bemidji, MN Please call Jennifer at (218) 444-5722.

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4/25/17: Stearns County Master Gardeners for Garden Education Day Saturday March 25, 2017 at St. John's University, Collegetown MN . Speaking at our first general session is Dr. Karl Ford presenting "Native Bee Pollinators: Up Close and Personal". Our second general session will be "Exciting New Plants for Northern Gardens" presented by Debbie Lonnee. The full flyer can be viewed at [z.umn.edu/GardenEdFlyer](http://z.umn.edu/GardenEdFlyer)  
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Arboretum Calendar of Events: <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/eventcalendar.aspx?date=01/09/2017>

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

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

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## A message from Tim Kenny:

### *Save the date! 2017 Master Gardener State Conference: June 23 and 24*

This year's conference features tours, resources, networking, skill-building, and workshops! To receive an email notification when registration opens, email [leen0014@umn.edu](mailto:leen0014@umn.edu) with the subject MG2017.

Please welcome [Christy Marsden](#), our newest State Leadership Team member. Christy serves as the Extension Master Gardener Program Education Manager. She's a perfect fit, coming from the University of Wisconsin Extension, where she served as a county-based Horticulture Educator.

### Now...an invitation!!

We would like to invite anyone interested in being on the planning committee for the **2018 Master Gardener Regional Conference** to express their interest by sending an email to [mgweb@umn.edu](mailto:mgweb@umn.edu) with the subject line "2018 MG Regional Conference". Planning for this conference will begin at the State Conference this year!

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

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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 [strau097@umn.edu](mailto:strau097@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".

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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 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!

## **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.

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## 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.

## EMG-HC 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 EMG-HC 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](mailto:strau097@umn.edu) and a link will be sent to your e-mail address every month.

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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  
Yard & Garden Line: 612-301-7590

EMG-HC website: <http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/>