

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

August 2016



Photo – no use restrictions

It was such a pleasure to sink one's hands into the warm earth, to feel at one's fingertips the possibilities of the new season.

-Kate Morton

Do you have a case of garden hands yet? I do.

I hate gloves. Yes, they protect you from the goonies in the dirt and hence tetanus-types, but you cannot feel the loaminess! My whole gardening experience changes with gloves. And yes, I've tried cloth, deerskin, latex and combinations thereof.

Where does that leave me? I still have grubby hands.

The idea of using the farmer's technique of scraping my nails over a bar of soap beforehand has been around since dirt, but I didn't like the idea of the soap additives going in the soil and it felt weird. I looked around and finally found a use for those free toothbrushes from the dentist. I was still left with a few deadheading marks on my index finger and Googled ideas. The best one was a little olive oil or petroleum jelly plus sugar. It did the trick!

Another solution brought Doris Day to mind. She supposedly used petroleum jelly and white gloves every night to keep her hands supple. She just might have had the right idea! A layer of said jelly and THEN the gloves was also recommended to keep garden hands clean.

The U of M has a handy reference covering the topic of [Best Garden Hygiene Practices!](#) It's a great reminder!

*****Next Update*****

Monday September 12th*

Overwintering Your Perennials

Jessica Heimer, Horticulturalist & Assistant Manager, Mother Earth Gardens

**NOTE! We're meeting the 2nd Monday of the month due to the Labor Day Holiday.*

Location: Minnetonka Community Center,
14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN
55345

Schedule: 6:30 p.m.: Mini-Session; 7:00 p.m.:
Meeting

Sign-Up Opportunities:

Farmers Markets Galore: They NEED YOU!
(Various times, places and dates are open all
summer long!)

August 27 - September 7

**Minnesota State Fair Fairgrounds,
Saint Paul**

Volunteer at the State Fair

Sign up for a shift at the Master Gardener Education Booth at the State Fair this summer! Join fellow Master Gardeners in answering fairgoers gardening questions, identifying insects, and providing insight on tree care. Shifts are scheduled every day of the fair, beginning August 25 through September 5. A free admission ticket will be provided for the day you volunteer. Spots are limited and filling up fast!

Sign up

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Membership Education Committee

We need you! (and new volunteers for the 2017 Hennepin County Master Gardener Program)

The recruitment process has begun for next year's class of Master Gardeners. It is hard to believe that the October 1st application deadline is right around the corner.

This is where we need your help! We are looking for the best and brightest to apply to the program. As you continue to volunteer this summer at Farmers Markets, community gardens and other special events we are asking you to keep an eye out for quality individuals. Share your experiences and tell them how much fun the program is! We have found that word of mouth is one of the best ways to recruit and encourage individuals to apply to the program. There are a lot of great resources and information on the Master Gardener program on the state and county websites. In addition, interested individuals are welcome to contact Terry Straub for more information at hcmg@umn.edu. Application materials can be found here:

<http://hennepinmastergardeners.org/become-a-master-gardener/>

What's Happening with the Plant Sale Committee?

The Plant Sale Committee is taking time off to enjoy the lazy, crazy days of summer. We're watching our fruit and vegetables ripening, watering and weeding as needed and relaxing and enjoying our flowers. We hope you are, too!

Save the date for our 2017 Plant Sale: May 20, 2017.

What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

We are happy to say that we have had another successful year for the Learning Garden Tour. Thank you so much to Sandy Lester, Diana Straate, Steve Rutz, Suzanne Born, Julie Dahl and Larry LaFontaine for opening their gardens to the public for this event. We had quite possibly the best weather day ever on July 9th and heard positive comments from over 250 people.

Thank you also to everyone on the Garden Tour committee for working many months to make this happen. Your planning time, diverse mix of skills, and creative ideas make this a better tour every year.

And thank you to all of the volunteers who worked the day of the tour, assisting and educating our guests throughout the day. This event would not be a success without you.

The **Learning Garden Tour took in over \$8600 this** year – our best year yet. The committee will be taking a rest now, but ideas are flowing and we will begin planning in earnest for our 10th Annual Tour in January 2017.

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What's Happening in Youth Education?

Is the summer flying by, and you've still to make good on your pledge to help with our youth education efforts this summer? There's still time to sign up and help at our Little Learners Farmers Market programs at both Bloomington and Richfield (see link below). Brief interactive activities have already been developed. All you have to do is show up and have fun! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-little>

What's Happening in Adult Education?

Teach your passion with the Adult Ed Speaker's Bureau

Are you really good at tree care? Do know everything there is to know about growing beautiful tomatoes? Want to share your love of dahlias with everyone else? If you've ever thought EMG-HC should offer a program on any of the above or any other gardening topic that you're passionate about, surely there are others thinking the same thing. The Adult Education Speakers Bureau would love to help you turn your gardening passion into a presentation that we can offer at libraries and other sites. Please contact [Sue Ponsford](#) if you've got a topic you'd like to develop. She will pair you with a PowerPoint expert who will help you build a great presentation.

If you'd like to join a Speaker's Bureau team for 2017, please also contact Sue and she can connect you with the team of your choice. Speaker's Bureau teams work together each year to make sure they're effectively presenting the best research-based information on their topic. Teams meet several times a year to practice presentation skills and master their team's material. Not only is this a great way to improve your speaking skills and get good information out to the community, it's a great way to get to know other MG's who share your passion on a topic.

If you'd like to check out a Speaker's Bureau presentation, our [library presentation schedule](#) lists upcoming presentations at libraries across Hennepin County. We've got some great fall offerings coming up!

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

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"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 them 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
September	Thursday, August 25th
October	Thursday, September 22nd
November	Thursday, October 22nd

August 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 CE.

- August 15 OBON • Buddhist
Also known as Bon, the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirits of past ancestors.

- August 17 ULAMBANA • Buddhist

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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 Tim Kenny for his timely reminder: 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!

Ariel Dressler dress072@umn.edu

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Info Booths

We have two new "info" booth opportunities on Sign-up Genius. One is for National Night Out on 8/2, and the other is during a compost bin distribution at the Extension Office. Here's a [link](#). We also have a few openings at various Farmers Markets – here's a [link](#) to those too!

*****Note from Terry: The following DOES count as Continuing Education.**

**Minnesota State Horticultural Society Cosponsors Presentation by
Will Steger on Global Warming**
Gardeners Can Have a Positive Impact on the Environment

Roseville, MN: The Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) is cosponsoring "Eyewitness to Global Warming", a presentation by world-renowned polar explorer, educator, photographer, writer and lecturer Will Steger, on Thursday, October 13, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The University of St. Thomas (UST) hosts and cosponsors the event, which will be held at McNeely Hall on

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campus at 2060 Summit Avenue in St. Paul. MSHS is already taking registrations; the event is \$20 for MSHS members and \$25 for nonmembers, plus a special meet and greet with Will Steger from 6:15 to 6:45 p.m. for \$25 and \$30 for members and nonmembers respectively.

Attendees will experience Steger's vivid account of the changes caused by global warming pollutants that he's witnessed firsthand in Arctic regions over four decades of polar exploration. He will present a retrospective of a life in the arctic regions of the world and what gardeners can do to have a positive impact on the environment.

"Gardeners know they can have a powerful impact on the environment. They saw what neonicotinoids did to pollinators and said 'No more'. They saw the decline of monarch butterflies and planted more milkweed. When informed, gardeners are motivated to make smart choices that make a difference," says Vicky Vogels, Community Outreach Coordinator at MSHS.

Steger will share stunning photographs from his expeditions along with compelling data and satellite imagery to document the deterioration of the polar ice caps. While the issue is critical, and the presentation is dramatic, Steger's message is one of hope and empowerment.

Note from Terry: **THE FOLLOWING DOES NOT COUNT AS CONTINUATING EDUCATION** as Master Gardener Volunteers should NEVER give recommendations on eating fungi.

Peter McCoy will be offering two mushroom/mycology-related events in Minneapolis this September as a part of the upcoming [tour](#) for his book [Radical Mycology](#).

One is a free presentation on Sept. 1. The talk covers the many ways fungi can help humans and environment. The facebook event for that is [here](#).

The other is a weekend-long Mushroom Cultivation & Application Course on the weekend of Sept. 2-4. Designed for the beginner as well the experienced cultivator, this course covers everything you need to know to start producing high quality mushroom spawn, fruit mushrooms indoors all year, construct a mushroom farm, and establish regenerative outdoor mushroom installations. Topics include:

Mushroom Cultivation Fundamentals

Appropriate Applications of Fungi

Extra Skills

The cost of the course is \$250. Tuition includes 4 mushroom cultures (valued at over \$150), supplies, and a 100-page workbook. Student, group, and low-income discounts are also available.

Waseca Garden Walk -August 7, 2016

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Rain or Shine. All locations are free to the public. Everyone is welcome!

Transportation is on your own. Once you have your map, you may start the tour at any of the six garden sites and drive to as many as you wish. Contact 507/461-1222 or 507/835-5978 for further information.

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

[What's hopping or crawling???](#) ***

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. Be sure you don't miss these useful webinars - sign up to receive a weekly reminder! We've also linked to the calendar from our Hennepin County Education page.

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

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](#)

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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/.

Volunteering for the U of M Landscape Arboretum

The U of M 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

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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.

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 online 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.

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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

SUMMER HOURS:

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 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/>