

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

September 2016



- "Fall Anemones" by Diane Feldman

"The keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams."

— Henry David Thoreau

The flowers are welcoming the bees with open arms. They are laden with pollen to the point one wonders how they are able to fly. Together, we've made progress in our encouragement of bees.

It's the efforts of "We the People" that brought Gov. Mark Dayton to issue guidelines for what will be a [landmark in the recovery of bees.](#)

"Under Dayton's order, farmers and nursery owners who want to use one of the compounds, known as neonicotinoids, will have to prove to the Department of Agriculture that they face "imminent danger of significant crop loss" without them." – *Star Tribune 8/26/2016*

Neonicotinoids are just one factor in bee colony collapse, parasites and shrinking habitat are also contributing factors. Our collective voices contributed to Minnesota being on the forefront of this battle. Our voices need to echo the same every time we speak with the general public. Our efforts in our own gardens will do the same.

And just to remind us of the basics for encouraging bees, forage the [Bee Lab!](#)

****Next Update****

Monday September 12th**

7pm - 9pm

Update: Overwintering Your Perennials

Presenter: Jessica Heimer.
Horticulturalist & Assistant Manager; with
Vanessa Greevers, Mother Earth Gardens

Minnetonka Community Center,
14600 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, 55345 ([map](#))

(Don't forget your nametags!)

Sign-Up Opportunities:

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

Next Update: October 3
New Tree Disease, Insects and Pathogens.
Gary Johnson, Extension Professor, CFANS
Forest Resources

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Plant Sale Committee?

Problem: My garden is really over-grown and I need to thin out plants.

Solution: **THINK 2017 Plant Sale.** Mark those extra plants that you will dig up in the spring and contribute to the 2017 Plant Sale.

Problem: I can see that some of my plants will need to be separated next spring.

Solution: **THINK 2017 Plant Sale.** Mark those plants to separate and contribute what's left over to the 2017 Plant Sale.

Problem: I saw some new perennials that would be great in my garden, but I have no room.

Solution: **THINK 2017 Plant Sale.** Mark those plants that you would like to remove in the spring to make room for new plants and contribute them to the 2017 Plant Sale.

Problem: I would like to contribute plants to the plant sale, but by spring I forget exactly what/where they are in my garden.

Solution: **THINK 2017 Plant Sale.** Mark those plants now. Use an orange flag or stakes with the plant name listed.

Problem: I would like to contribute plants to the plant sale, but I don't know exact variety.

Solution: **THINK 2017 Plant Sale.**

Our plant sale experts will help to identify it for you! Take a picture now and send to:

Tina Falkner (rovic001@umn.edu) or Susan Thompson (sthompson01@comcast.net) .

What's Happening with the Garden Tour Committee?

The garden tour committee is just winding up garden selection for the 2017 tour. Then we relax until the 1st of the year

What's Happening in Youth Education?

School's starting again, and so will be our Junior Master Gardener program at Champlin Brooklyn Park Academy. Look for sign up opportunities in Sign Up Genius in early September for both the 4th and 5th Grade fall sessions. If you intended to help with JMG sessions last spring and did not get in, here's your chance. In fact, we think our fall JMG sessions are some of our most important ones. For instance, we introduce the new

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4th Graders to the JMG program by teaching them about the parts of a flowering plant.

The students get to dissect plant samples with toothpicks...it really works well! We welcome back the new 5th Graders by having them evaluate the gardens they planted as 4th Graders, as well as performing some fall gardening tasks in the younger students' raised beds...teaching them in the process about the life cycle of a garden, and their important role as leaders/helpers in the school. Come help us make our 7th year of offering JMG classes at CBPA our best year ever!

What's Happening in Adult Education?

A message from Sue Ponsford: Sometimes you just can't do it all. You can try, but life has a sneaky way of making its point until you listen. And so, I'm listening.

Two years ago, the Adult Education committee did a ton of work to re-tool how HCMG handled adult education, mostly presentations at Hennepin County libraries. A very great committee put together a whole new model that served to professionalize our presentations. Topic teams were formed, presentations were re-written using a standard format and template and individuals were asked to commit to a topic for a year at a time. While there were some hiccups and some growing pains, we succeeded. Terry no longer has to beg for people to fill speaking gigs at the last minute and our pre and post class evaluations show that we're providing good education to residents. Mission accomplished.

A year ago, I took a new job that pushes me more than I've been pushed in a very long time. Even after a year, my brain is so very tired at the end of the day. I totally love it. But it's also meant I haven't had adequate brain capacity to focus on the next awesome project for Adult Ed. I realized somewhere along the way that life was telling me I can't do it all and so my focus switched to how to hand the great work of the team off to a new leader. It took a while but Terry found someone great.

Karin Ciano has been a HCMG since 2008. She has served on the Adult Ed committee for the entire time that I've led it and was instrumental in making sure we've got a consistent style guide for all of our materials. She's a lawyer during the day and so has been at the forefront of educating folks on copyright laws regarding use of various materials, including images, in our presentations. Karin also currently leads our composting team and developed our materials on worm composting. She is truly invested in our Adult Education work, which is why I was thrilled when she told Terry she'd happily take over leading our Adult Education work.

Please join me in welcoming Karin to the HCMG Adult Ed committee (and, of course the Leadership Team)! Stay tuned for great work the committee will be doing in the future. If you need ME, I'll be volunteering on Habitat planting days and answering questions on the Hot Line. See you at the next update meeting!

[Thank you, Sue Ponsford, for your leadership of this invaluable committee!]

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What's Happening in Community Programs

Thanks to all who have been doing fabulous work at the farmers markets, garden centers, info booths, Habitat for Humanity, and community gardens. The success stories have been flowing in. And know that our work is greatly appreciated by our customers!

The 2016 Community Garden Day is Saturday, September 17 - get more information on it [HERE](#). Visit your neighborhood community garden if they are having an event and show them your support!

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!! The photo on the front page came from our own HCMG Diane Feldman. 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
October	Thursday, September 22nd
November	Thursday, October 22nd
December	Thursday, November 24 th , Thanksgiving Day

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September 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>)

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|--------------------------|--|
| September 5 | LABOR DAY |
| | Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers. |
| September 5 | GANESH CHATURTHI |
| | Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity. |
| September 8 | INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY |
| | Call to action for universal literacy. |
| September 11– 14 | EID AL-ADHA |
| | Islamic “Feast of Sacrifice” concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God. |
| September 15– October 15 | NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH |
| | Full month celebration of the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans. |
| September 17 | CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY |
| | Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens. |
| September 22 | AUTUMNAL EQUINOX |
| | The date when night and day are nearly of the same length. It marks the first day of fall. |

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NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

Hat Tip to Barb Gasterland for pointing us to a strong list of plants that Japanese Beetles DON'T like:

<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2010/7-14/japanesebeetle.html>

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And another *Hat Tip to the DNR* for their hard work in keeping our trees thriving and green.

Oak wilt has been an issue throughout the state and we can start pruning them again now that July is gone. They have a complete guide on recognition, diagnosis and treatment here : [Oak wilt](#)

Further information on trees diseases and pests may be found here: [DNR Guide to MN diseases and pests](#)

And a final **Tip of the Hat to Betty Lentz on TV12!**

Our own Extension Master Gardener and Container Garden Lead, Betty Lentz, had a television spot on TV12. Here's the [link](#). Congratulations, Betty!

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 co-sponsoring "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 co-sponsors the event, which will be held at McNeely Hall on campus at 2060 Summit Avenue in St. Paul. MSHS is already taking registrations; the event is \$20 for MSHS members and \$25 for non-members, 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.

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“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: This DOES count as Continuing Education.*

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

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

A message from Tim Kenny: 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!

Also from Tim: 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.

Do you have great photos showing you and fellow volunteers in action? **We're having a [photo contest](#)** to collect images to feature in University, Extension and Master Gardener websites and publications. We'll have great prizes to award the winners.

*******Remember your continuing education Hours!*******

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

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[View Core Course instructions](#)

[Purchase reference manual](#)

[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 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 and look in “Sign Ups 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!

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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 '#' sign. 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.

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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.

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/>