

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

July 2017



-Photo, unrestricted use

*"Hot July brings cooling showers,
Apricots and gillyflowers."*

- Sara Coleridge, *Pretty Lessons in Verse*

We're half way through the year and it is time to check your standing with not just volunteer hours but with your continuing education commitment.

(Did you check your hours? [Update them while you are at it](#)).

No need to panic, there are on-demand webinars available from the past several years. For example:

Neonicotinoid update and spring pollinator observations with Karl Foord

Wednesday, September 14, 2016

[Play recording](#) (49 minutes)

Organic insect pest management for fruit production in the home garden with Heidi Anderson

Wednesday, July 27, 2016

[Play recording](#) (38 minutes)

These are just example of what you can find [HERE](#).

Take advantage of days that are too hot and rainy, or lunchtimes. Savor away!

Not Much Until September!

Just a reminder that after the 7/8 Learning Garden Tour, there are no more events or Update Sessions sponsored by EMG-HC until the September 11 Update Session – our Ice Cream Social! A tour of the Minnesota River Valley is scheduled for 9/25 – more details on that in September. Have a GREAT summer!

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July 8 EMG-Learning Garden Tour

This is our Tour's 10th anniversary, and our goal is to boost our attendance to an all-time high. Thanks for continuing to spread the word and sell tickets!

Details: 10th Annual Learning Garden Tour, Saturday, July 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit 8 gardens in the SW Minneapolis area. Tickets are \$15 prior to the event; \$20 on tour day. You'll find more information [here](#)!



Terry had to go all the way to Kansas City to see a Japanese Beetle this year! How about YOU?

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Member Education?

Wow, June is gone and July is well on its way. Were you able to attend the Minnesota State Master Gardener Conference? I thought the keynote speakers were excellent (and so were the break-out sessions). Next year the REGIONAL conference will be here in Minnesota at the Arboretum. That is so exciting! Our Garden Tour is this month, July 8th, I hope you will be attending if you are not working the tour. There are lots of chances to 'learn stuff' and it is a great opportunity to sneak a peek into someone else's garden. Our next tour will be announced shortly- it will be in September and we will also have a regular update session on September 18th. It will feature a panel of your fellow Master Gardeners who will answer your questions about and demystify the fascinating world of Fermentation. Enjoy your summer! – *Theresa Rooney*

What's Happening with the Plant Sale?

Now that this year's successful Plant Sale has been put to bed for another year, I'm hoping all of you wonderful volunteers are taking time for your own yard and gardens, just as the committee members are. Personally, I have discovered some new weeds and come to the sad conclusion that my once very shady front yard gets way too much sun (thanks to several trees coming down in storms several years ago) for many of the plants I have planted there. As I dig them up and move them to more hospitable locations, I will be sure to mark them in preparation for next year's plant sale.

Thank you to those MGs who completed the post-plant sale survey. We appreciate your honest feedback and are always looking for ways to improve the sale, and improve your experience working with the entire plant sale suite of work. Also, thanks to those of you who indicated you would like to be more involved in the planning and executing of the plant sale. One of the committee members will be in touch with you in the next couple of months to determine where your desires and talents can be best utilized. If you didn't indicate you were interested in helping in a broader sense with the sale, it's never too late! Contact Susan Thompson or Tina Falkner if you are.

Go enjoy the beauty of the summer and be sure to support the Learning Garden Tour; all our fundraising efforts help support the work of the Master Gardener program. – *Tine Falkner*

What's Happening with the Learning Garden Tour?

Fabulous Garden Knife Winner!

Thanks to everyone who sold Garden Tour tickets and entered the drawing for the fabulous garden knife! A big congrats to our winner: **Marie Digatono!**

The incentive may be over, but the Garden Tour is not! Please continue to sell tickets to your friends, family, acquaintances — anyone and everyone who enjoys viewing lovely gardens and learning about them, too. Remember: this is our Tour's 10th anniversary, and our goal is to boost our attendance to an all-time high. Thanks for continuing to spread the word and sell tickets! **Details:** 10th Annual Learning Garden Tour, Saturday, July 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit 8 gardens in the SW Minneapolis area. Tickets are \$15 prior to the event; \$20 on tour day. You'll find more information [here!](#)

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What's Happening in Youth Education?

The eight HCMG urban youth and summer programs are either up and running or poised to begin. Lead Master Gardeners have spent extensive time meeting with program directors, preparing garden beds, securing planting material (thanks to the HCMG Plant Sale for donations), developing lesson plans and scheduling MG volunteers.

From June to October, the Youth Ed. Committee schedules a monthly children's activity at both the Bloomington and Richfield farmers market. Mary Plumb has done an exceptional job of communicating with the markets and preparing kits for youth activities including "Watch it Grow: Seed Planting," "Fun with Herbs," "Pressed Flower Art," "Going on a bug Hunt: Pollinators," "Soil or Dirt?", "Find a Seed/Save a Seed," and "Orange Cup bird Feeder."

The Schoolyard Garden Resource Group saw lots of activity in May with many requests for help with school planting days. While the Youth Ed Urban and Summer Programs are staffed, there are still volunteer opportunities available! Log into Sign-Up Genius, under "Sign Ups I've Been Invite To," search YOUTH ED . . . and all the Youth Ed opportunities will appear!



On Monday, May 19, the Youth Ed. Committee made a site visit to Howe Elementary School where Kirsten Sailor, who has served as the Lead MG with the schoolyard garden program, gave an informative garden tour.

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What's Happening in Adult Education?

This month, the Speakers' Bureau takes adult education out of the classroom and into the yard, joining forces with the legendary Learning Garden Tour! As this year's Tour invites visitors into gardens throughout Minneapolis, presenters from the Speaker's Bureau will staff Education Stations on the basics and beyond, such as:

- Edible Gardening and Gardening for Pollinators (Theresa Rooney)
- Vertical Vegetable Gardening (Greg Towne)
- Growing Vegetables for Fermentation (Robin Kick)
- Pruning Trees and Shrubs (Lynda Forbes & Steve Thompson)
- Urban Prairies and Native Plants (Dave Tobelmann, Mary Weeks)
- Hydroponics (Larry Cipolla)
- Vermiculture and Composting (Gavin Watt, Darren Lochner)
- IPM (Stephanie Steele, Mary Mason)
- Boulevard Rain Gardens (Kari Pastir Smith)
- Decorative Container Gardening (Debbie Wolk, Candace McClenahan)

Whether you're visiting or volunteering at a garden on the Tour this year, take a moment to check out the education stations—it's a great chance to see experienced MGs take on their favorite subjects in depth (and outdoors!). And if the Tour inspires you to think about presentations of your own, please mark your calendar for November 4, this year's presentation training course. For more information feel free to contact me at compostress@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Adult Education Committee, thank you to the Garden Tour planners and to all the volunteers for their tremendous efforts to make the Tour a success!

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

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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 2017

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

Newsletter	Articles due to Kathy Frederickson
August	Thursday, July 20th
September	Thursday, August 31st
October	Thursday, September 21st

JULY 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>)

- July 4** **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.
- July 9** **MARTYRDOM OF THE BÁB • Bahá'í**
Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabríz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith.
- July 13** **ULAMBANA • Buddhist**
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.
- July 15** **DHARMA DAY • Buddhist**
Also known as Asala Puja, it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.
- July 13–15** **OBON • Buddhist**
Also known as Bon, the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirits of past ancestors.
- July 26** **ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) DAY**
Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

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NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

To *Michelle Grabowski, U of MN Educator* for her perfectly timed article on “After the Storm” and what to do to recover:

<http://blog-yard-garden-news.extension.umn.edu/2017/06/after-storm.html>

And just because it's a funny concept, here's a *Quasi-Hat Tip* to *TERTILL the Weeding Robot* with a real *Hat Tip to Creativity!* (This is not a product endorsement).

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/robots/a26920/tertil-roomba-kickstarter-garden-bot/>

Things to do and learn from:

The University of Minnesota and the West Central Research and Outreach Center invite you to our 47th annual event July 27, 2017 from 5-9pm:

Horticulture Display Garden
46352 State Hwy. 329 Morris, MN 56267

For more information, please call 320-589-1711. For a complete schedule of events please visit

<https://wcroc.cfans.umn.edu/>

Located 1 mile east of the University of Minnesota, Morris Campus and Hwy.

NO ADMISSION FEE DONATIONS ACCEPTED

Demonstrations Include:

- Cold Hardy Grapes for Winemaking
- Designing Containers
- Growing Strawberries & Raspberries in Minnesota
- Integrated Pest Management for Homeowners
- Knock-out Annuals
- Pollinator Friendly Gardening
- Quality Tomatoes for the Home Garden
- Trees and Shrubs for West Central MN Other Activities:
- Cow Milking Demonstration
- Farm Tours
- Food Booths
- Vendor & Educational Booths

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Enjoy the fall season by volunteering at the Arboretum Apple Tasting

The popular Weekend Apple Tastings are happening again this fall at the Arboretum. Master Gardener volunteers are needed to staff the tasting sessions and share information about the University of Minnesota's cold-hardy fruit program.

Three Master Gardeners are needed per day to staff the 12:45-3:15 pm shift during the weekend apple tastings in late September and early October. Slots fill up fast!

[Sign up](#)

When Climate Change Comes Home

Did you know that in July 2011, Moorhead, MN was the hottest place on the planet – with a heat index of 134 degrees and a dewpoint of 88? (MPR Updraft)

Did you know Minnesota is warming the fastest in the winter?

Did you know that the tornado of March 6, 2017, was the earliest on record?

Climate change is ALREADY affecting Minnesota but do you know what these changes are going to mean in practical terms? What can we expect and who will be most affected? What can we do to PREPARE our households and our community?

Join with your neighbors and transition Longfellow as we hear from experts and community members in a 6-part series on preparedness and climate adaptation.

#2 – Here Comes the Flood: Protecting homes, water, health and life	
Thurs., July 20	Heat Waves – Caring for vulnerable people, animals and plants
Thurs., Sept 21	Climate-related Illnesses – Insects and water-borne disease
Sat., Sept TBD	Mpls Ready Camp – Emergency preparedness for home and family
October Workshop – Community Planning: Pulling it All Together	

More details to come at www.transitionlongfellow.org

WCHS Garden Bus Tour Southwest Metro Area – July 8, 2017

Date is set, Reserve your seat now! Save the date for the 2017 WCHS garden bus tour! This year we will travel to the southwest metro area. We will be visiting 6 gardens as well as Terra Nursery in Lakeville. Featured on this tour will be the gardens of Patty & Rich Preston's (St. Paul), lots of lilies, daylilies and roses; Snow/Bresnahan gardens (W. St. Paul) numerous plant collections, Fairy gardens, Succulents, Bonsai; Linblade's (Eagan), Japanese influenced garden recently featured in Northern Gardener; Trinity Healing Gardens (Farmington), includes a labyrinth; Dale Goettsch (Burnsville) large diverse garden; and Jackie Overom, (Wing Haven/Burnsville), fully planted garden on 1/3 acre, featuring Serenity area - featured in Midwest Living and Minnesota Monthly .

Further details: Barbara Ronningen, Wash. Co. Bus Tour Chair, 651-436-5881

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Seeking volunteers for *Ask an Expert* (AaE)

We are looking for volunteers to assist with *Ask an Expert*, the online Q&A tool from Cooperative Extension.

Changes in technology, information culture and individual's expectations have required Extension to provide answers in ways that fit current lifestyles. *Ask an Expert* is an online question-answer tool hosted and supported by National Cooperative Extension and state university Extension colleges. *Ask an Expert* is one of eXtension's most valued assets with more than 321,284 questions answered by 6,474 experts since its launch in 2008.

On the surface, AaE serves as an efficient way for Extension to help citizens get answers to their problems. Citizens may submit questions on their own time and attach photos to their submission improving response accuracy and speed, especially with plant identification and diagnosis. On a deeper level, AaE provides a powerful tool that strengthens Extension's relevancy and value to a certain audience segment, connecting them to their land grant university, its research, and its people.

To learn more visit <https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/ask-an-expert/home>.

For additional information or questions, contact Jackie Froemming at froem022@umn.edu.

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

****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:

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 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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2017 Hot Topics are here!

You'll find brand new learning modules on [spotted wing drosophila](#), [box cut planting](#) and the [rusty patched bumble bee](#) posted on the [Continuing Education webpage](#). Volunteers can take these sessions online through the website for credit.

Or you can grab a few colleagues and use these as discussion topics at one of your meetings. Look for the handy facilitator's guide for each topic to encourage group discussion. Questions? Send an email to mgweb@umn.edu.

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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.”

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.

<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!

Can you help out in a pinch???

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](mailto:Ariel.Dressler@umn.edu) 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](#)

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

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

Be Notified of upcoming webinars: [Sign up for auto-notification](#)

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.

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 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/>