

GARDEN CONFIDENTIAL

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

August 2017



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*"To the bee a flower is the fountain of life
And to the flower a bee is a messenger of love
And to both, bee and flower,
the giving and the receiving is a need and an ecstasy".
~ Kahlil Gibran*

Yellow Jackets are sneaky and mean. I had a too close encounter with one yesterday with a not nice reaction as a result. That reaction was a cold slap in the face on a gorgeous day of gardening and messed up the rest of it.

Since my reaction was worse than previous ones, I did some research. It's true. The more often you are stung over the years likely the more it is possible to experience a stronger reaction. Johns Hopkins even found a variance of which yellow jacket is "meaner".

[Not all Yellow Jackets are equal.](#)

[Check out details on allergic reactions to stings here.](#)

[Minnesota Stingers \(or should I say "Stinkers"\) as explained by the U of MN.](#)

The incident reminded me that I hadn't updated my garden first aid kit with some new Benadryl (Yes, it expires in usefulness).

Have you? Aspirin/Ibuprofen are usually in the kit with some antiseptic wipes and liquid bandage. A plastic credit card-like piece can be used to scrape a stinger out. Tweezers may cause additional venom release. **Take a moment now and check your supplies!!!!**

**August 24 - September 4
Minnesota State Fair**



Check out the Master Gardener booth in the Ag Building at the GREAT Minnesota get-together! Need continuing education? Visit the Dirt Stage. You'll find the [schedule](#) here soon.

Save the dates!

Update Session & Ice Cream Social

Monday, September 11

Topic: Preserving the Harvest & Fermentation.

Panel of EMG-HCs

September Tour: MN River Valley

Monday, September 25

Here's the [sign-up](#).

AND: [Sign-Up Genius is full of August opportunities! Youth Ed, Community Gardens, Farmer's Markets Galore!](#)

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

What's Happening with the Member Education?

Well, the heat of summer is upon us and all of us are learning more and more about our gardens and the insects that are joining us there. We are also learning more from answering questions at the farmers markets than we could have imagined.

What are you learning this summer?

What new ideas are you incorporating into your gardening practices?

Reminder: we don't have an update session in August and this year we will not be having an August tour. Our tour will take place in September as well our September update session.

Please consider this a shout out for the panel discussion on fermentation and preserving the harvest. We have a small number of folks signed up to be on the panel, but I would ask that anyone who is interested please contact me. I may not know you use fermentation and other preservation methods to preserve the bounty of your garden so please volunteer if you wish to share your knowledge. (Just contact me: Theresa.Rooney@blackhawkid.com)

Thank you for your consideration. Stay cool and safe this summer, and now I have to get back into the garden to sit and read and drink iced tea (or something) and listen to what my chickens and gardens have to say to me. Enjoy!

What's Happening with the Learning Garden Tour?

We are happy to report that the 10th Annual Learning Garden Tour was a record-breaking success. Based on past ticket sales—363 being the highest ever—we printed 600 booklets, optimistically hoping that our amped-up promotional efforts would draw a larger crowd.

Well, Yee-haw! By 10 a.m. we were running out of booklets because we actually sold 883 tickets, nearly 300 of them on tour day. The Education Stations were all well attended, there were lines at each of the three food trucks we brought in to celebrate the tour's anniversary, and the Garden Shed and Book Nook nearly sold out of merchandise. **In all, the tour grossed over \$16,000.**

We are working on sorting out what all came together to make this tour such a success. But one thing we're sure of is that reaching out to our fellow HCMGs to spread the word, sell/buy tickets and allow us to be a part of other events [thank you Plant Sale folks], helped tremendously.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped make tour day wonderful, particularly the EMG-HCs (Bruce Gilman, Barb Gasterland, Barbara Clarity, Barry Schade, Rhonda Hayes, Mary Hunstiger, Karin Ciano and

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Diana Straate's school garden) who kindly put your gardens on the tour despite having to endure our pestering, heat, bugs and loved ones who really wished you would come inside for a while.

Thank you all. Group hug. —Doc and Meleah

What's Happening in Youth Education?

Is the summer flying by, and you still to made good on your pledge to help with our youth education efforts this summer? No worries as our Urban Youth and Summer Programs have plenty of opportunities to join in the fun! We have found that youth education activities tend to go better if we are well staffed so the more MGs the merrier! Summer youth programs include:

- Camden/Emerge, Minneapolis (Tuesdays, 1 to 2 pm)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-camden>
- Excelsior Explorers Club (Mondays, 2 – 3:30 pm)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-youth10>
- Franklin Co-op 4-H Program (Wednesdays, 4 – 5:30 pm)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-franklin>
- Gopher Adventures, U of M, St. Paul Campus (Tuesdays 10-12 pm)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-gopher1>
- Heritage Park Summer Youth Gardening, Minneapolis (Mondays, 12:30 – 4:30 pm)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-heritage>
- Mashkiikii Gitigan 4-H Youth Gardening Program, Minneapolis (Fridays 11 - 12:45 pm)
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-mashkiikii>
- St Joseph's Home for Children Gardening Program (Mondays 4-4:45 pm, Tuesdays, 4 – 4:45 pm, Wednesdays 4 – 5 pm) <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-youth7>

And, there's still time to sign up and help at our Children's Activity at Farmers Market programs at both Bloomington and Richfield (see links below). Brief interactive activities have already been developed. All you have to do is show up and have fun!

Bloomington: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-little3>

Richfield: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094eadad2ca7fd0-little2>

Lastly, please join the Youth Ed. Committee on a site visit to the Green Garden Bakery in Minneapolis on Monday, August 7, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Send Betsy an email to get on the list of attendees!
betysmassie@me.com

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Photo (below): Sue Wiczorek and Stu Weinstein lead a group of young gardeners at Goldy's Garden at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus.



What's Happening in Community Education?

The gardens we support are flourishing like the Japanese beetles despite the saturating rains one minute and drought the next. What a fantastic year it has been!

We are being recognized for the planful approach we take to setting up and supporting gardens. Click [HERE](#) for an article about a faith-based organization that is in the process of constructing and planning a 32-plot community garden on its land in Brooklyn Park. Mike Slinkard worked with them in the planning. This is just one of the many examples where we are being proactive in making these gardens a success.

We have been working closely with the [Green Garden](#), the Minneapolis High-Rise Representative Council (MHRC) gardens, and [Gethsemane Episcopal Church](#) in downtown Minneapolis (at 10th Street South S and 4th Ave S). Click [HERE](#) to see pics of the shed using pallets we just finished up at the Green Garden. It's nothing short of amazing to see what resourceful infrastructure investments in the gardens will produce. If you get a chance stop by and see the results of their work, especially at Gethsemane. The difference in that place in one year is stunning. No need to wait until they end up on a garden tour.

The Youth Education and Community Programs Committee members are joining together for a site visit to the Green Garden Bakery in Minneapolis on Monday, August 7, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The evening would include a tour of the garden, a "treat" from the Bakery and possibly an information discussion about our programs and how we are evaluating programs. See Betsy Massie, Del Hampton, or Mary Cichon for details.

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We continue to receive requests to staff information tables at the Farmers Markets, Garden Centers, and events. Please sign up for them when you see the broadcast notices.

Carry on!

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.

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.

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
September	Thursday, August 31st
October	Thursday, September 21st
November	Thursday, October 26th

(Editor's Note: By the way, pictures of Japanese Beetles are not welcome unless they are dead ones).

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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-2017.pdf>)

August 1 **TISHA B'AV • Jewish**

Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.

August 7 **RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu**

Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.

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 15 **KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI (Also known as JAYANTI) • Hindu**

Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

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.

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NEWS TO KNOW AND THINGS TO DO

Hat Tip of the Month

*Goes to the Outstanding 2017 Learning Garden Tour Team lead by
Doc Czypinski and Meleah Maynard!*

Record Sales! Record customers! Food trucks! Thank you to EVERYONE who contributed!!!!

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

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., 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	

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October Workshop – Community Planning: Pulling it All Together	

More details to come at www.transitionlongfellow.org

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.

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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:

*******Special Awareness Bulletin*******

Hello everyone,

This provides up-to-date information on Poison Hemlock for you to share with colleagues, fellow volunteers, and Minnesota residents. Given the MDA's recent [press release](#), you may get questions about it.

Information on identification, look-a-likes, disposal, management, etc., of Poison Hemlock can be found at this site, z.umn.edu/poisonhemlock.

The information was compiled by Angie Gupta and Dawn Littleton. They are happy to assist anyone with this issue.

Their contact information is:

Angela Gupta
Forestry Extension Educator
agupta@umn.edu
Phone: [507-280-2869](tel:507-280-2869)

Dawn Littleton
Invasive Plant Program Coordinator
litt0129@umn.edu

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Phone [507-536-6301](tel:507-536-6301)

If there are any issues with the [link](#) or the [myminnesotawoods webpage](#), please let Emily Dombeck know at edombeck@umn.edu.

Thank you for sharing the information with your colleagues, fellow volunteers and community residents.

Master Gardener Leadership Team

Betsy Wieland, Center Program Manager, Center for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources| Extension

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

[Gypsy moth quarantine established in Minneapolis](#)

[Look for Leaf Spots](#)

[Grasses that self-seed](#)

[Watch your garden for squash vine borers](#)

[Jumping worms in Minnesota](#)

[SWD out now!](#)

[Dutch elm disease active now](#)

[After the storm](#)

[Creeping charlie: Management and value to pollinators](#)

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.

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](#)

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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!

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>.

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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

SUMMER HOURS

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 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/>