

## APRIL 2016 Newsletter

Eduard Krakhmalnikov, Program Coordinator



Dear Master Gardeners and supporters,

My second month in the position is coming to a close. So far, we have started to standardize our promotional material and have begun work on enhancing our messaging and presentations. We are in the process of diversifying and expanding our scope of services while refining and streamlining our operations. This is a truly exciting time as we grow into new roles. I look forward to updating you as we bring in new partners and ideas and move from strategy and pilot projects to program-wide implementation. The goal is to become an example of innovation for master gardener programs across the state.

### APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS

Our April meeting will be on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and will feature Shirley Mah Kooyman. She is a botanist with a specialty in plant taxonomy. Shirley will be speaking on "Botanical Latin: how plants are named." This meeting is your last chance to purchase Melinda Myer's Minnesota and Wisconsin Getting Started Garden Guide for \$20, the books will be returned to the publisher thereafter. Gloves ranging in size from XXS (kids) to XL will also be on sale for \$7.

Our May meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> at which Dr. Kenneth Blumenfeld, Sr. Climatologist at the DNR's Division of Ecological and Water Resources and Hazardous Weather Research Specialist at Hennepin County Emergency Management, will speak at 6:30.

### JUNE AND JULY MEETING UPDATES

Our June meeting will be on TUESDAY the 14<sup>th</sup> to coincide with Evenings in the Garden at the Scott County Fairgrounds. In July we will be touring Twin Orchards Nursery in Shorewood (they were a vendor at Garden Fever), this will be on our regular meeting date of July 11th.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

**April 2** at 8:30 am - 2 pm **Savage Home and Garden Show** (Savage Sports Center Community Park)

**April 4** at 6:30 pm; **Native Alternatives for Popular Plants** (Prior Lake Library)

**April 5** at 6:30 pm; **Homeowner Options for Emerald Ash Borer** (Shakopee Library)

**April 6** at 6 pm; **Raingarden Workshop: Planting for Pollinators and Clean Water** (Victoria City Hall)

**April 7** at 6:30 pm; **Homeowner Options for Emerald Ash Borer** (Chanhassen Library)

**April 11** at 6 pm; **Monthly Meeting** (Chaska VFW)

**April 11** at 6:30 pm; **Homeowner Options for Emerald Ash Borer** (Prior Lake Library)

**April 20** at 6:30 pm; **Vegetable Gardening: Old Favorites and New Ideas** (New Prague Library)

**April 23** at 9 - 11:30 am; **Carver County Parks Earth Day** (Minnewashta Park, Chanhassen)

**April 30** at 10 am - 2 pm; **Shakopee Tree Sale 2016** (Public Works 500 Gorman St., Shakopee)

**May 1** at noon - 1pm; **School Gardens 2016** (various locations)

**May 9** at 6 pm; **Monthly Meeting** (Chaska VFW)

**May 14** at 8am - noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)

**May 14** at 9 - 11 am; **City of Savage Arbor Day** (McColl Pond Environmental Learning and Event Center,

13500 Dakota Ave S, Savage)

**May 21** at 8am - noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)

**May 28** at 8am - noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)

All library classes are free, interns are encouraged to attend.

### **LIBRARY CLASS REVIEWS**

So far this year we have educated over 150 participants at our library class series and have received many fantastic reviews. See for yourself!

**“Very enjoyable and informative. Will definitely attend future classes!”**

**“I plan to explore the different varieties of vegetables. I had no idea there were so many!”**

**“Excellent presentation! Very entertaining!”**

**“I plan to plant more plants for pollinators.”**

**“Way beyond excellent!”**

### **GARDEN TOUR NEWS**

This year around 60 people from across the country are coming to tour some of the best gardens around Minneapolis as part of the 2016 Garden Bloggers Fling and will be joining our very own Garden Tour on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. We are very excited to spread the word about what Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardeners do at, and especially beyond, our gardens.

### **INTERN INTERVIEW**

By Kate Erion, CSEMG

What a joy it was to get better acquainted with CSEMG Intern **Beth Aase-Hayes!** Here's a woman with wisdom. She wishes everyone could grow a garden so they could eat healthier. She says this is one good way to reduce the amount of chemicals on our food. This hasn't changed for her since her four kids have grown up and left home. She continues to grow a large vegetable garden - but now she donates the unused produce to a food bank. And when Beth stated my own mantra “They were here first” when I told her about trading the deer predation of my hostas for the glorious sight of two adult deer with two spotted fawns standing in my backyard, I knew I wanted to spend more time with my new-found friend. By the time she told me with a shrug of acceptance that her son's bonfire killed a tree she had planted in her yard and excused him with “kids are more important than stuff”, I knew we Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardeners were lucky to have her. By the way, she told me with a grin that that same son of hers is now a professional fire-fighter.



Every gardening mishap is OK in Beth's opinion "as long as you learn something". That's a live-and-let-live philosophy if I've ever heard one. But besides her wisdom, Beth is also pretty darned smart. She has two degrees from the University of Minnesota. The first is in Social Work. She worked in crisis and chemical dependency until too many dangerous situations sent her back to school for a degree in a less harrowing major: nursing. Getting to choose her night-nurse schedule is a nice perk. Even so, how much serenity is there when your infant patient stops breathing? So for her peace of mind, you can also find Beth working at the Minnesota Grown pop-up this summer in Chaska's Cub Foods' parking lot where she'll be tending the plants. She'll be in the same parking lot in August at our own "pop-up", the CSEMG Plant Sale. Be sure you say hello.

Beth likes to try something new in her garden every year. This year's enterprise is researching what type of blackberry to add to her zone 4 garden in Chaska's clay soil. She says she will also definitely add a blueberry to the two varieties she already grows: "Top Hat" and "Northern Sky". In addition, Beth grows Heritage raspberries. She loves the ease of being able to mow them down at the end of the season.

Beth's yard used to be a corn field. After many patient years she now has shade trees - and squirrels - but she keeps enough of her yard in full sun so that her vegetable garden gets a minimum of eight hours of sunshine. She has been amending the clay soil with manure, compost and a limited amount of ashes from the fire place since she started gardening there, reducing the need for raised beds, although she ventured into that experience this past summer with satisfactory results.

Not all of Beth's growing expertise goes into the vegetable garden. She began gardening when her mother bought a 50 cent pink Floribunda rose 49 years ago. Her mother wasn't an inspired gardener, however, and the care of the Floribunda rose fell to Beth, who says she may have picked up an aptitude from her father who farmed. She has kept that original K-Mart rose flourishing all these years by "mulching the bajeezus out of it!" Since this Floribunda once belonged to her mother it may get special TLC, but she's no less fond of a re-blooming "Nearly Black" Hybrid Tea.

After her kids left home Beth was motivated to apply to the CSEMG program because of her gardening interest. She had read about the program in the newspaper and had attended some of our library classes. She was actually accepted into the program the year before last, but during her first intern year two overwhelming family obligations arose. Her daughter set her wedding date in 2015 and Beth's dad got sick with cancer. Of course Beth put her family first, which limited the number of hours she could devote to the EMG program. There are three happy endings here: Beth's daughter did get married; Beth's dad's cancer is in remission; and Beth was given an opportunity to re-do her intern year. Yea!

## **WEBSITE**

Continue to like and comment on our Facebook page and check our website for updates.

## **MARCH MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting began at 6:15.

Dave's Trivia: During the Civil War, what tree became known as the "Confederate Pin Tree" because southern soldiers used the thorns of the tree to pin their war-torn uniforms together? Hint: It is also a Minnesota native. Answer: The Honey Locust Tree, *Gleditsia triacanthos*. According to the Minnesota Tree Care Advocate website, honey locust is a Minnesota native, however; it is speculated that the native stands may now be extinct. For more information regarding this native tree, check out the Tree Care Advisory website at: [www.mntca.org/gleditsia-triacanthos-honeylocust](http://www.mntca.org/gleditsia-triacanthos-honeylocust).

Volunteer Program Chair, Anne Thoresen thanked all the volunteers that helped make Garden Fever 2016 a success. Whether teaching, assembling folders, creating decorations, promoting the event, working at or simply attending, everyone played a significant role in bringing Garden Fever together. It is this huge team effort that makes Garden Fever a triumphant event.

Guest speakers for the evening were Steve Kelley, owner of **Kelley and Kelley Nursery** in Long Lake and Arla Carmichiel, Horticulture Supervisor for the Three Rivers Park District and the designer of **Noerenberg Gardens**. With photos from their presentation “Gems in the Garden” and their passion for plants, Steve and Arla provided a comprehensive list of new and perhaps underused cultivars that are sure to shine in any garden.

Business for the evening:

- There are several chair and volunteer openings still available. Please see **SUG** for more details.
- **Notice Meeting Night Change:** We will join the public in attending the Evenings in the Garden kick-off event in June. In lieu of the traditional second Monday of the month meeting day, the June monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** at the Scott County Teaching Gardens.
- Steve Hanson, Chair of the **CSEMG Yard and Garden Line** thanked all volunteers who signed up for the 2016 year. For data collecting purposes and county reporting, he reminded volunteers it is crucial they turn in their data report immediately upon completion of their shift.
- Petey Ellis, Garden Tour Co-chair, announced there are several **openings for the 2016 Garden Tour:**
  - **Garden Tour Vice Chair** - This is a three-year commitment to work with the co-chairs of the 2016 event to prepare for the 2018 tour in Carver County. The vice-chair becomes one of the two co-chairs of the event in 2018 (approx. hours: 10 in 2016, 10 in 2017, more in 2018).
  - **Marketing Chair** - works with publicity committee to prepare marketing tools for the garden tour including, but not limited to, poster and brochure development/placement/distribution (approx. hours: 8)
  - **Sign Manager (two openings)** - Put up/take down directional signs the day of the tour. The team needs to drive the route prior to the tour to determine proper placement of signs and construction concerns.(approx. hours: 6)
  - **Ticket Chair** - works with tour co-chairs to develop/distribute event tickets (approx. hours: 4)
  - **Garden Maintenance Chair** - Coordinate support for gardeners in the tour. This person is not doing the work in the garden, rather coordinating what work is necessary in the various gardens. May involve posting the work on SignUpGenius with help of garden tour chair.(approx. hours: 8)

Petey also announced a tour rate special for CSEMGs. For any Master Gardener who signs up 10 attendees, the ticket price will be reduced to \$10.00 per person.

For more information please contact Garden Tour Co-chairs, Nancy Guldberg (952.451.4909) or Petey Ellis (952.934.3843).

Eduard Krakhmalnikov, Program Coordinator mentioned to the group that he is sharing information with the group through weekly updates via email and asked we stay tuned for more program details to follow in the coming months. Meeting came to end at 7:30



**Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardener Program**  
**SUGGESTIONS**

I have the following suggestion for improvement in our program:

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**(Optional):**

I would like to discuss this suggestion with a member of the Executive Committee. Please call:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please complete the form and deposit in the blue folder available at every meeting.  
No signature is necessary and all suggestions will be given due consideration by the full  
Executive Committee.*