



JUNE 2016 Newsletter

Eduard Krakhmalnikov, Program Coordinator

ABOUT US: We are a collective of trained volunteers accredited by the University of Minnesota Extension who provide free, unbiased horticultural and environmental best practices. Our goal is to enhance local quality of life through informed decision making. Last year, our team of 125 master gardeners volunteered 4,000 hours in Carver and Scott counties.

MAY, JUNE, AND JULY MEETINGS

For our **MAY** meeting we hosted 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 who spoke eloquently and engagingly on the gradual effects of climate change particular to Minnesota. He mentioned that one of the most drastic and well documented changes is the reduction in extremely low temperature days, thereby thinning the natural cold barrier that has kept certain invasive species from making a foothold in the state. We are privileged to be able to spread the knowledge and expertise shared with us to the community at large through our educational programs.

Our **JUNE** meeting will be on **TUESDAY** the 14th 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 AND PUBLIC EVENTS

- June 1** at 1pm – 5pm; **Garden Art Day** (720 Debbie Court, Chaska)
- June 4** at 8am – noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)
- June 4** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks
- June 11** at 8am – noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)
- June 11** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks
- June 14** at 6:15 pm – 7:30pm; **Evenings in the Garden** and **Monthly Meeting** (Scott County Fairgrounds)
- June 18** at 8am – noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)
- June 18** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks
- June 21** at 9am – noon; **Kids in the Garden** (Carver County Fairgrounds, West 3rd Street, Waconia)
- June 25** at 8am – noon; **Prior Lake Farmer's Market** (Eagle Creek Ave. SE & Main Ave., Prior Lake)
- June 25** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks
- June 28** at 6:15pm – 7:30pm; **Evenings in the Garden** (Scott County Fairgrounds, Jordan)
- June 30** at 1pm – 5pm; **Garden Art Day** (720 Debbie Court, Chaska)
- July 12** at 6:15pm – 7:30pm; **Evenings in the Garden** (Scott County Fairgrounds, Jordan)
- July 16** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks
- July 23** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks
- July 26** at 6:15pm – 7:30pm; **Evenings in the Garden** (Scott County Fairgrounds, Jordan)
- July 27-30** at 1pm – evening, **Scott County Fair** (Scott County Fairgrounds, Jordan)
- July 28** at 7-9 pm, **Cologne Glad Days** (City Square Park, Cologne)
- July 30** at 10am – 1pm; **Chanhassen, Chaska, Waconia** library help desks

LIBRARY CLASS METRICS

In 2016, 300 people attended our library class series with a 92% 'excellent' rating. So, what did the participants learn and what will they do differently?

'Now confident as to where to prune and how'

"Plan to explore the different varieties of vegetables! I had no idea there were so many!!"

"Which pesticides to not use, which plants to grow for pollinators."

"Less chemical usage"

"I was not aware of native plants at all – thanks for the info!"

"Emerald Ash Borer is in our area and is treatable if done early; we need to save our trees."

"Get a house and a garden!"

HIGHLIGHTS

This month, Tami LaGow, Public Health Program Specialist at Carver County Health and Human Services wrote in, saying:

"I would like to express my thanks for how helpful the Master Gardeners are! I have been working closely with Bob on the Riverview Terrace project for two years. This year, he put so much time and energy into creating a better plan for our space. He worked hours behind the scenes on creating a plan for us and determining amounts of materials needed for completing the project. **I am in awe of how helpful he is and how much passion he has for this work. I can't express my thanks enough!** Last night he brought a crew of other Master Gardeners with him and the way they all worked together with the residents to get the garden set up and planted was truly amazing! **I feel so fortunate to have Bob working with us on this project; I know it wouldn't be nearly as successful without him. Again I really thank you and all of the Master Gardeners for the services you provide."**

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Save the date for the Eighth Annual Master Gardeners Plant Sale! The event will be held on **Saturday, August 27 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Chaska Commons Shopping Center**, in the Cub Foods parking lot. Bring your gardening questions – Master Gardeners will be on hand to help. Shop for the native perennials you need – straight from Extension Master Gardeners' own yards. Plus, find fresh produce, meet local nursery vendors, unique garden art, and more.

This sale will feature perennials, shrubs, fall bulbs, ornamental grasses, house plants, fresh produce, garden art, and more. Everything will be very reasonably priced! And remember, there will be many Master Gardeners on site to offer help with plant selection, provide plant information, and answer gardening questions. For more information, visit www.carverscottmastergardeners.org. Proceeds benefit University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Community programs in Carver and Scott counties.

Plant Sale reminders For Master Gardeners:

Watch for additional Sign-Up opportunities to come.

Pots and venetian blinds for labels will be at the June meeting.

Template for plant labels will be sent out in July – with basic instructions.

Keep potting up your perennials.

Plant those veggies for the Produce Booth!!

We have opportunities for Plant Digs – Consider being on the Dig Crew

We need Plant Sitters!!

Check SUG for Garden Art Opportunities

EXTERNAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Monday June 13 from 6:30-8:30 Wild Ones Prairie Edge Chapter and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District: Join us for a **free screening of *Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home***, a 90-minute environmental, education documentary focused on showing how and why native plants are critical to the survival and vitality of local ecosystems. The film will be shown at the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District office at: **12800 Gerard Dr in Eden Prairie. Space is limited so an RSVP is required on Eventbrite [HERE](#).**

INTERN INTERVIEW

April 21, 2016

By Kate Erion, CSEMG

Where did your initial interest in gardening come from?

Libby quickly responds that her mom was her greatest gardening influence. Her mom grew gigantic Victory Gardens both in California where she was from, and later in Boston where Libby's dad is from. "We ate from the gardens," Libby says. As a child Libby followed her mom through the gardens asking questions and taking an interest in what she found on and in the soil. Libby's mom, who was a member of Wild Ones, also started pollinator gardens.

What is the biggest difference/benefit gardening has made in your life? "It keeps me grounded. I can't wait to see what shows up! I can't wait to get out and dig or just sit in the garden," she replies.



Do you have any gardening philosophies such as growing organics or sustainable gardening? "I try to balance," she tells me. "I grow one for the birds and other creatures. I believe in planting natives." Libby is considering joining Wild Ones herself this summer.

What inspired you to become a Master Gardener? While her mom was alive this was something Libby and she had discussed doing together. Although her mom passed away last year, Libby decided to pursue this on her own, because her parents instilled in her the concept of giving back.

What are you adding new this year to your garden? Sunflowers for the birds, she tells me, plus Lupine and Asters – more wildlife friendly flowers. She would also like to add a raised bed for lettuce.

Do you like vegetable gardening or flower gardening better? Due to time constraints added by new responsibilities in her marketing and sales career Libby says, "for now, flower gardening".

What events did you sign up for this year? Activities at the Juvenile Alternative Facility (JAF) in Jordan, maintaining the teaching gardens at the Scott Co. Fairgrounds, and the plant sale in August.

Who is your mentor and have they given you any good advice so far? Mandy Urness is Libby's mentor. Mandy has been calling her "a ton to check in on me!" although they haven't joined forces in an activity yet.

Favorite gardening book? Libby doesn't have one favorite book, but she loves ALL of the Audubon Field Guides which are written on a variety of natural subjects. Libby's bird and wildflower field guides get good use.

What was your favorite presentation at Garden Fever? For a woman who is interested in natives and pollinators, it is no surprise that her favorite presentation was Extension Educator Dr. Karl Foord's delightful talk and close-up slides and videos of pollinators.

What are your hobbies outside of your garden? "Biking and hiking," she says. "Ah, ha!" I say to myself. That would explain her lean physique and her youthful appearance. She and her family are outdoor enthusiasts. They have spent a good deal of time exploring the Boundary Waters north of Lake Vermillion.

What do you look forward to the most in the coming years? "Spending more time in the garden!" she responds enthusiastically.



Carver-Scott Extension Master Gardener Program SUGGESTIONS

I have the following suggestion for improvement in our program:

(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.