

MAY 2016 Newsletter

Eduard Krakhmalnikov, Program Coordinator

Dear Master Gardeners and supporters,

In this past month, we have continued moving forward with plans to expand our programs, with one particularly exciting project hopefully coming on board by the next newsletter. At the same time, we are also nearing the final stages of development of new marketing material, and changes to internal operations and organization so that we can better collaborate and showcase our high-level professional training and expertise.

As an irreplaceable addition to county services, the master gardener program provides free, unbiased support on key projects and initiatives to county personnel. Take a look at the highlights section below for reviews from both Scott and Carver county staff.

MAY, JUNE, AND JULY MEETINGS

Our **MAY** meeting will be on the 9th 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.

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

May 9 at 6:15 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)

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

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 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 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)

LIBRARY CLASS METRICS

Since 2009, over 1,200 people have attended our classes at the Prior Lake Library alone. At all of our libraries in the past 7 years, we have taught well over **2,000 people** and are growing every year.

HIGHLIGHTS

Regarding the Annual Shakopee Tree Sale, Jacob Busiahn of the Shakopee Public Works Department wrote to master gardeners who volunteered on Saturday, April 30th: **“I would not have been able to do it without you!...It’s very important to me to not only provide Shakopee residents with trees, but to give them knowledge on how to properly plant and care for them. You all helped tremendously with that.”**

Following a requested presentation to Scott County staff on April 20th, Melissa Bokman of the Natural Resources department noted that without Master Gardeners, staff **“wouldn’t have the great detailed information on specific pollinators.”**

After Master Gardeners helped her educate and guide a great turnout for buckthorn removal, habitat restoration, and park clean-up for the Carver County Park’s Earth Day celebration on April 23rd at Lake Minnewashta Park, Jessica Fenn (recreation and volunteer specialist) called Roger Storms (MG since 2012) a “star” who **“really took on the buckthorn project and educating folks like a pro!”**, adding Georgiann Keyport (MG since 1992) **“was very sweet and helpful in her organization of the volunteers”** and **“I really appreciate the support of your program!”**

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

I am very proud to say that we have grown our school programs this year and reach hundreds of children from preschool to high school. This year we are working in:

Juvenile Alternative Facility in Jordan
Jordan Elementary, Middle, and High Schools
Raven Steam Elementary in New Prague
Bluff Creek Elementary in Chanhassen
Children of Tomorrow Learning Center in Chanhassen and Waconia
El Basque Encantado Spanish Immersion Learning Center in Prior Lake **(New)**
East Union Elementary in Carver **(New)**

INTERN INTERVIEW

March 16, 2016

By Kate Erion, CSEMG

If you’ve been hearing too much about politics lately, treat yourself to something serene. Sit down and visit with a young Master Gardener for a little while. Your conversation will restore your belief in intelligent life and good character. That’s what I came away with after my chat with Carver Scott Extension Master Gardener Intern Jennifer Glenn.

Jen is a young woman interested enough in the natural world to earn a degree in Forestry from the University of Minnesota. She went on to fight fires and conduct prescribed burns in northern



Minnesota for eight years. Her parents' HUGE (see, I've been listening to politics too much!) vegetable garden and their equally enormous raspberry patch helped Jen learn an appreciation of time spent outdoors. Like many other kids she wasn't enthused about her assignment to pick raspberries, but as an adult that has changed. She is now considering the addition of raspberries to her garden in Carver where she purchased a historic home last year.

Her home was built in 1864 by none other than Louis Suelter, the breeder of the Beta grape! There are still grapes growing on the property, and Jen is looking forward to summer to learn more about what she has. Are hers some of the hybrid Beta grapes or are they our native *Vitis riparia* that Suelter crossed with the Concord grape to produce the Beta?



If Jen has grape jelly making in her future will depend on her assessment of the trees that shade her yard. Besides a plethora of Buckthorn, she has one glorious White Pine on her property that will remain. She is thoughtfully deliberating the future of at least one Walnut tree. Opening the yard up to sunshine and reducing the walnut toxicity would not only aid the grapes and the future raspberries, but it would allow a vegetable garden of her own. She's toying with the idea of a constructing a raised bed garden with her dad's help.

To learn more for herself as she approaches the restoration of her property is one thing that piqued Jen's interest in the EMG program. She's long known that the EMG program was a good source of answers. That's where she referred calls to the Forestry Service when she couldn't answer their tree questions. However, the thing that makes her a good fit for the program is her altruism. Giving something to the public would satisfy her, she said. And that's so obvious when you hear what she has signed up for in her intern year: all of it! You may have seen her helping set up for Garden Fever. You will also see her at Habitat for Humanity events, Evenings in the Garden, the plant sale, the Prior Lake Farmers' Market, the Garden Tour and answering questions on the Yard and Garden line and at the Arboretum desk, just for starters!

Jen says she's inspired to work with CSEMGs because we are a "great network of people!" Why thank you, Jen! I say you will fit in perfectly!

APRIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting began at 6:18.

Announcements:

- There are glove still available to purchase.
- There are also two Melinda Meyers, Minnesota & Wisconsin Month-by-Month Gardening, books also available for purchase. Contact Anne Thoresen for information.
- The Garden Tour is looking for two volunteers to help set up and take down signs for the tour on Saturday, July 16.
- There are several school garden volunteer openings that will be coming up soon and may not be posted on SUG. Please contact Bob Strawn for more details.
- Chanhassen Help Desk has a few openings available. Please see SUG for details.

- Georgia Storm is looking for old shoes to use as planters. Please bring to next month's meeting.
- Plant Sale is in need of pots, plant diggers, and plant sitters. See SUG for details.
- Edie Godfrey announced onion plants are arriving next Wednesday. If you've purchased onion sets, you will receive an email when shipment arrives.
- The Chanhassen Library Class Series is in need of a host/hostess. Duties include meeting and greeting attendees and handing out and collecting evaluations. Volunteer also receives education credit. If interested, contact Jane Horn for more information.

Presentations:

- Our Guest Speaker was University of Minnesota botanist Shirley Mah Kooyman who gave an entertaining and informative presentation on plant taxonomy, specifically "Botanical Latin: how plants are named."
- After words, Deb Tomczyk presented a new pitch designed to standardize our messaging and showcase our broad, sizeable, and very personal impacts at all levels of our community. A handout with the suggested wording was handed out during the meeting; if you do not have one please contact Eduard.
- At the conclusion of the meeting, Eduard and Dan Vogel presented on the opportunity to reach new audiences, particularly a younger set of potential life-long gardeners who are especially interested in local food but may not have the space or basic knowledge to garden. Community gardens were identified as a great tool to reach, engage, and educate this audience group.

The meeting came to end at 8:00.



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.