



Minnesota Master Gardener State Newsletter

April 2007

Hi Master Gardeners,

Spring often comes with a vengeance in Minnesota! And we as gardeners are always ready to get out and begin planting, dividing, and tackling a new project! As you know, 2007 marks the 30th Anniversary of the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener program! We have a number of events planned throughout the year; details are inside this newsletter and more will be coming throughout the year. *The Best Plants for 30 Tough Sites*, the new Extension publication written by you, Minnesota Master Gardeners, has been very well received. Thank you for all your work in teaching, whether this is your first year, or your 30th year, you are fulfilling the mission of Extension to meet community needs with university resources. Have a great spring!

Mary H. Meyer, Professor and State Master Gardener Coordinator
952-443-1447; meyer023@umn.edu

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**2007 State Master Gardener Conference
“Celebrating 30 Years of Master Gardener Teaching”
1997-2007**

Fergus Falls Community and Technical College

September 14-15, 2007

Hosted by:

Ottertail County East and West Master Gardener

Watch for more details in the July newsletter and online www.mg.umn.edu

The 2007 Master Gardener UPDATE Advanced Training Schedule

MG UPDATE Trainings are designed for Master Gardeners and local Extension Educators to get the latest information about horticultural research, best practices, pest control, and more. They are created to keep MG current in four core competency areas – turf, woody plants, fruits and vegetables, and herbaceous plants. Each training session is taught by an Extension faculty or Region Extension Educator in horticulture. Whether it has been a long time or only recently that you took the Core Course, these trainings are an opportunity to stay up to date!

Thanks to David Moen, for all his coordination. Here's the current list of scheduled classes, with more to come:

What's New and Cool With Lawn Care and Weed Control

- June 2 Aitkin County, Hazelton Town Hall
- August 11 Cambridge, MinnCo Community Center
- October 13 Collegeville, St. John's University

Woody Plants Update

- May 23 Slayton
- September 6 Willmar, Health and Human Services Building

Herbaceous Plants Update

- October 13 Mankato
- October 16 Rochester

The registration form and information for each training is found on the Extension web site. Go to: www.extension.umn.edu and follow the instructions below. A link is also set up in the introductory text of the Advanced Training link of the MG website www.mg.umn.edu that will take users directly to step 3 below.

1. From: www.extension.umn.edu
2. In left menu, click on "find convenient education offerings and e-learning" under the Workshops heading.
3. In the "search by one or more options" type in: **Master Gardener** (you don't need to fill in other boxes); click on "search"
4. At the bottom of the list you'll see **Master Gardener Advanced Trainings**; click on it and get the list of trainings. Choose the training you desire and click on "register" and the registration form will come in a pdf format. Download, complete and submit with registration fee to Linda Wasem.

Send in your Stories and Memories of 30 Years of Teaching in the Master Gardener Program

Lynne Hagen, as a member of the State MG Advisory Board, is compiling 30 years of memories of the Master Gardener program. Send your older and newer photos of Master Gardener activities, favorite Master Gardener hair and clothing styles from the 70's and 80's, favorite blooper memories, unusual stories or most memorable plant questions to Lynne at lynne.hagen@co.anoka.mn.us. Please list the approximate year for each photo or story, county, and key people in the photo if appropriate. Since most older photos are snapshots, please scan them or re-photograph them with a digital camera and save them in a .jpg format that can be sent electronically through email. Start dusting off those old photo albums and scrapbooks and send those as soon as possible! Selection will be subject to clarity of images and diversity of submissions. Thank you for your participation in this celebration.

Special 30th MG Anniversary Event: August 21, 2007

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the **Special 30th Anniversary Event: August 21, 2007** at the new U of M St Paul greenhouses. Mike Zins will be with us to share his memories of starting the MG program. We will tour the Display and Trial Gardens and look at favorite plants from the past 30 years, pot up an anniversary plant to take home. Enjoy cake and ice cream as we remember and celebrate 30 years of Master Gardener teaching. ALL MASTER GARDENERS are invited, whether you are currently active or inactive, this event is for anyone who has ever taken the class and worked as a volunteer for the program. Further information will be included in the July newsletter and online at www.mg.umn.edu.

State Master Gardener Advisory Board Update

The **State Master Gardener Advisory Board** met on April 20, 2007. The Board is looking at Core Course locations for 2008 in southern Minnesota. A final decision will be made at the June meeting. Submissions so far are: Rochester, Mankato, Hutchinson, Willmar, and ITV for Granite Falls, Worthington and Pipestone. The Board reviewed a new grant proposal for MG Projects, see below for your chance to submit a project and make your dream community gardening project or activity come true. Welcome new State Advisory Board members: Judy Olson, Cass County; Joan Anderson, Stearns County; Ken Schroepfer, Isanti County and Jeanne Back, Stevens County. Many thanks to outgoing members Julie Weisenhorn, Hennepin Co. Chair, Jayne Spooner, Rice Co., VChair, Ray Rath, Pine Co., and Harry Kramer, Stearns Co. for three years of service on the Board.

County 2006 MG Reports: YOU Have Made a Difference!!!

A big THANK YOU to Dave Moen and all of you who wrote your 2006 county MG reports in a new document that is online at the MG Make a Difference section of www.mg.umn.edu. WOW, it is so impressive to read of all your projects and see the ideas and programs that you have developed. We hope this will be an annual report that all counties will contribute to for 2007. Total volunteer hours reported in the new online system for 2006 were 104,142 with 2,941,267 direct and indirect contacts from 1,927 MG who reported hours.

Garden Center and Home Store Recommendations:

This year, several home improvement and large chain stores have asked Master Gardeners to provide gardening clinics in their stores. For **MG volunteering in garden centers and home stores**, **Mary Meyer sent the following recommendations** out to coordinators and MG via mastgar in March:

1. MG are great answering questions in all garden centers and home stores. This is an important way we get our information out and generate funds to support our programs.
2. MG should charge all commercial businesses for their services and all charges should be the same. For 2007 I am recommending \$75/4 hour shift for 2 MG per day. PLUS payment within 30 days and a place out of inclement weather.
3. Obtain a signed agreement from the person who will be paying you.
I know the issues involved here: outstate businesses are small compared to large metro businesses. Past years charges were not this high. Past experiences with home stores are variable and often difficult. But this is the best for all of us. We cannot treat businesses differently and we cannot afford to give away our expertise. If you feel this cost is a hardship to small businesses, try to work out a compromise of holding your meetings there, or patronizing the business. A charge to businesses is the only fair way to handle the MANY requests that I have seen this year. Large home stores will often work with a subcontractor, who is the person who will actually pay you, not the large home store. I am trusting that all of your local county coordinators can handle these requests and do not need my interference. However, when each county charges its own price, and has its own different agreement, we do not serve the public well. I will be working directly with the MG Coordinators to let them know the specific stores and agreements I am aware of and have received. It is great to have the interest from home stores and have them recognize your expertise as Master Gardeners.

Arboretum Yard & Garden Desk and Phone: Volunteers Needed !!

The Yard & Garden Desk is open year round on the weekends. It's a great way to get in your hours and see the resources of the Arboretum. Sign up online and select the day that works for you. Bring a friend and double the fun! Phone call backs can be done at your leisure from home. See the online signup link at www.mg.umn.edu, or call Shirley Kooyman: 952-443-1419.

Review the Core Course Online

The Online section of the Core Course is available to active Master Gardeners. Go to www.umn.edu, click on my U, then my Toolkit, log in as username: garden password: Sign On 123 Look for the link Hort 1003 Horticulture for the Home and Garden/MG Core Course. This username and password will be good for 2007.

2007 Request for Proposals for Master Gardener Projects

Requests are being taken for Master Gardener Projects to initiate or enhance educational programs and events that are currently limited due to funding. Small grants of up to \$1,000 will be considered for projects that meet the following criteria: address a community need, can be completed within 1 year, fulfill the mission of Extension, involve a significant number of people, and show a positive educational impact in the community.

Requests should be submitted by June 15 to Mary Meyer, MG State Coordinator, for review at the June 2007 State Advisory Board meeting. Monies will be granted by July 15, 2007 and must be used by June 30, 2008. Awarded projects must 1) complete a final evaluation showing the community impact and submit this to the State MG Advisory Board by June 30, 2008 and 2) prepare a presentation or poster for the annual State MG Conference.

Request for Proposals for Master Gardener Projects

Project name _____ Date _____

Contact Person _____ County _____
Email _____ phone _____

Extension Staff Contact (if applicable) _____

Project description: 500 words or less, use a separate page if necessary:

Expected impact in the community:

Amount of funding requested:

Specific use of funds, if not listed in description:

Timeline of project:

Future plans for project sustainability after funding:

New MG Resources on the Internet

The Best Plants for 30 Tough Sites a new powerpoint available online at the MG Resources link at www.mg.umn.edu for you to use in teaching. Developed by Mary Meyer, this accompanies the new publication which MG wrote this year. Ask your county extension office to order you a copy of this new pub, see it online at the link from www.mg.umn.edu

Coming soon: **Container Gardening** an updated powerpoint **with audio voice**, developed by Mary Meyer; look for it soon at the MG Resources link at www.mg.umn.edu

Health and Safety for Gardeners: The Center for Disease Control has developed and posted this website for gardeners. <http://www.cdc.gov/women/owh/gardening/index.html>

Yard and Garden News has a new look and format, thanks to the new editor, author and Regional Extension Educator Nancy Rose. It's published twice a month throughout the growing season; check it out to see the latest U info and the updates from Regional Extension Educators including David Zlesak, Jeff Hahn, Michelle Grabowski, and Bob Mugaas.
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/projects/yardandgarden/YGLNews/YGLNews.html>

As part of the Master Gardener 30th Anniversary Celebration, thanks to Pine County Master Gardener, Ray Rath for writing this article:

A memoir from Ray Rath, Master Gardener from the Class of 1977: 3 years in Washington County and 21 years in Pine County

Reading the very fine, well researched article that Warren Banks wrote for the Yard & Garden Newsletter, motivated me to record how I became a master gardener in 1977 and my subsequent participation in the program...

This memoir is written based on my personal recollections and the data I have in my files. In writing the part on the history of Pine County master gardeners I received inputs from Kris Hennings, Cookie Heikes, Donna Martin and Alyce Lere.

At the 12 April, 2007 Pine County master gardener meeting a committee was appointed to locate the Pine County Extension files that have been stored since the Hinckley office was closed. That data will be used to write an official history of Pine County master gardener program. This memoir is my story of my involvement in the master gardener program.

Like Warren did, I will briefly relate the history of how I became interested in gardening that led to my applying for the course. No need to duplicate the history of the start of the Master Gardener program. Warren did an excellent job which I found to be quite accurate. I still have the original correspondence, rosters and notebook with literature issued me upon becoming a master gardener in Washington County in 1977. I will use some of that data in the following write-up.

My history goes back to an earlier time, in the mid 1930s, growing up in Antigo, Wisconsin. Like most families in those depression day's survival depended on a garden. We lived in a rental property on the edge of town that had

a garden in back that probably had been gardened for many years before we moved in. We three children were expected to help in the garden and we reluctantly weeded, picked potato bugs and tomato worms, and trapped gophers and rabbits that came from nearby fields.

Many years later, after taking Plant Propagation courses, in the fall of 1976 I saw a notice for people to apply for a Master Gardener program I asked one of the Profs I had a class with about it and he said it sounded like a good idea so I applied.

I received the following response:

October 25, 1976

Dear Mr. Rath:

Thank you for your interest in the Master Gardener program. Enclosed is an application form and schedule for the training sessions to be held on the St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota.

The Master Gardener Program is designed for experienced and knowledgeable gardeners who will volunteer their time to helping other gardeners with gardening problems. The Master Gardeners must have a desire to share their knowledge with others in the community.

Apprentice Master Gardeners are selected on the basis of background, commitment to community service, and availability. Participants are selected without regard to age, color, sex, race, social status, national origin, or religious creed.

Gardeners selected are given 60 hours of training to supplement their experience and knowledge. The training sessions will go from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays during March, 1977. After successfully completing an examination at the end of training, the Apprentice Master Gardener will volunteer a minimum of 50 hours per year at plant clinics. After a season of service, the Master Gardeners Certificate will be given each recipient.

The plant clinics will be held about 3 hours a day, twice a week or as deemed necessary. They will be open from April through September. Flexibility in scheduling will allow for vacations, etc., but a commitment to the program and reliability are essential.

The opportunities for learning and community service are unlimited, but this is a volunteer program. As the program is funded for community benefit, individuals interested must carefully consider the volunteer commitment before participating.

Sincerely, (signed)
Michael E. Zins
Area Extension Agent-Horticulture

The next correspondence received was dated February 14, 1977 and was addressed to: Master Gardener Participants and was a full page devoted to location, parking, etc. signed by Michael E. Zins with 5 enclosures.

One of the enclosures was the schedule showing classes on every Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from 1 March through 31 March with the following sessions:

Introduction to the M.G. program: ½ hr Mike Zins
Introduction to Horticulture: 1-1/2 hr Glen Ray
Soil Management: 4 hrs Bill Fenster, Curt Overdahl
The Structure and Functioning of Plants: 3 hrs O.C. Turnquist
Garden Management; 3 Hrs O.C. Turnquist
Pesticides: 2 hrs Mark Acerno, Hal Routh
Managing Plant Growth: 4 hrs Mike Zins
Ground Covers: 1 hr Mike Zins
Vegetables: 4 hrs O.C. Turnquist

Food harvesting: 1 Hr. O.C. Turnquist
Insects; 6 hrs Mark Ascerno
Small and Tree Fruits : 3 hrs Leonard Hertz
Food Preservation and Canning: 3 hrs Shirley Barber
Plant Diseases: 6 hrs Frank Pflieger, Ward Stienstra
Lawns: 3 hrs Curt Klint
Annuals and Perennials: 3 hrs Merv Eisel
Landscaping: 2 hrs Jane McKinnon
Shrubs: 2 Hrs Merv Eisel
Trees: 2hrs Merv Eisel
House Plants: 3 Hrs Glen Ray
Weeds: 3 hrs L. Hertz

The next correspondence, dated April 7, 1977, was from the Washington County Extension Director, Dennis D. Seefeldt, congratulating us on the completion of the course and appointing a young lady, Pam Sanders, to essentially be our monitor/coordinator at the first clinics or any other activities we would be involved in. She worked with us the full 3 years I was active in Washington County. Attached to the memo was a list of all 12 Washington County Master Gardeners.

Another memo I have, dated, 4/77, lists the Washington County master gardeners, their addresses and their specialties. On the following list I have just included the name, city and specialties.

Sunnie Beasmer, Forest Lake: Flowers & house plants
Frank McCoy, Forest Lake: Vegetables, turf, shrubbery
Marilyn Johnson, Stillwater: Perennials, landscaping, has own greenhouse
Carla Mills, Stillwater: landscape materials, vegetables and small fruits, wildlife food and cover
Cynthia Driscoll, Afton: vegetable gardening, seed selection
Ray Rath, Bayport: Apples, grafting, hardwood and softwood propagation, vegetables, bees and honey, greenhouse, maple syrup, wine from natural fruits
Rebecca J. Holz, Cottage Grove: Foliage house plants, some flowering house plants, vegetables
Doris Palmer, Cottage Grove: House plants, cactus (succulents), rock garden plants,
Pat Ryan, Cottage Grove: Vegetable gardening, fruits, shrubs
Claudia Glass, Cottage Grove: Houseplants, rock garden plants, vegetables, outdoor flowers
Bob Brant, Woodbury: Vegetable gardening, would like to work in clinic with others, available anytime, and (retired)

I do not know if any of these people are still active other than me.

The next correspondence was on April 25, 1977 from Michael Zins to all Apprentice Master Gardeners congratulating us, thanking us for evaluating the course, with 3 enclosures one of which was a roster of all 67 Master Gardeners. As I recall, the 12 Washington County members worked with Pam Sanders, going to clinics set up for us to answer questions from gardeners who came to the clinics, as well as taking telephone calls and going to inspect gardens when asked.

In May of 1980, after 3 years in the program, we sold our house in Bayport on the St. Croix to go sailing for almost six years with four of our six children. We visited over 35 countries during our voyage. In just about every country we visited I attempted to study their agricultural practices which in many cases were quite different than ours due to weather, climate, and tradition.

We arrived back in Duluth, sailing into Duluth harbor on 3 August, 1985. In January 1986 I registered and attended the core course classes in Duluth and got reinstated as a master gardener. My neighbor, Linda Kvasnicka, also took that course. We reported to the extension office in Hinckley as soon as we finished the course. There

was no extension educator in the office at that time. There was a lady who handled 4H matters and one other woman handling some of the other affairs. There was no one coordinating master gardener activities.

We met two master gardeners, two elderly fellows named Joe Falta and Roy Seifert. Linda only participated about a year as she became discouraged at the lack of interest from the extension office without the extension educator. Another new master gardener, Vern Miller started about '87 or '88. Roy died about that time and just Joe, Vern Miller and I were left. Joe left shortly thereafter, I don't recall whether he also died or if he just retired. Vern moved out of state about 1990. There were a few others who joined but didn't stay around very long. I have forgotten their names. My name and telephone number were circulated through out the county by the office secretary, Cookie Heikes, through the newspapers and by telephone. I wrote articles for the newspapers, taught classes at some of the schools, mostly in the spring, made visits to people asking for help and more or less worked on my own.

One educator came in, Tom (?), who lived in Wisconsin but was only there for a couple of months. It wasn't until Steve Draskowski was assigned as extension educator in 1992 that activities really picked up. He recruited several classes of master gardeners, 4 or 5 people each year for three or four years. Kris Henning came in 1992, and later served on the M/G advisory board and was its chairperson one year. She is still with the program. In addition to Kris and myself, we still have active, two from the class of 1995, 1 from 1999, 3 from 2000, 4 from 2001, 1 from 2002, and 4 from 2004. Steve left about 1997 and Tom Salzer was the coordinator for awhile. Then he left and Paul Mahoney took over for awhile about 1998. When the budget crunch did away with the extension office in Hinckley in 2004 we had a part time coordinator working in the Cloquet office, Denise Volk. She had been in the Hinckley office before it was closed. She also was a master gardener. Her funding to support us was cut off at the end of 2005 and we were left without any supervision or coordination until Terry Salmela arrived on a part time basis in 2006. He has recruited a large group this year, 2007, over 15 people.

In the mid 90's, my wife Cecilia began coming to meetings more regularly, attending trips we took as a group and assisted in functions where ever possible. About that time our group made a visit to the Swenson vineyard in Osceola, WI and a few years later to Bailey's nursery. One year we also made a tour of some nurseries in the twin cities with a final stop at the arboretum. We started manning a master gardener booth at the county fair in the late '90s and in 2001 we started our annual plant sale the last week in May at the Pine County fairgrounds on a Wednesday when the flea markets were there. Then in 2003 we started our first Hort day which has become an annual affair. Starting in the mid '90s we have held an annual garden tour of master gardener gardens, one year in the south, the next year in the north.

In June of 2004 I started a 3 year term on the State Master Gardener Advisory Board. It has been a very stimulating and enjoyable experience. With the arrival of the large class of interns this spring the Pine County Master Gardener program will continue to grow. It has come a long way from how it was when I arrived in the spring of 1986. I, and my wife Cecilia, hope to be able to continue being a part of that program in the years to come.

Thanks Ray for talking the time to write your memories of the Master Gardener program and for your many years of service!

July 16-19, 2008, Upper Midwest MG Conference: *Gardening Through the Continuum of Life*
Milwaukee, WI, The Southeast Wisconsin MGA is hosting this conference that is held every two years. The theme of the 2008 conference refers to addressing the needs of gardeners of all ages and capabilities. The Conference will be at the Four Points Sheraton, Milwaukee. More information will be available in 2007, check online at: <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>

International Master Gardener Conference
May 2-5, 2007 • Little Rock, Arkansas



International MG Conference

Mark your calendars: May 2-5, 2007 is the next International MG Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. Check it out at <http://mg2007.uaex.edu/>. Registration deadline is April 1, 2007.



Coming to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum next July 19-21, 2007 the American Horticultural Society's 15th Annual **National Children & Youth Garden Symposium**. The theme is **Widening the Circle**, this sounds a lot like our state conference diversity theme. More information is available online at: http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm

The "Master" in Master Gardener doesn't mean you know everything about gardening, it means you volunteer and teach horticulture for the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

Master Gardener Calendar of Events

January –December 2007:	30 th Anniversary of the Minnesota Master Gardener Program	
May 2-5	International MG Conference	Little Rock, AK
	http://mg2007.uaex.edu/	
July 19-21	National Children & Youth Gardening Symposium	Arboretum
	www.ahs.org	
August 21, 2007	30 th Anniversary Celebration	St. Paul U of M

August 23-Sept 3, 2007	Minnesota State Fair	Greenhouses
Sept 14-15, 2007	MN MG State Conference	St. Paul
July 16-19, 2008	Upper Midwest MG Conference:	Fergus Falls
	<i>Gardening Through the Continuum of Life</i>	Milwaukee, WI



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