

Gardening Education Day

Stearns County Master Gardener Copy

Saturday March 29, 2014

St. John's University, Collegeville

Registrations due by March 25

Keynote Session: "Best Performing Perennials for Zones 3 & 4"



With the constant influx of new perennials and the great attention focused on them, we often tend to neglect some of the "tried and true" plants. This session will include a bit of both, but the focus will be on perennials that have had a chance to prove their reliability in our northern landscapes. Culture, care and varietal selection will all be discussed.

This **Keynote Session** will be presented by Michael L. Heger who has worked in both public and private horticulture. He is also a published author, including "Perennials A to Z", a series of articles that were originally published in Minnesota Horticulturist and co-author of "Growing Perennials in Cold Climates", a gardening book written specifically for the colder regions of this country.

General Session: "Tried, True and New Shrubs for Minnesota"

There have been many new shrub introductions over the last few years focused on adding color and small plant size to the palette of shrubs available to gardeners. This presentation will take a look at some of these new shrubs along with older shrub cultivars that perform well in northern gardens. Along the way, we will discuss what's appealing or not so appealing among cultivars and what to consider as you select shrubs for your landscape.

This **General Session** will be presented by Kathy Zuzek. She is an Extension Educator whose work focuses on plant evaluation to identify attractive, low-care shrubs for the Upper Midwest and gardening practices focused on environmental stewardship. Her career and training have focused on forest pathology, horticulture, plant breeding and the development of shrub and tree cultivars for northern gardeners.

Gardening Education Day Schedule:

7:45	Registration	10:00	Concurrent Session A	1:15	Keynote Session
8:30	Welcome	11:15	Concurrent Session B	2:45	Concurrent Session C
8:40	General Session	12:15	Lunch/Door Prize drawing	3:45	Adjourn



Presented by:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

STEARNS COUNTY



Event location:

St. John's University

Peter Engel Science Building, Collegeville

Registration 7:45-8:30 am; Sessions 8:30 am-3:45 pm

Session Descriptions



10:00-11:00 Concurrent Sessions A

11:15-12:15 Concurrent Sessions B

2:45-3:45 Concurrent Sessions C

Evolving Echinacea:

A Look at Recent Developments

by Michael Heger

Sessions offered: C1

Evolving Echinacea: In recent years, the gardening world has witnessed the introduction of numerous cultivar selections with the genus *Echinacea*. This presentation will highlight some of the more prominent hybridizing programs and some of the selections they have introduced. In addition, some of the best performing introductions to date for our region will be noted, along with the reasons that they stand out among the pack. **Michael L. Heger** is our keynote speaker today. His bio can be found on the back page of this brochure.

Gardening Lessons I Learned the Hard Way

by Jackie Froemming

Session offered: B1

Gardening Lessons I Learned the Hard Way: In the fall of 2012, Jackie left behind the gardens she started creating in 2000 and tended for 12 years. Realizing she couldn't take her gardens with her, she started thinking about what she was able to take...and that was the gardening knowledge she gained over those years. She does confess that some of that knowledge was learned the hard way. During this presentation, Jackie will go over these lessons with the hope that those attending the class won't have to learn the way she did. **Jackie Froemming**, UMN Extension Educator, provides education and technical assistance relating to water resources and also relating to consumer horticulture. Jackie is also the coordinator of the UMN Extension Master Gardener Program in Crow Wing County.

Happy Gardeners Have Sharp Pruners

(limit of 20 participants)

by John Elton

Session offered: B5, C4

Happy Gardeners Have Sharp Pruners - Sharpening Pruners and Other Garden Tools: (limit 20 participants) **Please bring your pruners and sharpening kit to this session. Sharpening kits can be ordered at the time of registration for \$25. Note on your registration form if you would like to order a kit and include separate payment.** Keep your pruner in good working order. Learn to clean, maintain and sharpen your pruner in a hands-on setting. The class will allow small working groups to learn how to disassemble your pruner, clean and maintain all working parts, reassemble and then learn the proper technique to sharpen and maintain your cutting edge for clean cuts every time. **John Elton** is a Stearns County Master Gardener and the Landscape Manager for St. John's University. For the past ten years John has been responsible for the gardens throughout the campus as well as the proper maintenance and pruning of the trees and shrubs of the campus landscape.

Healthy Soil, Healthy Lives

by Carl Rosen

Session offered: A4, B2

Healthy Soil, Healthy Lives: Over the past few years there has been much excitement surrounding the importance of soils in our lives. This talk will highlight how maintaining a healthy soil will in turn support a vibrant community. Particular emphasis will be focused on improving the health and quality of soils for gardening and food production. **Carl Rosen** is Professor and Head of the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate at the University of Minnesota. He joined the University in 1983 after earning a PhD in Soil Science from the University of California, Davis. His primary research and emphasis is focused on vegetable and fruit crops commercially grown in MN.

Lawn Rehabilitation 101

by Sam Bauer

Sessions offered: A1, B4

Lawn Rehabilitation 101: Growing a healthy lawn in Minnesota is a challenging and ongoing endeavor even when Mother Nature cooperates. With the recent droughts, extreme summer heat, and ice-covered winters, we've seen many lawns in Minnesota deteriorate over the last couple of years. This session will focus on how to rehabilitate those stressed, weedy, and unsightly lawns with several easy maintenance practices. We will also discuss turfgrass species options that are more resilient in times of stress. **Sam Bauer** is a Turfgrass Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota. Sam's research and objectives revolve around practical management strategies to improve the performance of turfgrass on golf courses, sports fields, general grounds, and home lawns. He has extensive working experience in turfgrass management in the Midwest United States, including degrees from the University of Minnesota in Turfgrass Science.

Ornamental Grasses for the Landscape:

Perennial and Annual

by Diane Hansgen

Session offered: C2

Ornamental Grasses for the Landscape: Ornamental grasses have been used in European and Asian gardens for centuries. It's only in recent years that they've become popular in the U.S. They are amazingly healthy and easy to grow. Their varied colors, forms and textures make them a 'must have' for the landscape and container gardens. Diane will introduce you to some of the most popular varieties, their uses, and how to care for them. **Diane Hansgen** is an active Stearns County Master Gardener as well as St. Cloud Flower & Garden Club and Stearns County Horticultural Society member. She has extensive perennial gardens of her own and enjoys passing on her secrets to success to everyone. She's an active speaker for many organizations & garden clubs and has been a participant in many Summer Garden Tours sponsored by various local and state garden clubs.

Preserve Your Harvest

by Deb Botzek-Linn

Session offered: A3

Preserve Your Harvest: "Somebody" told me I could waterbath beans, is this safe? Can you freeze tomatoes? Preserve Your Harvest will update you on the safest methods for canning, freezing, pickling & tomato products. Whether you are new to home food preservation or have been preserving for years this session is for you! **Deb Botzek-Linn** is an Extension Educator in Food Safety with University of Minnesota Extension. One area of her work is safe home food preservation. Personally, she enjoys preserving pickled beets and beans, sauerkraut, salsa, and drying tomatoes.

*****Session descriptions continued on back page**

Gardening Education Day Registration Form

Online Registration Available: z.umn.edu/GardenEdDay2014

Number your choices for **EACH** session, in order of preference (marking "1" as your first choice, "2" as your second choice and so on)
All attempts will be made to grant your first choice.

Concurrent Session A: (rank 1 to 5)

- A1: ____ Lawn Rehabilitation 101
- A2: ____ Water Wisely
- A3: ____ Preserve Your Harvest
- A4: ____ Healthy Soil, Healthy Lives
- A5: ____ What's Up in the Garden

Concurrent Session B: (rank 1 to 5)

- B1: ____ Gardening Lessons
- B2: ____ Healthy Soil, Healthy Lives
- B3: ____ Rain Garden
- B4: ____ Lawn Rehabilitation 101
- B5: ____ Sharpening Pruners (limit of 20)
____ Sharpening Kit (opt.) - \$25

Concurrent Session C: (rank 1 to 4)

- C1: ____ Evolving Echinacea
- C2: ____ Ornamental Grasses for Landscape
- C3: ____ Rain Garden
- C4: ____ Sharpening Pruners (limit of 20)
____ Sharpening Kit (opt.) - \$25

Sandwich Choice: (select one)

- ____ Ham
- ____ Turkey
- ____ Vegetarian

Name: _____

Email: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____ Check Number _____

SCMG: \$23 per person/Non-SCMG: \$28 — Checks payable to: Stearns County Master Gardeners

Please include a separate check for \$25 if you are registering for the "Happy Gardeners Have Sharp Pruners" session and would like to purchase a sharpening kit. ****Orders for sharpening kits must be received by March 19th.**

Master Gardeners should note that attendance at the conference will satisfy continuing education requirements.

Pre-registration required —
Must be received no later than

March 25th, 2014

No refunds after March 26, 2014
Spaces will be filled as registrations are received. Limited to the first 300 registrants.

SCMG Fee: \$23.00 Per Registrant
Non-MG Fee: \$28.00 Per Registrant

****Note: Refunds will not be given for overpayment**

(Includes morning coffee, tea & rolls, box lunch, afternoon refreshments, and session materials)

Please make check payable to:
Stearns County Master Gardeners

Mail check & registration form to:
*Stearns County Extension
3400 1st Street North, Suite 103
St. Cloud, MN 56303-1924*



Directions to Saint John's University Peter Engel Science Building

St. John's University is located about 10 miles west from downtown St. Cloud on I-94

From the East

- Take I-94 West to Saint John's University exit #156, County Road 159
- Turn left on County Road 159
- Go approximately 1 1/2 miles to Saint John's University

From the West

- Take I-94 East to Saint John's University exit, County Road 159
- Turn right on County Road 159
- Go approximately 1 1/2 miles to Saint John's University

From St. Cloud

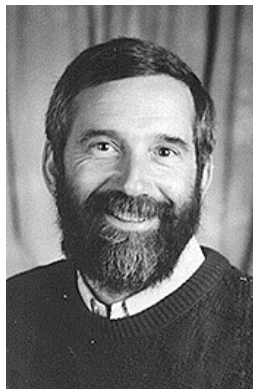
- Take Division Street (County Road 75) west through St. Joseph; it will merge with I-94
- Take I-94 West to Saint John's University exit #156, County Road 159
- Turn left on County Road 159
- Go approximately 1 1/2 miles to Saint John's University

From St. Cloud

- Or take Highway 15 south to I-94 (then follow "East" directions)



About our speakers...



Michael L. Heger has worked in both public and private horticulture. He spent the first fifteen years of his career at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. In 1985, along with his wife Jean, a niche perennial nursery called *Ambergate Gardens* was opened. Recently retired from the nursery, Mike now spends his time lecturing, writing and consulting on issues related to perennials in northern gardens. He is active in numerous plant societies and trade organizations related to perennial flowers.

Kathy Zuzek is an Extension Educator with expertise in trees and shrubs.

Her training is in forest science and in plant breeding and genetics. Prior to joining the University of Minnesota Extension horticultural team, she worked in forest pathology research followed by over 20 years as a plant breeder on the University of Minnesota's woody ornamental research program that has provided northern gardeners with the Northern Accents™ roses, the 'Lights' series of azaleas, Garden Glow™ dogwood, 'Emerald Triumph' viburnum, Firefall™ Freeman maple, Summertime™ Amur maackia, 'His Majesty' corktree, 'Stately Manor' Kentucky coffeetree, and other shrub and tree cultivars.



Session Descriptions Continued...

Rain Garden How-To's:

Design, Install, Maintain

by *Tara Ostendorf*

Session offered: B3, C3

Rain Garden How-To's: Rain gardens create a beautiful solution to water run-off, but how do they work? Learn about how a rain garden functions, the design, installation and the maintenance of the garden.

Tara Ostendorf is the Environmental Project Technician for the Sauk River Watershed District. Her main focus at work is to improve water quality by working one-on-one with landowners to install conservation projects throughout the District. Tara lives on a small hobby farm north of Albany with her husband, three kids, and horde of "farm pets".

Water Wisely

by *Jackie Froemming*

Session offered: A2

Water Wisely: This presentation will cover recommended gardening practices that will help you save water when watering flower beds and lawn. **Jackie Froemming**, University of Minnesota Extension Educator, provides education and technical assistance relating to water resources and also relating to consumer horticulture. Jackie is also the coordinator of the UMN Extension Master Gardener Program in Crow Wing County.

What's Up in the Garden?:

Exciting Trends in 2014

by *Terry Engels*

Sessions offered: A5

What's Up in the Garden?: What's the buzz? Whether you are a veteran Master Gardener or a newbie, what might you see in the marketplace, what questions might you hear in 2014? This long-time Extension Master Gardener and member of the Garden Writers Association will share expectations of industry insiders and conclusions of garden professionals from the area, state and national scene. **Terry Engels** has been a Stearns County Master Gardener for 15 years. For a number of years she worked as a staff gardener and garden supervisor at a public garden. Previously she was a bookstore owner, small publisher in St. Cloud and occasionally taught French at St. Cloud State University. She now works as a garden coach, speaks, and writes on garden topics, (see www.co.stearns.mn.us/Community/CountyBlogs Growing Smarts).

