

# Garden Club of Ramsey County (GCRC)

## News Notes

### 18 November 2013 Meeting

#### AGENDA

##### **6:30 Business Meeting**

Bylaw and Standing Rules

Election of Officers/Directors

Holiday Party/Silent Auction

Membership Renewal

Hospitality Hosts

Sunshine

Exhibits and Mini-Shows

Additional Announcements

##### **7:00 Refreshments**

##### **7:25 Guest Speaker**

#### TONIGHT'S GUEST SPEAKERS: Jennifer and John Thull

##### **Topic: The Great Pumpkin Harvest**

John and Jenny Thull (Vineyard Manager and Vineyard Assistant) take care of the University of Minnesota's research vineyards for the Grape Breeding Program at the Horticultural Research Center (HRC) near Chanhassen. They also have a 4 acre vineyard with John's parents at the family farm near Melrose, Minnesota. John and Jenny started growing pumpkins and squash a few years ago on small, open field plots at the HRC. The project has since grown into a 3 acre 'experiment' in seeing how different varieties perform. The 2012 season saw 155 different cucurbits trialed. The bountiful harvests are now an integral part of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's autumn displays. Many specimens, that you will usually not see anywhere else, are also sold on site at the HRC through the Apple House. John and Jenny also enjoy growing many other vegetables and fruits, even dabbling a bit with hops. Jenny's culinary training and expertise are constantly being honed with everything that gets harvested from the gardens. John's palate has to work hard to keep up with all the tasty preparations, but he says he is up to the task!

#### CONGRATULATIONS:

**Cyn Bloom** received the Metro Bloom's 2013 Minneapolis Garden Awards **BEST COTTAGE GARDEN**. Her award was revealed at the November 7 Awards Ceremony. Clare Fossum was a Metro Blooms "Exceptional Garden Award" winner.

#### THANK YOU HOSPITALITY HOSTS:

Hafizan Engebretson, Joan Floren, Judy MacManus, Liz Morrison, Carol Morse, and Nancy Scherer.

#### CALENDAR:

**2 December GCRC Joint Board and Committee Chairs Meeting** at the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS) Office, 2705 Lincoln Road, Roseville. Bring snacks to share. Informal check-ins, shopping and snacking at 6:00 p.m. Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

**8 December GCRC Holiday Party** at the Pool and Yacht Club, Lilydale. 5:00 Silent Auction and cash bar; 6:00 dinner. Registrations, \$26 per person, are due to Cyn Bloom by November 30. Contact Cyn Bloom at 612.724.930 regarding the dinner. Contact Sue Knapton at 651.239.4799 regarding the silent auction.