

Garden Club of Ramsey County

Centennial

1912 – 2012      100 years & growing !

## News Notes---April 2012

Website: [www.ramseygardeners.org](http://www.ramseygardeners.org)

We are now on FACEBOOK



### *Meeting Agenda*

Welcome—Liz Morrison, President

- GCRC Public Gardens --Kirsti Groess & Barb Parisien
- Garden Gates—Cecelia Frederick
- Friends Plant Sale--(May 11, 12, 13) Nancy Scherer & Liz Morrison
- The great Plant Sale (May 18, 19)-- Joan Floren, Brenda Severson
- Cole Burrell Event (May 21)—Karen Sutherland
- New Member & Past Presidents Supper (June 18)—Joan Floren & Nancy Scherer
- Summer Garden party (July 16)—Roz Annen & Alice Cederberg
- Volunteering at the MN State Fair—Liz Morrison
- Sunshine Report—Luann Muller
- Mini Show—Getting started-Seedlings/ photos of seedlings, & Spring flowers !!
- Announcements, New Members & Visitors

### *Hospitality*

Hospitality Co-Chairs—Sue Knapton-Hoffmann, and Ann Sturm, plus volunteers provided tonight's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday cake and Champagne—MaryDon Beeson, Liz Morrison, Sharon Van Epps, Jan Wenker, Pat Joyce & Annette Schardin

### *Growing Peonies the Natural Way, by Keith Swenson*

Keith Swenson, co-owner of Swenson Gardens, has been growing environmentally friendly peonies for over 30-years. Since growing up on a farm, his love affair with gardening started when he was 5-years old. His grandma encouraged him into gardening and the old fashion way of growing peonies is the mainstay of the business. Swenson Gardens started in 2002 and is now considered the largest chemical free peony grower in the United States. Their peonies have been featured in major magazines and newspapers and their website has received rave reviews from visitors around the world. Visit their online garden at [www.swensongardens.com](http://www.swensongardens.com).

### *GCRC Public Gardens News !*

Co Coordinators—Kirsti Groess & Barb Parisien

- Kirsti Groess has a sign-up for the “Montreal Garden Maintenance Gardeners” which involves weeding and watering for 2 week commitment for volunteers--Members can "buddy up" for the 2 weeks.

### *The Great Plant Sale – Sat. May 19, 2012*

Mark your calendars! The famous GCRC Plant Sale will be held at Highland Catholic School on Saturday 19 May, 2012 beginning at 8 a.m. Members should go to the club web site Members' Only page for plant order blanks, pricing guidelines and how to sign up to help. Anyone attending for the first time should be sure to arrive early!

Co-coordinators—Joan Floren & Brenda Severson

- Please Sign up for a volunteer duty—forms passed around at tonight’s meeting –many hands make light work !
- Order deadline for Ambergate and wildflowers will be the April 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Get out and dig plants for our club fundraiser! It is our Centennial year and it looks so far like we will have an early spring, so maybe we can set a record with the sale!

### *Linder's Fundraiser May 4 - 7*

GCRC members again have the opportunity to support the club by shopping at Linder's Greenhouses, Garden Center or Flower Marts. Download coupons from our club website-- and 15% of your total pre-tax purchase on May 4 - 7 will be donated to GCRC.

### *Noted Author Cole Burrell to Speak Next Month*

GCRC is joining with MSHS to bring Cole Burrell, noted garden designer and author, to Minnesota to celebrate the 100th birthday of GCRC. Cole will speak at the May 21 meeting on “Literature into Art: Books that Changed the Way We Garden”. There will be a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception with book signing in the gardens of Jerry and Lee Shannon preceding the talk. Cost to attend the reception is \$10.00; all reception attendees (GCRC members and guests) must register and pay in advance. GCRC members will be admitted free to the talk. A limited number of guest tickets to the talk (\$15.00) are available from MSHS (651-643-3601). Links to the MSHS web page covering the talk and the registration form for the reception are on the main GCRC web page.

Two of Cole's books can be purchased in advance at deep discount from GCRC. Samples of the books and order forms are available at tonight's meeting. The deadline for ordering books is tonight, 16 April. The deadline for ordering reception tickets is Monday 15 May.

### *New Members and Past Presidents Supper*

June 18th at 6:00pm in Jerry and Lee Shannon's garden at [1847 Eleanor Avenue, Saint Paul](#)

All new members and all the past presidents of the club are invited to attend a potluck provided by the committee chairs. If you've never seen the Shannons' one-of-a-kind garden or haven't seen it recently, that is enough reason to attend, but you will also receive a lovely plant and lots of information about what the different committees do. This is a chance to get to know your fellow new members and many of the long-time members of GCRC. See you there!

Nancy Scherer and Joan Floren

### *Minnesota Landscape Arboretum News*

[www.arboretum.umn.edu](http://www.arboretum.umn.edu), 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska MN 55318 | 952.443.1400

#### 2012 Gardening School

Learn from the experts through lectures, demonstrations, on-site garden visits and hands-on activities. The Arboretum Gardening School offers rich opportunities for lifelong learning on a full range of topics. Whether a beginner, enthusiast or an industry professional, the Arboretum Gardening School offers the right classes to fit your needs. **Questions?** Call 952-443-1422 or email: [ArbEdu@umn.edu](mailto:ArbEdu@umn.edu)

### *MN Horticultural Society*

www.northerngardener.org

MSSH offices, library, bookstore, and educational facility are located at:

**Address:**

Minnesota State Horticultural Society  
2705 Lincoln Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113  
(651) 643-3601 / (800) 676-6747/ Fax: (651) 643-3638

**Hours:**

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturday	closed
Sunday	closed

Classes are sponsored by the **Minnesota State Horticultural Society**, but are held at various locations, as noted. Enrollment is limited, and pre-registration is required. To register, call 651-643-3601 or 800-676-6747, ext 211.

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### **The Friends School Plant**

**The Friends School Plant Sale is entirely volunteer-run.** Over 1,000 people are needed to do everything from building display tables to shelving plants, and from tallying up orders to packing it all up after the sale is over.

**The best way to contact us is email at [info@friendsschoolplantsale.com](mailto:info@friendsschoolplantsale.com)**

Our phone number, 651-621-8930, is checked periodically. Between February and the sale date in May, it is checked daily.

*Each year, volunteers are invited to shop at the presale, Thursday evening from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.*

Each volunteer is expected to work four hours. Shifts generally are from 7 or 8 am to 12 noon; from 12 noon to 4 p.m., 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., and sometimes 8 p.m. until midnight. Find out about your specific shift time when you sign up.

**Volunteer jobs generally fall into the following categories:**

- [Setup](#) (before the sale)
- [Plant receiving and shelving](#) (before the sale)
- [During the sale](#)
- [Clean up](#) (after the sale)
- **Volunteer desk**, which has shifts throughout the day during most of the week. Using a computer, check volunteers in as they arrive. Hand out shirts/aprons/hats, name tags. Do miscellaneous tasks as needed. Comfort with computer data entry very important, as well as working well with other people. Familiarity with the sale and past volunteer experience required.

**MSHS Spring Garden Club / District Meeting**

April 21, 2012

Location—MSHS 2705 Lincoln Drive, Rosville MN

Meeting 10 - 11:45

Free Class 12 - 1:00pm

- must attend meeting to attend free class –

**RSVP by Wed. April 17, to Lisa Williams Hardman  
[lisaw@northerngardener.org](mailto:lisaw@northerngardener.org)**

Our meeting will be followed by a free presentation by Eric Johnson. Eric is our 'Obsessions' column writer plus regular contributor to *Northern Gardener*. Visit his web site, [www.gardendrama.com](http://www.gardendrama.com) for all things drama in the garden.



Not too early to start thinking of volunteering at the MN State Fair--Aug 23 to Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

The Great Minnesota Get-Together is just around the corner, and we need the help of our dedicated volunteers. People who volunteer at the Fair for MSHS receive free admission. MSHS depends on its volunteers to make our presence at the Minnesota State Fair a success. Visit the [Volunteer Page](#) to view the volunteer schedule and contact Diane Duvall, Volunteer Coordinator to sign up for a shift: 651-643-3601 ext. 208

**Big Urban Woods Spring Clean-up**

Saturday April 21 9:00 AM ([www.BigUrbanWoods.org](http://www.BigUrbanWoods.org)) -- an exciting new community project – meet just south of the Duluth and Case Recreation Center ball fields in Saint Paul. Community volunteers, Ramsey County, three schools, and the state DNR have partnered to create this designated school forest. Bring yourself, your friends, a snack to eat and share, wheelbarrows, and digging tools to remove invasive plants and to wood chip the trails. Call 651-233-4882 for information.

**Gardening Angel Plant Sale**

Minnetonka Lutheran Church is holding a plant sale on May 23-26, especially targeted for groups that garden together. We have a method for low maintenance, sustainable, fun and beautiful gardens that we would like to share with other gardening groups. We will have our favorite plants, how-to manual, garden plans, and unique handcrafted garden art all available for sale.

Sale hours are:

Wednesday, May 23, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Thursday, May 24, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday, May 25, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Saturday, May 26, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Minnetonka Lutheran is located at:

16023 Minnetonka Boulevard

Minnetonka, MN 55345

### *Open House and Plant Viewing*

### **Aspelund Peony Gardens • Proprietors: Bruce & Dawn Rohl**

9204 425th Street, Kenyon, Minnesota USA 55946

(507) 824-2935    [AspelundPeonyGarden@gmail.com](mailto:AspelundPeonyGarden@gmail.com)

Saturday & Sunday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 19th thru June 17th

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

May 22nd thru June 14th

