

GARDENING MATTERS

WINTER
2010

6TH ANNUAL Community Garden Resource Fair

The 2010 Community Garden Spring Resource Fair is almost here!

Besides the usual festival of exhibitors, food, networking and workshops, we are thrilled that Ashley Atkinson is coming to talk about a working model for supporting the success of urban food growers. Ashley will share her insights on how community members, organizations and good proactive public policies have worked together for enhanced neighborhood-based urban food production in Detroit.

Ashley Atkinson is the urban agriculture director at Greening of Detroit and works with the Community Garden Resource Program, a collaboration providing gardeners with networking opportunities, resources, education and leadership tools at the neighborhood level.


The Detroit Community Garden Resource Program is a tangible,

operating model for our metro area on how we can collaborate to nurture neighborhood-based food production—where neighbors are not only helping each other, but creating a space for stronger neighbor relationships, innovative partnerships and further sharing of ideas, inspiration and talents.

Community gardens are core to neighborhood-based food production. As learning and networking centers, community gardens bring together people already in the neighborhood to grow food in a communal space open to all.

So come and find out more about opportunities to improve local food access and community food security for everyone so that our neighborhoods are more resilient.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!!



Saturday, March 27th
9:00 am -4:00 pm

Sabathani Community Center
310 E 38th St, Minneapolis

\$5 suggested at door
free parking

PRESENTING SPONSOR



**BlueCross BlueShield
of Minnesota**

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Blue Cross is pleased to sponsor the Gardening Matters Spring Resource Fair in recognition of the vital role of community gardening and urban farming in achieving a healthier food system for Minnesota. Healthy eating, along with physical activity, is key to preventing obesity, a leading risk factor for many chronic diseases and health conditions. Blue Cross' work to curb obesity includes funding eight Healthy Eating Minnesota organizations. These efforts are part of Blue Cross' long-term commitment to tackle preventable heart disease and cancers by addressing their root causes: tobacco use, physical inactivity and unhealthy eating.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

9:30-10:30 AM KEYNOTE

Ashley Atkinson, Director of Project Development and Urban Agriculture, The Greening of Detroit

Ashley works with The Greening of Detroit's Garden Resource Program, which provides resources and support to home, school, and community gardens in the Detroit area. Gardens are organized into clusters based on area, which provide a strong local support network for gardens, and also facilitate the distribution of resources. www.detroitagriculture.org

10:40 – 11:50 AM WORKSHOPS

- Garden Clusters: How they work & how they succeed
- Growing Styles and Approaches for Urban Farmers
- Working with New Americans: Tips and Insights
- Greater Minnesota: Starting and Operating a Community Garden in Your Hometown

NOON LUNCH

Lunch available for purchase from
Marla's Caribbean Cuisine

1:00 – 2:10 PM WORKSHOPS

- Doing More with Less: Superabundant Small Gardens
- Tool Lending Library:
An idea whose time has come – again!
- Parade of Community Gardens 101
- Sustainable Landscaping

2:20 – 3:30 PM WORKSHOPS

- Green Jobs: Resources for Urban Agriculture
- Building an Inclusive Community Garden
- Placemaking: Designing for Community
- Faith-Based Community Gardens

*Double check workshop times on website
for possible change to the schedule.*

EXHIBITOR LIST

Barbette/Bryant Lake Bowl/ Red Stag	MN State Horticultural Society
City of St Paul	Mother Earth Gardens
Community Design Center	Peace Table & AfroEco
Edible Twin Cities	Permaculture Research Institute Cold Climate
Friends School of Minnesota Plant Sale	Ramsey Co Master Gardeners
Great River School	Seward Co-op Grocery & Deli
Hennepin Co Master Gardeners	SHIP/Minneapolis Homegrown
JR Johnson Supply	Slow Food MN
Key of See Storytellers	Solar Oven Society
Land Stewardship Project	Terrace Horticultural Books
Local Initiatives Support Corporation	Urban Farming
Metro Blooms	Valley Natural Foods
Midwest Organic & Hydroponic Gardening Supplies	Worm Composting with Green Noise, LLC
MN Institute for Sustainable Agriculture	Youth Farm & Market Project
MN-NCR-SARE	

Kids' Activity Table: 10am–2pm

Fun activities with Hennepin County
Master Gardener Betty Ackerman

Minnesota Green Seed Pick-Up

The Minnesota Green seed pick-up is for registered members of Minnesota Green, a program of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. By becoming a member (\$55 fee), your public garden can receive many donated plants and seeds from generous donors. Please call to sign up for a time to pick up your seeds, by March 20th. Vicky Vogels 651-643-3601, ext. 211.

"Light of the Moon" at Noon:

Enjoy 'extra-strength' acoustic roots and dance music from the American South during lunch.

EVENT SPONSORS



Local Initiatives Support Corp. (LISC)

Twin Cities LISC is proud to sponsor the 6th Annual Community Garden Spring Resource Fair. Gardening Matters' efforts to promote community gardening and healthy lifestyles complements LISC's efforts to integrate a comprehensive set of community development strategies to improve the quality of life in Twin Cities neighborhoods and create communities that are healthy, sustainable places for people to prosper.



Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, LLC

Otogawa-Anschel Design-Build, LLC is a small, award-winning residential design-build firm devoted to green building and urban living in the Twin Cities. We support Gardening Matters in our shared mission to create healthy communities using sustainable resources and practices.



MN Dept. of Health, Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) is an integral component of Minnesota's health reform initiative and aims to help Minnesotans live longer, healthier lives by preventing risk factors that lead to chronic disease. Community and school gardens contribute to this goal by increasing physical activity and access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

10:40 AM Workshops

Detroit's Clusters: Supporting food growers in their own neighborhoods

Ashley Atkinson, Greening of Detroit

Instead of having people come to one central location, Detroit's cluster system delivers education and resources to where people live. This not only makes environmental and humanitarian sense, but enables people to network and learn what others are doing. Community gardens are the natural neighborhood outdoor classroom and community commons where networking and sharing can occur. Ashley Atkinson, Director of Urban Agriculture at Greening of Detroit, will share her experience in forming the Detroit Cluster Network, explain how it operates, and offer tips and insights for developing this concept in Minnesota.

Working with New Americans: Tips and Insights

Jay Clark, Community Organizer Trainer with CURA, UMN

New Americans face many challenges when they participate in community gardens, including language barriers, unfamiliarity with American norms and expectations, and other issues that arise when transitioning to a new country. In this workshop, discover ways to improve communication and engagement between gardeners, and discuss how you can turn cultural and language differences from a barrier to be overcome into a tool for relationship-building.



COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

10:40 AM Workshops (continued)

Growing Styles and Approaches for Urban Farmers

Courtney Tchida, MN Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and Cornercopia Student Farm

Biointensive, Permaculture, Organic, and Small Plot Intensive (SPIN) all offer urban growers different approaches to growing food crops. Ms. Tchida will present an overview of these four growing styles. Come find out what tricks each method offers to help you become more productive and sustainable in the next growing season.

Greater Minnesota: Starting and Operating a Community Garden in Your Hometown

Lea Karlssen and Vicki English, Wapahasa's Prairie Community Garden

Community gardens aren't just an urban phenomenon! Join Winona community gardeners Lea Karlssen and Vicki English to learn about their experiences starting and promoting Winona's new community garden, and get ideas for starting a community garden in your hometown. Lea and Vicki are founders of Wapahasa's Prairie Community Garden in Winona, and are currently co-chairs of the Winona Community Garden Plots Board.

1:00 PM Workshops

Doing More with Less: Superabundant Small Gardens

Susan Reed, Dowling Community Gardener

Back by popular demand! Get more into – and out of – your vegetable garden! Tested tips for growing more food in a small space, saving money and eating well. Yes, you can grow over \$1000 worth of produce in a community garden! Maximize your harvest with season extenders, planting techniques, the right varieties and efficient design.

Tool Lending Library: An idea whose time has come, again!

Steph Hankerson, community organizer, SE Como Improvement Association

Make tools more available to gardeners in your neighborhood! An idea promoted in the 1970s, the Tool Lending Library concept is finding traction again. In addition to land and education, Tool Lending Libraries are an important component of neighborhood sustainability efforts, by giving people and community projects access to the garden tools they need to be successful. Learn from an operating Tool Lending Library in the heart of the Twin Cities.

Parade of Community Gardens 101

Kirsten Saylor, Gardening Matters



Is your community garden group considering participating in the Parade of Community Gardens this year? We encourage folks to learn more about this annual public awareness event each August highlighting the benefits and opportunities of community gardens for community-building, garden/environmental education and youth development. Learn what resources will be available for participants this year and how working together across the metro area and greater Minnesota helps supports all community gardens.

Sustainable Landscaping

Michael Keenan, Metro Blooms

What can you do prevent erosion, improve water quality, and bring beauty into your community at the same time? Learn Metro Blooms' top ten eco-friendly landscaping practices from Michael Keenan, their Lead Landscape Designer. Topics covered include aesthetic and environmental benefits of raingardens, principles and practice of downspout redirection, rain barrels, native plants, and non-polluting lawn care.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

THANK YOU GARDENING MATTERS SUPPORTERS

OUR FUNDERS

McKnight Foundation
McNeely Foundation
Wedge Green Patch Program
Nash Foundation
City of Minneapolis, Sustainability Office

FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

(since July 2009)

In Memory of Ed Doran: Bud & Beverly Grossman Foundation, Chris & Mary Beeson, Dean & Julie Dunnigan, Diane Tedick & John Lind, Jean Cash, Michelle & Michael Haenggi, Terry & Bev Dunnigan

Alice Cummings, Annie Young, Anonymous (2), Bill Wilcke, Camden Garden Club Triangle Garden, Claudia Slovacek, Cynthia Kahrman, Denis & Carol Nagan, District 1 Community Council, Ellen Duntemann, Ellen Handrahan, Leslie Modrack, Harlan Finney, Hillary Oppmann, James Howitt, Jeffrey Fritcher, Jonathan Sellman & Carolyn Carr, Karine Sloan, Kathy Kenworthy & Paul Barale, Ken Meter, Kirsten Saylor, Kristine Smith, Leigh Rosenberg, Lynne Mayo, Mankato Community Gardens, Margaret Dean, Mary Canino, Mary Morse, Michaelaelen Kelzenberg, Miriam Nelson, Paula Westmoreland, Peter Doughty, Philip Lincoln, Riverview Garden Club, Rhys Williams, Roberta Avidor, Sarah Jaycocks, Sarah Ullmer, Sheryl Joy, Stephanie Hankerson, Thomas Guettler, Thomas Saylor, Trotter's Café Employee Contribution Fund, Wendy Weden

VOLUNTEERS

Nine Dodge, Lisa Erb, Beth Fritcher, Anders Gurda, Thomas Guettler, Steph Hankerson, Beth Kivett, Seth Kuhl-Stennes, Shannon McWalters, Mollie O'Connor, Kirsten Pardoe, Cordelia Pierson, Connie Shannon

** *Gardening Matters is a 501C3 and is registered with GIVEMN.org to receive online donations. All donations are tax deductible.*

2:20 PM Workshops

Green Jobs: Resources for Urban Agriculture

Collie Graddick, Agricultural Consultant from The Co-op Project

Wondering about job opportunities in urban agriculture? This workshop will focus on exploring small business and entrepreneurial opportunities in the Urban Agriculture movement. Learn about financing, training and marketing opportunities available to individuals, groups and organizations. Hear about current programs, projects and initiatives underway throughout the twin cities. These are the most sustainable "GREEN JOBS".

Building an Inclusive Community Garden

Melvin Giles and Tom Guettler, MN Food and Justice Alliance

This workshop will engage and support participants who are attempting to nurture a garden environment that is welcoming to all persons, regardless of race, class or gender. Participants should expect to engage in reflection and dialogue, modeling culturally sensitive methods of communication. Participants can expect to improve listening skills, identify opportunities for improved participation in the garden, and gain better understanding of multicultural leadership.

Placemaking: Designing for Community

Shannon McWalters, Landscape Architect and community organizer

Community gardens have many uses beyond growing food and flowers! Learn fun, environmentally-friendly design tools to help make your community garden a safe, welcoming gathering place that promotes neighborhood identity and connections. This will be an interactive workshop on basic design principles with a focus on gathering, safety, movement, and ecology in community spaces. Workshop includes discussion and examples.

Faith-Based Community Gardens

Facilitated by Harriet Oyera, Redeemer Community Garden & Rachel Hefte, U of MN Extension, Leadership & Civic Engagement

A community garden is a perfect addition to a faith community, as gardens foster social involvement, opportunities for healthy activity and connection to the community. They may serve as a place for gatherings, classes, mentoring opportunities and friendship. Community gardens build food security by offering access to fresh produce at little expense, especially for apartment-dwellers who lack land or other essential gardening resources. Whether you wish to start a faith-based community garden or belong to one, come and share breakthroughs and lessons learned in an informal format to enrich all.

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPRING RESOURCE FAIR

Monthly Networking Meetings

New in 2010 — Gardening Matters introduces Monthly Networking Meetings! The idea for Monthly Networking Meetings arose at our annual Participant Advisory Meeting, when community gardeners were looking for a way to continue learning from each other, sharing ideas and challenges, and receiving peer support.

Evenings will include a facilitated discussion and an opportunity to network with other gardeners. Topics for 2010 include garden coordination, holding a great event,

welcoming diversity in the garden, and many more! Start-up groups are encouraged to attend — all community gardeners are welcome!

Every 2nd Thursday of the month:

March 11th
April 8th
May 13th
June 10th
July 8th

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2730 E 31st St, Minneapolis
6:30 – 8:30pm

Welcome Kelsey!

In October, we welcomed the newest team member to Gardening Matters, Kelsey Barale. She is assisting Gardening Matters in supporting community garden development as a Minnesota GreenCorps member. Minnesota GreenCorps is an environmentally-focused AmeriCorps program coordinated by the MN Pollution Control Agency.

Prior to joining the Gardening Matters team, Kelsey worked on a farm in California and was a running coach for two years in



Northfield. She has brought a strong positive attitude, good team spirit and a keen attention to detail.

Kelsey's able hand has helped Gardening Matters expand our service to gardens throughout the Metro area, and in particular to Dakota County, where Gardening Matters is administering the mini-grant program of Dakota County Public Health. Kelsey's transition has been swift and seamless.

We are deeply appreciative to MPCA and AmeriCorps for connecting Kelsey with Gardening Matters, particularly in a time when there has been an explosion in demand for community gardens.

Good things are growing in the South Metro!

Gardening Matters recently got a great opportunity to work with the Dakota County Public Health Department (DCPHD) in supporting new and expanding community gardens in Dakota County.

The DCPHD received a Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant from the Minnesota Department of Health to work on reducing obesity, tobacco use, and the incidence and cost of related chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes.

The Minnesota Department of Health included community gardens as one of their interventions based on evidence that community gardens are a great way to improve nutrition and increase physical activity. Gardening Matters and the DCPHD have partnered to facilitate establishing community gardens in communities with limited ability to either access or afford fresh produce.

Groups in the county had the opportunity to apply for grants of up to \$2000 for seed money to establish or expand a community garden. We received 13 grant applications from a wide variety of groups, including city programs, parks, churches, and community members. Grant recipients will be notified on March 1st.

We are excited about seeing many new gardens break ground in Dakota County this spring. Please join us in welcoming these new community gardeners!



The Community Garden Shared Leadership Series is meeting weekly for sustainable and resilient community gardens. Participants represent six counties from across the Metro area. To learn more, call Ila.



OFFICE ADDRESS

Sabathani Community Center, #206
310 E 38th St
Minneapolis, MN 55409
612-492-8964
www.gardening matters.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Mark Granlund
President, St Paul Parks and
Recreation

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Treasurer, Soo Line
Community Garden

Michelle Thayer
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Valentine Cadiuex
St. Anthony Park Community Garden
University of Minnesota, Geography

Beth Fritcher
White Bear Lake

Collie Graddick
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Beth Kackman
International Outreach Church
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Ken Meter
Crossroads Resource Center

Mary Morse
St Anthony Park Community Garden
Neighborhood Energy Connection

Susanne Moua
City Backyard Harvest, LLC

Thank you to the exiting
Board Members and their
support over the years.

STAFF

Kirsten Saylor
Executive Director

Ila Duntemann
Program Coordinator

Kelsey Barale
GreenCorps Member

Patrick Henry High School Garden: A COMMUNITY METAMORPHOSIS

*By Shannon McWalters, Susan Breedlove
& Thomas Murray*

Schoolyard gardening is nothing new to students and staff at Patrick Henry High School (PHHS) in the Webber-Camden neighborhood of north Minneapolis. In 1959, PHHS students planted an apple orchard in the school’s courtyard to encourage students to think about where their food comes from. But PHHS has taken this a step forward and created a garden to connect students and their neighbors around growing food in “The Family Garden”.

The idea of a food garden at PHHS arose eight years ago, when acting Principal Paul McMann suggested it to community volunteer and resource teacher Susan Breedlove. Soon, land was cleared and students started growing food with help from the Camden Garden Club, John Solberg, and the KEEY Foundation.

In 2004, students decided to share their excitement about gardening with the community by preparing gardens at neighbors’ homes and hosting garden workshops. The PHHS Garden Club formed the next year with help from Lisa Belmares (Camden Garden Club), Tom Murray (PHHS Parent and Community

Coordinator) and Susan Breedlove. The students grew vegetables which they donated to a local food shelf. The Garden Club was advised by Americorps VISTA members from 2006-7, and the club planted a native oak savannah in 2007.

In 2009, the school garden was transformed to meet the needs of the Webber-Camden neighborhood, which has the largest Hmong community in Minneapolis. Currently, four extended Hmong families have plots where they grow a wide variety of crops, including long beans, angled luffa, Chinese bitter melon and more. The Family Garden has been a great success, and demand exceeds available space. Students and volunteers maintain the garden, and the PHHS engineers showcase the garden through the school’s landscaping.

2009 was also a special year because it was the 50th reunion of the class of 1959, the class that planted the original apple orchard. They were amazed and impressed to see the way gardening has continued to thrive at Patrick Henry, and even baked a pie with apples from their trees! We welcome you to see the hard work and commitment of generations of PHHS students at their two beautiful gardens at 4320 Newton Ave North.

MONTHLY START-UP WORKSHOPS

Demand is high and most gardens have waiting lists before the snow has even melted! Learn the necessary steps to starting a successful garden, meet allies and learn about resources to help with setting up a new garden! Join us for a free workshop:

HOW TO START A COMMUNITY GARDEN

Every third Thursday of the month- 6:30 – 8:30pm

MARCH 18 – St Paul’s Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Ave S, Minneapolis

APRIL 15 - East Side Neighborhood Development Corp, 925 Payne Ave, St Paul

MAY 20 – West Side Citizens Organization, 126 W Winifred, St Paul

Check website for locations of future workshops.

PARADE OF COMMUNITY GARDENS

SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2010

We invite all community gardens to register and participate in the Parade of Community Gardens, a Minnesota event celebrating community and gardening! You can learn more about being on the Parade at the Resource Fair.

Parade Registration for Community Gardens is June 1, 2010 at NOON.

CALENDAR



Gardening Matters
PO Box 580496
Minneapolis MN 55458

Please call 612.492.8964 to change address
or to have your name removed from our list

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6TH ANNUAL **Community Garden
RESOURCE FAIR**

SAT. MARCH 27

Sabathani Community Center
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THANK YOU SPONSORS:

