



## Another Garden Season Begins

by Joan Andersen

We have had a very cold and strange “spring” in Minnesota. We had frost in mid May followed by a windy 90° a few days later. As of the middle of May, most of the hostas were still underground. Spring bloomers are very late—as I write this the lupines are not blooming yet. The flower beds are all prepared by the Gardens staff and the perennials are waiting for spring rains to begin growing. The fountains are being readied for the season, but it is sensible to wait until the danger of frost is gone before starting them. Fortunately the tulips are blooming to provide enjoyment for early season visitors.

Heavy snow can damage the branches of arborvitae in the Gardens, as can hungry deer munching on them. Fortunately, employee Jerry Beckers does a great job of pruning out the damage and making the arborvitae look good.

The greenhouse is full of annuals and other tender plants just waiting for spring. Every Monday the staff checks the plants, removing dead leaves and flowers and pinching them back if necessary so they will be in perfect condition for planting. On May 16, staff began planting the wedding/event area and urns and containers with hardy annuals. When the weather has warmed and night temperatures stay above 50°, staff begins planting tender annuals in containers and garden beds.

The Rest Area Garden near the Gift Shop is the first area scheduled to be planted. The color theme here is pink, pastel and hot pink, mixed with a little purple for contrast. When you visit, look for a new pink salvia “summer jewel” that attracts hummingbirds.

Colors in the Formal Garden are bright and include the hot reds, purples, and a little yellow. Be sure to visit the Treillage Gardens, where four color-themed plantings can be found. The color

themes don’t change, but the plants are revised when new annuals are available.

Munsinger Gardens used to rely on *impatiens walleriana* for color in the shade. Last year, the *impatiens* were killed by downy mildew (*plasmopara obducens*). This disease is still such a problem in greenhouses and gardens that no *impatiens* will be used this year. Instead, look for many kinds of *torenia*, tuberous begonias, wax begonias, and New Guinea *impatiens* in the areas where *impatiens walleriana* used to grow.

This year be sure to check out the many containers of succulents. There will be some new red banana plants on the corner of Kilian and University (near the bridge intersection). If they don’t get too big, the staff will overwinter them in the greenhouse to use in future years. This year the Gardens will feature more cannas and gladiolus than in past years—watch for them all over sunny areas of the Gardens.

## My Dream Boat Garden

by Idella Moberg

I’ve been dreaming about a garden from my childhood. It goes so far back in my memory that I’m not sure, really, whether it ever existed or if it is a recurring dream that visits me from time to time, especially in early spring when I begin to get homesick for the north woods and the lake.

My dream garden is planted in an old white boat, one of the two wooden boats my grandparents used when they crossed Gunflint Lake to their cabin on



the Canadian side. These were Lake Superior fishing boats, big and deep. In my dream the boats have gotten too leaky to take out on the lake anymore. For years they have sat out in front of the cabin, turned over so they won’t

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### *Dream Boat Gardens* *continued from page 1*

collect rain water and rot. Now, someone has filled one with dirt and planted a garden.

Gardens are rare in the north woods. It is wild country, unsuitable for agriculture, sparsely populated, rugged. To see a garden is rather a surprise in such a place. It isn't just the terrain that threatens a garden in the north woods. The climate is severe. It's cold most of the time, making the growing season short. And then there are the varmints. Rabbits and deer love anything gardeny, a delicious treat. But stalwart people, yearning for a little cultivation or bright color in the deep green wilderness, often go to great lengths to have even a small garden in a boat.

A flotilla of boat gardens glides through my dream. I see old boats situated on grassy slopes along the rocky North Shore of Lake Superior. Old boats, painted white or red, with a shock of purple and white pansies spilling out

over the edges. Here, too, in my dream is Dorothy Molter's boat garden where she lived on Knife Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Super human effort made her garden possible. In the north woods the forest floor has only a thin layer of soil which intermittently covers the Canadian Shield, that broad expanse of bedrock which spans northeastern and east-central Canada and the northern portion of the upper midwestern United States. Dorothy had to find and haul dirt. She collected wild flower seeds. Anything else she needed for her garden she brought in by canoe, a nine-mile trip to her island cabin.

Peggy Heston floats into my dream. She has an old boat garden resting near the shore on Gunflint. Red and white striped petunias and Sweet Williams and marigolds. I can see her now, on the dock, stooping down to fill her old aluminum watering can, flip flopping in what we used to call thongs—remember thongs? those little waterproof sandals we bought for ninety-nine cents a pair at the Ben

Franklin store in Grand Marais?—plodding over to the garden and watering her flowers. In the boat her flowers are safe from rabbits, but the deer really go for the petunias. Chipmunks also have taken up residence there, digging tunnels and burying countless small treasures in the soft dirt. The pesky varmints challenge Peggy's tenacity, but she keeps trying new ways to keep her garden growing. Sprays. Nets. Chicken wire. And it's looking pretty good. Peggy's old boat resembles one of our old Lake Superior boats, which had quietly disappeared one day not too long before her garden appeared. And just now I realize that my dream garden is true. We'd given Peggy the boat and she grew a garden.

I keep dreaming my boat garden dream. It feeds my hope for growth when everything around works to shrink. It keeps me persevering. It shows me how strong a longing can be to watch a flower bloom. It reminds me that old people, like old boats, can find new uses, and hold much beauty.

## Rose Garden Update



*by Joan Andersen*

As you may know, the tender roses get covered for the winter with construction blankets. The blankets were removed for the season on May 6, and then we had another hard frost a week later.

Fortunately the roses look good—they were not dormant and were just starting to sprout.

Once the roses begin to leaf out, pruning begins. It takes a lot of time to prune the roses in the spring, and several Master Gardeners and other volunteers have helped with the task. Once the plants are fully leafed out, fertilizer is applied. This is a combination of 10-10-10 and "Bob's Mix," which contains Milorganite, soybean meal, blood meal, fish meal, pork and bone meal, alfalfa meal, and magnesium sulfate. Roses are heavy feeders, and this combination of nutrients ensures they are healthy and bloom heavily during the season. As the season progresses, soaker hoses will be

placed in the beds. Finally, wild rice hull mulch will go in the beds around July 1, after the first flush of bloom.

The earliest roses to bloom are the Old Garden Roses, which start in June and bloom for 4-6 weeks. The species roses bloom only once a year, but they are covered in blossoms for about three weeks in June. Finally, the hybrid tea roses should bloom in late June, a bit later than usual because of the cold spring. Of course, the exact time and duration of bloom depends on weather conditions such as wind and rain. Be sure to visit the large collection of roses. It is almost guaranteed that some of them will be blooming when you are there.

# Garden the Way Nature Does...Mulch

by Carl Hoffman

The use of mulches in gardens and landscapes is increasing rapidly and gardeners can spend about as much time selecting mulches as they do plants. Mulches are commonly used to enhance the beauty of landscapes, suppress weeds, conserve soil moisture, and protect plants from damage caused by traffic and lawn equipment. Organic mulches can also improve the structure and increase the fertility of soils. Mulching is really nature's idea. Nature produces large quantities of mulch and fallen leaves, needles, twigs, pieces of bark, spent flower blossoms, and other organic material. Gardeners, however, usually prefer a more groomed look and discard the natural materials in favor of materials they consider more attractive.

A wide range of products is available for use as a landscape or garden mulch. In recent years a number of new mulching materials have become available, many of which are products that have been recycled in an attempt to divert solid wastes from landfills. For example, sales of mulch obtained from ground pallets that has been painted natural or "designer colors" has increased rapidly in recent years. Mulches made from ground rubber tires are currently being evaluated, but are probably more appropriate for playgrounds and park walkways than for the home landscape.

Mulch can be divided into two basic categories—inorganic and organic. Organic mulches are made of natural substances like bark, wood chips, pine needles, and grass clippings that decompose over time and need to be replaced after several years. Inorganic mulches are natural or synthetic materials that do not decompose, or at least do so very slowly.

No single material is the best "all-purpose" mulch. Matching materials, mulch depth, and timing of application

to the specific areas in your yard will give the best results. When choosing mulch, consider cost, appearance, and longevity. Appearance is largely a matter of personal taste. In most cases, a natural look is preferable to artificially dyed mulches. Personally, I think red or yellow mulches are about as attractive as spray-painted cut flowers. A cost-saving technique is to use more attractive and more expensive mulches in high visibility areas and less expensive mulches in lower visibility sites. One of the benefits of mulches is their ability to improve soils by adding organic matter as they decompose. Mulches that break down slowly improve the soil slowly but do not need to be reapplied as often. In contrast, mulches that break down more quickly provide better soil benefits but need to be applied more often.

The proper use and application of mulches is as important as their selection. Woodchips or shredded bark are often used on top of landscape fabric to achieve better weed control around trees and shrubs. Rock can also be used to top-dress fabric but may absorb enough sunlight to alter the soil temperature and the environment around shrubs. Water running off the roof of the home can collect under mulch underlain with landscape fabric, resulting in waterlogged soil and root rot. I have seen some beautiful Taunton yews die because they were growing in soil that was a virtual mud pie.

The amount of mulch to apply depends on the texture and density of the mulch material. Mulches composed of fine particles should not be over two to three inches deep. Excessive amounts of these fine-textured mulches can suffocate plant roots, resulting in yellowing of the leaves and poor growth. Course-textured mulches such as bark nuggets or pine needles allow good air movement through them and can be as deep as four inches. Mulches

composed of grass clippings, shredded leaves, and similar materials should never be deeper than two inches because these materials tend to mat together, restricting the water and air supply to plant roots. The types of plants around which the mulch is being used also determines the depth of the mulch. For example, if bark nuggets are being used around trees and shrubs at a depth of four inches, they would be no deeper than two inches around perennials. It is very important to keep the mulch two to three inches away from the stems of woody plants to prevent bark decay caused by wet mulch, rodent damage in the winter, and mechanical damage during application. Adhere to the thumb rule "make doughnuts not volcanoes" when applying mulch around woody plants.

Annual flower beds do best with organic mulches that will break down rapidly when tilled into the soil at the end of the season. If annuals are directly seeded into the bed, wait until they are several inches high and have weeded at least once before applying one to two inches of mulch. Shredded leaves, partially decomposed compost, grass clippings, or cocoa bean hulls are all easy to till into the soil at the end of the season. Vegetable gardens also benefit from mulch applied at the proper time. Wait until the soil has warmed thoroughly for tomatoes and other heat-loving plants. Cole crops and other cool season crops can be mulched early in the spring.

Even those of us who think that nothing is more attractive than carefully weeded and raked soil around plants must consider "mulching." Carefully selected and applied mulch can limit weeds, conserve soil moisture, moderate soil temperature, and give us more time to sit back and enjoy our gardens and landscapes. That's the way nature does it!

*From Summer 2006, 5.2*

# An Interview with Nia Primus

by *Idella Moberg*

One day in April I met with Nia Primus, Garden Supervisor of Munsinger Clemens Gardens in Saint Cloud. Her office is in the new greenhouse. I wanted to ask her where she's coming from, what she does at work, what is her vision for the Gardens, and lastly, what kind of an impact does she see her work is making beyond the boundaries of the Gardens.

## ***Where's she coming from***

From the time she was five years old Nia has lived in Saint Cloud. She has many past memories of coming to the Gardens as a child. "I remember Clemens Gardens before it was a garden," she said. "It was just one big giant lawn...I always used to think, who mows that giant lawn?"

She graduated with a degree in biology from Saint Cloud State University in 1996. After college she worked for the city, running their nature center from 1999 until 2008. When that closed she came to work at the Gardens as an assistant. When the supervisor left, she applied and interviewed for the job and became Garden Supervisor, "and that's the best job in the world," she says. "I tell everybody that. I'm blessed to be here." Since her promotion Nia has also become a master gardener.

## ***What she does at work***

Nia talked about what makes it such a good job. She sees herself as a team leader. She gets satisfaction from working with her great staff. She also gets a lot of instant gratification doing day-to-day gardening:

"You can have this flower bed that might look a mess. Nobody sees it except us gardeners, but a mess that either needs deadheading or weeding or something done to it, and you can go in there and you have this project. Either you're working with somebody, working alone, or in a bigger team. It can be a matter of three hours, eight hours later, or whatever, and you turn

around and it's gorgeous, and so that's a great thing about its instant gratification, not sitting behind a desk looking at a computer screen every day. We're outside, outdoors, enjoying nature, enjoying our visitors. We're, you know, talking with everyone that comes by. And every day's different. There's no days the same, so it's always a great job."

Nia and two other people work full time at the gardens year round. From the end of March to the end of May she hires about 22 people, like college students, as they become available. They work usually through the end of August when they go back to school. Others, whom she calls her "perennial seasonals" because they come back every year, are usually in the gardens until the end of October. Nia is responsible for assigning duties to the staff in the morning, having supplies and everything they need to get the job done ready to go.

Designing the gardens is a team effort. Nia designs and takes care of the Rest Area Garden and allows the staff to work with her and come up with designs for the other areas of the park. When Nia orders flowers from the catalogue, she knows what her gardeners like. She orders awesome new items. She orders flowers she and the gardeners have really liked from year to year, her "workhorses of the gardens."

On days when there is an event scheduled in the Gardens, such as a wedding, Nia makes sure she has staff working at the area. The park secretary gives her a schedule updated every month of what she has going on in the park, and Nia assigns the staff with the event.

Moving into the spacious new greenhouse, out of the old style hoop houses, has made Nia's job easier. The plants are healthier, less susceptible to diseases, insects, and fungus. Despite the extra room, she has kept the plant number about the same; if anything,

she's cut back since her promotion. And although they'll always have annuals, she'd like to use more perennials to save cost.

One project that reflects Nia's unique creativity is her work with succulents and cacti. She's been introducing little bits for the last two years. This year, she promises a lot more interesting containers and design work. People come up to her and ask, "How do you have cactus?" And she says, "You emend the soil with sand, don't water it as much, and then in the winter we have to bring it inside, but it's not something you see much, especially in a zone-four hardy Minnesota type." She loves the surprise these low-maintenance plants give to visitors to the Gardens and that they save her gardeners time to do other things, like weeding and deadheading.

## ***Vision for the Gardens***

Realizing a vision for the Gardens is a team effort. The Clemens Family Foundation has ideas of what they want and decides how much they can donate towards various projects. Some projects that Nia herself would love to see are a new special events area and a renovated lily pond. Money is always a factor, she says, because it costs a lot to run the place. Visitors to the Gardens also share the vision. Nia talked at length about what people do who come through. Some come to meditate. Some bring their children for recreation. Some use it as educational, asking questions about how to grow various plants.

## ***Beyond the Gardens***

Nia also sees herself as a team player beyond the boundaries of the Gardens. She leads a team with a positive attitude. She's out there working with them. They are friendly and enjoy talking with visitors, especially visitors with questions. This is one way of providing education to the community: "People asking us, especially in the fall,

*Nia continued on page 5*

*Nia continued from page 4*

what are you doing to your roses? Because we cut them back. We cover them with blankets. They want to know how they can duplicate it at home." People also watch what the gardeners do with the perennials and the grasses, and do that in their own gardens.

People from all over the United States and international travelers come through the Gardens. One story Nia really likes is about a couple from Scotland who came through at the beginning of the season:

"They saw us just beginning to plant. All the plants, you know, very small, and I thought 'You got to come back in the end of July,' and so we exchanged email addresses and when end of July came I took pictures of all the places they really liked in the garden, and then I sent them to them. They were so excited to

see how everything had turned out so, even though they couldn't make it back."

When she gets the opportunity Nia visits other gardens to compare what they're doing and how things work. Last year she went to the American Public Gardens Association Conference in Ohio. It's hard for her to be gone touring other gardens because it's her busy time in Munsinger Clemens Gardens. Other gardeners visit Nia. Last year some women who run the garden at a golf course in Brainerd stopped by to talk to her about some issues they were having. She enjoyed working with them to figure out what was going on.

Early spring is a crazy busy time in the Gardens. Spring has been even slower to arrive this year than usual. Nia and her gardeners have gotten the beds cleaned up and turned the irrigation on. They're planting outdoors now.

College age workers are coming back. Nia is busy training them and getting the gardens growing. She says they're always looking to develop a good core of volunteers. People who'd like to volunteer at the Gardens can email her at [Nia.Primus@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:Nia.Primus@ci.stcloud.mn.us). She says they're flexible about how much or how often a person could come in and work.

As I get up to leave her office, Nia invites me to see her stash of succulents and cacti. We walk to the far end of the greenhouse, past a sea of seedlings, little sprouts, young plumes of future foliage, to the north corner looking out over the river. I look out. A large crane flies off across the river. Soon everything will be lush and green. I look down. I'm surrounded by desert plants of every size and shape. What a surprise. A little desert inside the oasis. I'm eager to see them in the garden soon.

## Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)

by Joan Anderson

An invasive insect unintentionally brought over from Asia, the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), poses a significant risk to specialty crops including orchards, grapes, berries, and some vegetables. It is also a nuisance to homeowners because its behavior is similar to that of our other familiar pests, the native box elder bug and another immigrant, the Asian lady beetle. These insects can enter homes through tiny cracks in window sills and siding where they hide during freezing weather and emerge on sunny days to fly around in our homes. Unfortunately, the stink bug will be even more unpleasant because it is larger and, you may have guessed, has an unpleasant odor when disturbed. Another problem is that the bug feeds on a wide variety of crops including apples, raspberries, blueberries, and some vegetables that we may grow in our home gardens.



You may be asking "what does 'marmorated' mean?"

Dictionary.com defines it as "having a marbled or streaked appearance" and Merriam-Webster says it is "veined or streaked like marble." I will admit that I never had seen that word before, and I have amused some of my friends with my attempts to pronounce it.

Adult bugs survive our winters, and in the spring the females begin to lay egg masses on the undersides of leaves. The eggs hatch into nymphs, which resemble the adults but are much smaller. Young nymphs have orange backs with black stripes and legs. The nymphs go through four stages of growth until they reach adult size of 1/2" long and are able to reproduce. As they grow, the color darkens and they end up marbled brown and shaped like a shield. Our native look-alike insects include the brown stink bug (it can be distinguished by a green underside instead of brown) and the western conifer seed bug (it has

a longer, thinner body and very long legs and antennae).

Studies are being done in many states to learn exactly how the BMSB overwinters outside and to better understand their movement during the growing season. Successful overwintering means that BMSB could appear as a problem for agriculture with very little warning.

I have read that this insect has been seen in Duluth, where it was observed inside a home. Because this insect can be a pest for agriculture as well as homeowners, the State of Minnesota is interested in citizen reports of this bug. If you capture a specimen that you believe to be a brown marmorated stink bug, call "Arrest the Pest" at 1-888-545-6684 or go to the website at [Arrest.the.Pest@state.mn.us](mailto:Arrest.the.Pest@state.mn.us) to report your finding. If you live in another state, check your state website to find out how to report. Early detection is very important to managing this insect.

## Book Review

by William W. Cook

***Paradise Lot: Two plant geeks, one tenth of an acre and the making of an edible garden oasis in the city.***

**Eric Toensmeier, with contributions from Jonathan Bates.  
Chelsea Green Publishing, 2013.**

People look for different things in a book about horticulture or gardening. Useful information about plants and how to grow them (especially information relevant to plants that might live in my environment) is generally at the top of my list. Given my background, I also prefer books that put plant information into an ecological or environmental context. However, a good book can take the form of an interesting personal memoir, instead of a how-to, when the author lets her or his personality show through. Some readers of this newsletter are not hard-core green thumbs, but are interested in gardens as historical or community institutions. *Paradise Lot*, a recent book by Eric Toensmeier, combines all of the above in a single, happy package.

I have known of Toensmeier for several years, from his previous books *Perennial Vegetables* and the colossal 2-volume *Edible Forest Gardens* (co-authored with Dave Jacke). He is known principally for his advocacy of permaculture, the idea that food production can take place in an ecologically sustainable manner, making use of diverse communities of species which function together as an ecosystem. Like all of my favorite horticulture books, his goes into detail about the trial-and-error process that he (and every good gardener I know) uses to determine what works and what doesn't in his own experience. In his past writings he regularly references his own home landscape, which he has carefully designed and built into a (mostly) organic, ecologically sustainable and incidentally delicious

ecosystem. *Paradise Lot* is the story of how he built his life and garden with his colleague, neighbor, and close friend, Jonathan Bates.

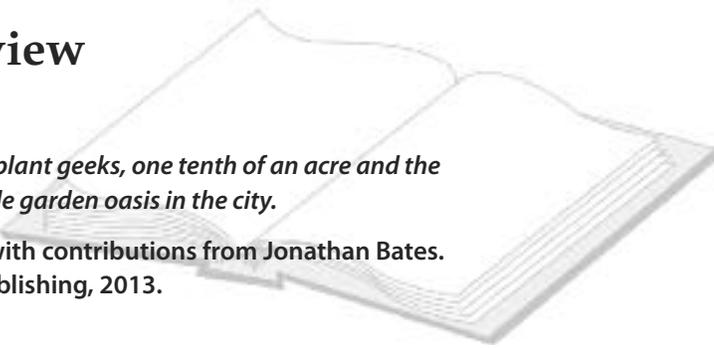
Toensmeier became interested in permaculture in his teens. He studied horticulture in various forms, started his own seed company, and also worked for nonprofit organizations interested in local and community-based food production. Eventually, he and his friend Bates bought both sides of a duplex in Holyoke, and set to work converting their mostly barren urban lot into their own permaculture ecosystem. He describes the excitement involved with planning a large endeavor, the research required to make said plan, analysis of their unique microenvironment, the initial implementation, and eight years of development.

Eventually, Toensmeier and Bates generate an "intensely managed backyard foraging paradise" of hundreds of species, including trees and shrubs (mostly fruit or nut producing), perennial vegetables of all kinds, traditional annual vegetables, selected other species chosen for critical ecological roles, and even (small) livestock. Along the way the two of them grow up; they begin the narrative as two bachelors rooming together to save money (and renting the second side of the duplex), and eventually both marry (moving to opposite sides) and start families. The two men build (separate) careers related to their passion, but continue their partnership as neighbors and collaborators.

An interesting component of the book is the integration of their project into the local community; this ranges from the incidental (neighbors are very surprised to find a banana tree surviving in their front yard) to the professional (one of Toensmeier's jobs involved organizing a community agriculture effort, informed by his home project). The science contained in *Paradise Lot* is interesting, but not overwhelming to a general audience. And while a fair amount of Toensmeier and Bates' gardening experience will not be directly relevant to gardeners here in Minnesota (Holyoke is rated USDA Zone 6), I can attest that a substantial number of their favorite plants also survive in my yard in Saint Cloud.

The book is well-written, engaging, and full of interesting personal detail and plant tips alike. From a practical gardening perspective, readers can learn much from the authors' scientific and systematic approach to understanding their unique city lot, and how to design their garden around its constraints. The book comes complete with plant lists for different functions and microenvironments (beware again their somewhat warmer climate). I encourage you to take a look.

You can learn more about the authors, their project, and permaculture in general by visiting Toensmeier's website ([www.perennialsolutions.org](http://www.perennialsolutions.org)) or the site for Bates' nursery ([www.permaculturenursery.com](http://www.permaculturenursery.com)). There is also a nice 4-minute video online of Toensmeier touring their garden; just google his name, and it is easily found.



## Art Fair in the Gardens



7th Annual Art Fair in the Garden  
**Thursday, July 18, 2013**  
 10:00 am-8:00 pm

### Free Public Event

*Sponsored by Munsinger Clemens  
 Botanical Society*

Celebrate summer with art, flowers, food and beverages, and music at the seventh annual "Art Fair in the Gardens" at Munsinger Clemens Gardens on Thursday July 18 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Artwork will be for sale from area artists skilled in garden art, pottery, photography, oil painting, watercolor painting, jewelry, stained glass, sculpture, woodworking, and weaving. The Gardens will be at their summer best and provide the perfect setting for you to browse and purchase some wonderful art to take home. Food and beverages will be for sale from Good Earth Food Co-op, Erbert and Gerbert's, and West Side Liquors.

## Call for Volunteers for Root Beer Floats



MCBS thanks member Beulah Rose Hutchens for wrapping the spoons, straws, and napkins used at root beer float sales at Music in the Gardens. Beulah Rose has done this job for a number of years and is now retiring from it. We are looking for volunteers to continue with this task. We also are looking for volunteers to sell root beer floats at our Sunday afternoon concerts at 3:00. Volunteers report at 2:30 to set up, they sell root beer floats to the public until the concert ends about 4:00, and then they stay to clean up. Concerts are held on June 9, June 23, July 14, July 28, August 11, and August 25. You may volunteer individually or with a group of friends.

**Call Elaine at 320-252-6143 to volunteer.**



## Photo Contest

### CLICK, CLICK, CLICK

Keep your cameras handy for continuing changes in the Gardens. The neutral colors of winter and early spring are quickly changing to vibrant shades. Try to continue taking pictures all around Munsinger Clemens Gardens until early November. The Photography Contest committee is hoping that scenes from all four seasons will be represented in the entries. Photo contest details can be viewed at [www.MunsingerClemens.com](http://www.MunsingerClemens.com).

Winning photos from the 2012 photo contest can be seen at these locations:

May and June—Whitney Center  
 July and August—Waite Park Public Library  
 September—Saint Cloud Hospital



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*are welcomed.*

*MCBS newsletter is published four times a year. The next issue will be in August. Articles, comments, suggestions, or address corrections*

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**MCBS Garden Events**

- June 9, Granite City Brass
- June 23, Gypsy Mania Hot Club Quartet
- July 14, L'Unita String Quartet
- July 28, Cristina Seaborn Trio
- August 11, Monday Night Jazz
- August 25, Pachanga Society

**Art Fair in the Gardens, July 18**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 7th Annual Art Fair in the Gardens on Thursday July 18 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Shop for high quality artwork for your home and garden as well as jewelry, weaving, pottery, painting, sculpture, and more. Enjoy the flowers, food, and beverages, plus live music.  
*NOTE TO ARTISTS: We are always looking for new artists for the Art Fair. If you are interested, contact maryannphelps@gmail.com or call 320-743-2663 for more information.*

**Theater in the Gardens, July 21**

**Photo Contest, January-November**