



## Woodland Flowers in Bloom

by Beth Berlin, University of Minnesota Extension

Typically late-May to June brings a hidden beauty to many woodlands: the large flowered trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*). This native perennial wildflower brings a sense of simplicity and strong beauty to the understory of Minnesota woodlands as the tree canopies are just starting to fill in. The large flowered trillium is also called the great white trillium, snow trillium, or the white wakerobin.

The large flowered trillium is in the *Melanthiaceae*, or *Trillium*, family. It is identified by its large white three-petal flower that reaches two to three inches across. The brilliant white petals may take a pink hue as they age. Each plant has

only one flower and will reach 10-18 inches in height. The flower has a bright yellow center with groups of stamen, which are the male portion of the reproductive flower.

Large flowered trillium can be found in rich, moist, part-shade to shade woodlands or floodplains.

Typically they prefer rich sandy loam soils that remain consistently moist; however they can be found in other



**Photo  
Credit:**  
Large  
Flowered  
Trillium.  
Beth Berlin,  
University of  
Minnesota  
Extension.

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## What's Up in the Gardens

by Joan Andersen

It is spring at the Gardens—at last. I recently met with Nia Primus, Gardens Supervisor, to talk about the upcoming season.

After an unusually cold spring with a late snowfall and cold night temperatures, the weather has finally turned. The first core group of gardeners returned the week of March 26 to begin the indoor work of transplanting plugs. The second group was delayed from their start date in early April and returned on April 26 to begin their season by cleaning the beds and getting them ready for planting. This job was made a little easier because perennials are coming up a little bit late this year.

There is a lot to do to get ready for planting. Workers will continue weeding the beds, and some overgrown perennials will be divided. There is a project to redo the perennial garden by the fountain to give it a new look. The staff will continue to monitor and care for the thousands of annual and perennial plants growing in the greenhouse. On Mondays, they often remove the flowers from the baby plants—it has to be done. The plants will grow better and they certainly will produce more flowers when they are planted outside.

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## Spotlight on Mini Roses

by Joan Andersen

If you visit Virginia Clemens Rose Garden you can't help seeing the collection of mini roses planted at the edges of the beds. Roses classified as mini roses are small plants, from 10" to about 24" tall. The leaves are small and the flowers are petite, under 1-1/2" wide. The blooms can be found in all the forms found on larger roses—singles, doubles, or hybrid tea form and they may be single stems or sprays. There are even micro-miniatures that are under 12" tall with blooms from 1/4" to 1" wide.

Rose growers who exhibit in shows usually grow their mini roses in pots. The small size of the plants makes them an excellent choice for growing in containers. Care is the same as for other roses. They like well-drained rich soil and full sun. Fertilize them and keep the soil moist. Occasionally you should deadhead—snip out the old flowers and dead twigs to keep the plant looking good and encourage more flowers. If you can provide winter protection, you can use mini roses on the edge of your garden or in a rock garden or perennial garden. You can try to keep mini roses in the house over the winter—but they will need enough light and humidity.

Miniflora is another classification of smaller rose plants that has been recognized by the American Rose Society (ARS) since 1979. The plants are larger than mini rose plants and they may be up to 48" tall and be similar in size and appearance to a small shrub rose. This classification was created to include roses that grow larger or have larger blooms than mini roses but are still smaller in bloom size than floribundas and other roses.

The rose classification is chosen by the hybridizer and should be displayed on the plant tag when you buy a rose. Sometimes a mini or miniflora will grow larger than expected in your garden due to your particular conditions and you may

wonder about the classification. Some mini roses grow into a larger bush than some of the minifloras. Remember that the classification was determined by the size of the flower, not the bush.

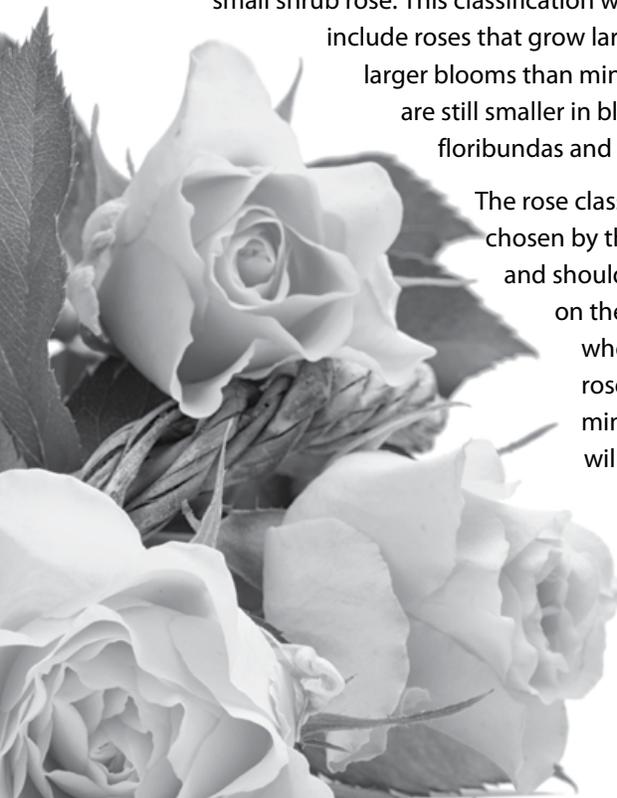
Roses classified as minis or minifloras usually grow on their own roots (not grafted), but they will all need winter protection. Most are not hardy above zone 5 or 6. At Virginia Clemens Rose Garden, these roses are all planted in the main rose beds where they will be covered in construction blankets for the winter.

Deb Keiser, Rose Specialist at the Rose Garden, told me about the newer cultivars that she is planting in Virginia Clemens Rose Garden. There is a series of Mini roses called Sunblaze that has lots of different colors. They were developed by a well-known hybridizer from France called Meilland Roses and are distributed in the US by Star Roses. All have double blooms and have been bred to have healthy foliage and a compact habit. In 2017 Deb planted 'Bridal Sunblaze' which is a soft white, 'Sweet Sunblaze' which is a clear pink, 'Autumn Sunblaze' which is orange, 'Rainbow Sunblaze' which has multicolored yellow, orange, and red blooms, 'Red Sunblaze' which has deep red flowers, and 'Yellow Sunblaze' which has bright yellow blooms. In 2018 more will be added to the collection: 'Cherry Sunblaze' has bright red blooms, and 'Salmon Sunblaze' has salmon pink blooms. 'Mandarin Sunblaze' has bright medium orange flowers and is one of Deb's favorites.

Meilland also developed a few other mini roses that are being added in 2018: "Baby Paradise" has lavender flowers on a plant that gets only 15" tall. 'Debut Sunblaze' has red and cream bicolor flowers and is the first miniature selected by the AARS.

Weeks Roses is the distributor of several mini roses from hybridizer Tom Carruth. 'Lemon Drop' has full, ruffled yellow blooms. 'Ruby Ruby' has bright cherry red blooms, and 'Cutie Pie' is a peach and yellow blend with flowers that are a miniature version of a hybrid tea bloom. Both are Deb's favorites.

While we all love big showy roses, there is a certain charm in the mini rose. When you visit, be sure to check out the collection of minis all along the borders of the rose beds in Virginia Clemens Rose Garden. And, I encourage you to grow some at home. Even if you don't have a garden, these roses are perfect for pots and won't take up too much room on the patio. With good care, they will bloom the entire season.





# Stormy Weather

by Idella Moberg

Yesterday was Cinco de Mayo. Eighty thousand people flooded downtown Saint Paul to celebrate, to watch the parade, to carouse the bars. The day was hot. It was beautiful. People were happy to be out and about after the dreadful winter that never seemed to end. They danced in the streets, singing and shouting to a fevered pitch. The whole town was in an uproar until in late afternoon violence broke out. Fights in the streets and shootings. Police came with sirens and flashing lights.

At this very moment the storm hit, our first big warm weather storm this year. It came at us with lightning and thunder, with wind and rain and hail, and a rapid temperature drop. Sirens blared, warning us all to take immediate cover. We quickly carried pots of geraniums off the deck and put them inside. Then we got ourselves inside and watched the storm rip through. How will all those people get out of the storm, we wondered.

If we'd been in Saint Cloud, we'd be in the basement under the stairs, or maybe in a bathroom sitting in the tub, under a blanket, with bottles of water and something to eat, and a flashlight for when the power went out. Remember the tornadoes we drove through that one time, we'd say, with

thirteen tornadoes spinning around us as we raced through lightning and pelting rain down the road looking for some shelter. It was so stressful. And the kids were with Grandma, all tucked in under a blanket, telling stories to keep them calm while the neighborhood was blown away by the shrieking twister. Maybe this storm will be like that one. Here in Saint Paul we sat by the window and watched the weather barrel in. A few minutes later it was gone.

I keep learning over and over again how severe and dangerous our weather can be. How could I forget! Wind blows down our trees, hail ruins crops and cars, rivers flood, tornadoes lift up cars and slam them into shopping malls. Power goes out.

Aside from all the damage, storms affect us in other ways. A storm can change history. Ben Franklin with his key and his kite proved that lightning is electricity and can be conducted. Then he invented the lightning rod to protect buildings from electric storms. Some people seek to avoid storms. They crawl into a safe place to wait out the storm. Others chase the storm, photograph it, record its movements, embrace it. Storms can be seen as metaphors for human experience. The book of Genesis tells of human wickedness that brought

on torrential rain for forty days and forty nights and a flood that people are still talking about today. English literature is drenched in rainy storms. Anger is a storm, as in a storm of protest, storming out of a room, or storming in a rage at someone. Police storm a building.

Storms are something we experience. We talk about them. We read about them. We all have stories to tell about some big storm we had. We can read a book about famous storms and share the real-life adventure that plays out in people's lives when a storm hits. Here are just a few suggestions for you.

—*Isaac's Storm: A Man, a Time, and the Deadliest Hurricane in History*, by Erik Larson. Larson's nonfiction book reads like a novel about a hurricane that destroys Galveston, Texas, in 1900.

—*The Man Who Caught The Storm: The Life of Legendary Tornado Chaser Tim Samaras*, by Brantley Hargrove.

—*The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea*, by Sebastian Junger. A thriller about being caught by a terrifying storm.

—*The Guardian*. "Drip, drip, drip by day and night," by Alexander Harris, February 19, 2014. In English literature, weather events have been understood as "the purposeful language," exhortations calling for repentance.

## Announcements

With this issue, the MCBS Newsletter has a new person doing the layout and design. Lora Honer has taken over from Jill Lucas. As the founder and lead graphic designer at Lora Honer Designs, Lora has been doing the design work for newsletters, magazines, and other communications throughout the Saint Cloud area. As we welcome her to our newsletter, we offer thanks to Jill Lucas for the fine work she has done with our publication since Spring 2013, and we offer good wishes for Jill's retirement.

Plus, another of our newsletter people is leaving. Beth Berlin, horticulturist at the University of Minnesota Extension, will no longer be writing for us. We thank her for the informative articles she has shared with us. —Donna Gorrell, Editor



## Native Plants for Growing under Conifers

by William M. Cook

When I moved into my house in Saint Cloud a dozen years ago, I realized very quickly that the previous owners loved grass. And five mature trees, plus some lilacs and arborvitae. And strawberries, which are still producing for me today. But there were almost no other herbs or flowers on the lot, which I quickly set about correcting.

I quickly detected a problem with the three spruce trees on the north side of our lot, which was that not much of anything wanted to grow underneath them except for a small species of pigweed (*Amaranthus*) that didn't strike me as particularly scenic. The soil was undoubtedly acidic, since it was under a conifer, but was also dry since I live on a ridgetop in town and not in a nice, moist forest with a mossy floor.

It took me several years of trial and error, but eventually I hit upon a mixture of plants that seem to be admired by the neighbors. Like many shade gardens, hostas are the workhorse of mine. They come in a variety of sizes, colors, and leaf shapes, and effectively cover ground in shade and suppress weeds. They even can have attractive flowers in mid-to-late summer, which for some reason a lot of people forget. However, as much as I appreciate hostas, they are largely all mound-forming rosettes, and the spice of gardens is variety. I needed plants of different shapes and textures to blend with the hostas.

I tried a variety of popular shade plants with the hostas, but the dry and acidic soil defeated them. Many popular shade plants want the prototypical "moist, well-draining soil with high organic material." That's not what you get under spruce or pine trees, and I am generally not willing to water established beds to keep marginal plantings going indefinitely. Eventually I found a set of plants that happily grow in these locations and spice up the hostas. What they all have in common, I realized, is that they are Minnesota natives that like shade but have some tolerance for a little sun and dryer soils.

The "flowers." Everyone wants some pretty flowers in the late spring/early summer, which is kind of a down-period for blooms. A couple of very helpful native plants that send flowers up above the hostas are

Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium*) and columbine (*Aquilegia*). Both of these are native to Minnesota, but also have a variety of cultivated varieties that like more or less the same conditions. Columbines are short-lived perennials which usually don't flower until their second year. The fact that they are short-lived is not a problem because they reseed very nicely; you don't get a gazillion of them, just a happy few that wander around your garden from year to year. Columbines were one of the few flowers that preceded me in my garden, and I haven't ever really cultivated them. I always have a few of them and they are always in different places, and I don't mind when they dry up in mid-summer. Jacob's ladder stays put much more than columbine but also has interesting foliage. Jacob's ladder also wants more moisture than most of the other plants on this list, so take that into account.

The "archers." Some of my favorite unsung plants in my garden are the Solomon's seal group. There is giant Solomon's seal (*Polygonum biflorum*), but also several relatives in the same genus including dwarf, starry, and others. There also is a lookalike and distant cousin called false Solomon's seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*). I particularly like this group of plants because of their unusual shape and texture. They stand upright, with an interesting arching form. They grow slowly but hardly overwhelmingly into clumps, and have flowers and berries in different locations and colors. These are excellent plants to mix with hostas in that their shape is utterly different but they like the same locations. They come back year after year and in most cases can grow in sun if you want that. One small disadvantage is that they have very shallow root systems, and if you transplant them once they are fully leafed out they tend to tip over and may not look fabulous until they come up fresh the next spring.

The groundcovers. I have two lovely native and effective groundcovers that fulfill slightly different niches in my shade and part shade locations. Many people know Canada wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), which is used to great effect in some corners of Munsinger Gardens. It spreads slowly in full shade, filling in around rocks and crevices. Wild ginger has small, hard-to-spot purple flowers in early spring and is grown for its foliage. Wild ginger is a small plant, six inches or less, and





prefers deeper shade to partial. I don't water it under my trees, but it does fine in the shadier spots. My other favorite groundcover is a very different flavor. Mayapple is also a native plant, but I haven't observed it growing wild in central Minnesota. I suspect it is really native to areas south and east. Nevertheless mayapples grow very well in my garden and in those of friends of mine, which means they just need to be planted. Mayapple is a taller plant, a foot to eighteen inches. It also spreads clonally, popping up new shoots each year. In deciduous forests it can grow into huge colonies, spreading over hillsides in the forest edge, and it doesn't at all mind

some part sun. Mayapples have an interesting leaf that is a bit disc-shaped, and if you are really lucky may produce a single edible fruit in midsummer (squirrels usually get them, though, and be aware that the rest of the plant is toxic, including its immature fruits). I am definitely planning to let mayapples colonize more of my shade gardens, even if I never get many fruits.

Hopefully this gives you a few ideas about native plants to mix in with your hostas. I appreciate all of these, and the roles they play in under-tree gardens.

## Music in the Gardens

2018 19th Season

"Music in the Gardens" is a free Sunday afternoon concert series held on alternating Sundays at 3:00 pm. Arranged by Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society and supported by its members, the concerts are located near the gazebo in Munsinger Gardens on the banks of the Mississippi River. Root beer floats are still available for only \$1.00.



**June 10—Gypsy Mania Hot Club.** A spontaneous, vivid performance by some of Minnesota's most stellar gypsy-jazz artists played in the Django Reinhardt French swing tradition of the 1930s. The ensemble includes the unmistakable mastery of jazz violinist Gary Schulte, the diverse guitar styling of Glen Helgeson, tasty, refined bass work of acoustic bassist Steve Pikal, and accomplished jazz drummer Jay Epstein.

**June 24—Monday Night Jazz.** A group of musicians from central Minnesota who present a wide variety of jazz—from old chestnuts, through swing and bebop, to R&B flavored pop.

**July 8—Cristina Seaborn.** One of the top fiddle and violin performers and teachers in the Upper Midwest. She has produced an instructional video for fiddling through Mel Bay's entitled "Anyone Can Play Country Fiddle," CDs entitled "Inside the Heart of a Musician," "Seaborn Breeze," and "Spirit Wind," plus many arrangements for string orchestra of fiddle music, jazz, Celtic, Scandinavian, Cajun, and original.

**July 22, 2:00 pm—A short program before the Memorial Release of Butterflies.** This is a collaborative event between Quiet Oaks Hospice House, Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society, Saint Cloud Symphony Orchestra, and local hospice agencies. Check the website at [www.quietoakshospicehouse.org](http://www.quietoakshospicehouse.org) for more information on the butterfly release and to purchase butterflies.

**July 22, 3:00 pm—Harper's Chord. Jill Moore, Roger Fink, Micah Barrett, and Evin Haukos**—the talented musicians that form Harper's Chord, a local music group that has a grassroots, back porch, organic feel to it. There is a simplicity and sweetness to their sound that gives these diverse musicians the opportunity to showcase their formidable talent.

**August 5—Dennis Warner and the D's.** Singer-songwriter and folk/Americana musician Dennis Warner joined by his longtime band "the D's" – Dan Neale (guitar), Derrick Raiter (percussion), and Dennis "DK" Kennedy (marimba, harmonica, percussion) for a fun, robust, thought-provoking and thoroughly entertaining outdoor concert.

**August 19—Ring of Kerry.** A group based in Minnesota, playing Irish music on a variety of Celtic instruments, including whistles, flutes, guitar, hammered dulcimer, fiddle, and bodhran.

Program schedule may be subject to change.

These are free public events sponsored by Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society and funded in part by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature through a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board with money from the State's general fund.



# Art Fair in the Gardens

Thursday, July 19, 2018

Celebrate summer at our annual "Art Fair in the Gardens" in Munsinger and Clemens Gardens, Thursday July 19, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. Artwork is for sale from artists skilled in garden art, pottery, photography, oil painting, watercolor painting, jewelry, stained glass, sculpture, woodworking, weaving, and more. Booths are set up right in the Gardens so you can enjoy the flowers as you shop.

There will be live music from Carlos Quinche playing native flutes all day in Clemens Gardens. Musicians will also perform in Munsinger Gardens on the stage near the Gazebo: Nathan Neuman (11:30 to 1:30), Cathie English (2:30 to 4:30), and Pachanga Society (5:00 to 7:00). Food and beverages will be for sale on site all day. For more information go to [www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com).

This is a free public event sponsored by Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society. Music performances are funded in part by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature through a grant from the Central Minnesota Arts Board with money from the State's general fund.

*What's Up in the Gardens, continued from page 1*

Other projects include replacing the sign on the corner of University Drive and Kilian Boulevard. Staff is also working on the fountains and other water features. There are quite a few, and it takes some time to get all the water lines checked, fountains cleaned, and maintenance completed. The goal is to have the fountains operating by Memorial Day weekend.

This year, the greenhouse staff has been chosen by the City of Saint Cloud to plant 35 hanging baskets that will be displayed around town. They are in the process of planting them, and the baskets will grow in the greenhouse for a while until they are moved to their permanent homes.

The Saint Cloud Granite Rotary has given a wonderful gift to the Gardens. They are paying for new shingles for the roof of the Gazebo. The project is underway and will be done soon.

## **The Musicians**

*Carlos Quinche* is a music artist from Ecuador who currently lives in Minnesota. His music ranges from traditional melodies from his country to contemporary American. He uses traditional Andean instruments made from bamboo, some from Native American cultures.

*Nathan Neuman* developed a reputation as Saint Cloud's polka resource. His performing experiences include dance halls, church festivals, private parties, restaurants, and nursing homes. You can expect an entertaining performance featuring a variety of American and European folk tunes and party favorites. He also runs Saint Cloud Concertina Service for bellows instrument repair and lessons.

*Cathie English*, a folk singer/songwriter who dwells in Central Minnesota, is a self-taught guitarist who did some performing in college, then put music aside to raise a family. Once the nest was empty she again found her passion. Cathie had the good fortune to find a friend and mentor in Minnesota's folk singer/song writer Peter Mayer ([blueboat.net](http://blueboat.net)) from whom she learned the finer points of the American Fingerstyle guitar. Cathie released her first CD "Mary's Garden" in January 2014.

*Stearns County Pachanga Society (SCPS)* combines the participatory musical spirit of Cuban Cabildos, Brazilian Samba clubs, and Spanish Charangas, with danceable rhythms from all over the globe and a certain psychedelic rock-n-roll ethos. The Saint Cloud Times has called the Pachanga Society the "hottest gig in town," and KVSC-FM's Minnesota Music expert John Drake chose the group as 2002 "Rookie of the Year" on the Minnesota music scene.

The weather has been great, although the nights are still in the 40s. Planting is underway, beginning with perennials and cold-tolerant annuals such as pansies. Once the night temperatures are warmer and the soil warms up, planting of warm-season annuals will begin.

I asked Nia if the late spring meant that they were behind. She observed that the work was being done on schedule, but a few projects that would have been done ended up being delayed. The cold weather meant that some outdoor painting projects could not be completed. Other than that, things are going well and she expects planting to be done on schedule. Soon the tulips will be blooming. It has been a long winter, but spring is finally here!



## Contest Winners on the Move

by Mary Margaret Bjorklun

The annual photo contest ends in November. After that, the winning photos are moved around the Saint Cloud area, enhancing hallways and display cases. Last year's winners have already been hung in these locations: Great River Regional Library, Saint Cloud Hospital, Studio C at the Paramount, US Bank in Saint Cloud, and CentraCare Plaza. They currently can be enjoyed at Whitney Senior Center. July and August will find them at River's Edge Convention Center, followed by Waite Park Public Library in September, Quiet Oaks Hospice House in October, and back to Great River Library in November. The contest ends early November, with entries accepted November 2 and 3.

While hanging the photos in different locations, I enjoy hearing people's comments. They might include *Beautiful!—I remember seeing that—Where was that picture taken? Oh, Munsinger Clemens Gardens!—I love to go there—The photos add so much color to our hallways—I hate to see the photos taken down, and*

more. Moving the photos is usually a monthly task, so special thanks go to the committee members and spouses who willingly step up for the move: Chris and John Felsch, Bette Raffenburg, Jack Kelly, and Gene Bjorklun.



Big news for Gardens visitors in the youth-18 age category. Each first entry for those young photographers will be free, with additional entries for that group at \$5. For adults, additional entries will be \$10. The contest hopes to put even more fun in everyone's visit to the Gardens. What is more common than seeing many visitors snapping beautiful images that catch their eye? Please share your beautiful photo ideas by entering the contest in November. Complete contest information is available where the photos are hung, at the Gardens Gift Shop, and at [www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com).



*Woodland Flowers in Bloom, continued from page 1*

types of soils. This native plant will bloom in May through June in Minnesota. Minnesota is on the western edge of the large flowered trillium's native range in the United States. It is more common in east-central Minnesota but will stretch throughout other parts as well.

Like all woodland wildflowers it is best and sometimes required by law that people observe and enjoy their beauty but do not cut or transplant. Even in areas where there seems to be an ample supply, disturbing native plant cultures can have devastating effects. The large flowered trillium is listed on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources special concern list, so purchase plants for your own property from a reputable nursery supplier.

## Membership Application and Renewal

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50-\$99 (Basic Membership)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$100-\$249

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$250-\$500

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Gifts over the Basic Membership may be designated to:

\_\_\_\_ Music in the Gardens    \_\_\_\_ Art Fair in the Gardens

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Arranged for our summer pleasure again this year will be Music in the Gardens. Beginning in June on alternate Sundays, you can bring your chair or a blanket, sit down in Munsinger, and listen to these fine groups:

**June 10, Gypsy Mania Hot Club**

**June 24, Monday Night Jazz**

**July 8, Cristina Seaborn**

**July 22, Harper's Chord**

**August 5, Dennis Warner and the D's**

**August 19, Ring of Kerry**

*(Subject to change)*

### Art Fair July 19

Plan to stroll through Munsinger and Clemens Gardens on Thursday July 19 and see art on display by various artists and listen to the following musicians:

Carlos Quinche | Nathan Neuman | Cathie English

### RAP

Taking some trips in warmer weather? Maybe you're going to one of 320 gardens through North America where your MCB5 membership card entitles you to special admission or discount. Check it out at [www.ahsgardening.org/rap](http://www.ahsgardening.org/rap).

Find us on [www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com)