

## What's Up with Japanese Beetles?

By Joan Andersen

Japanese Beetles may be in your garden this year. I've heard that some people in the St. Cloud area have them and some don't. So far, my garden has been spared, but it certainly is going to happen. Japanese beetles were present in Munsinger Clemens Gardens in 2020, but they were not too bad – yet. Because the Gardens are open to the public all day every day, treatment options for JB's are very limited. Visitors will want to know why someone isn't doing something about all those beetles! It is not that easy.

JBs are a nonnative insect that arrived in the US in 1916. They have slowly and steadily increased their range and reached Minnesota in 1968. Their numbers have now increased so that they are a real problem. Once here, they will not be going away.

**Life cycle:** Adult beetles emerge from the soil starting in about late June, mate and lay eggs in the soil.

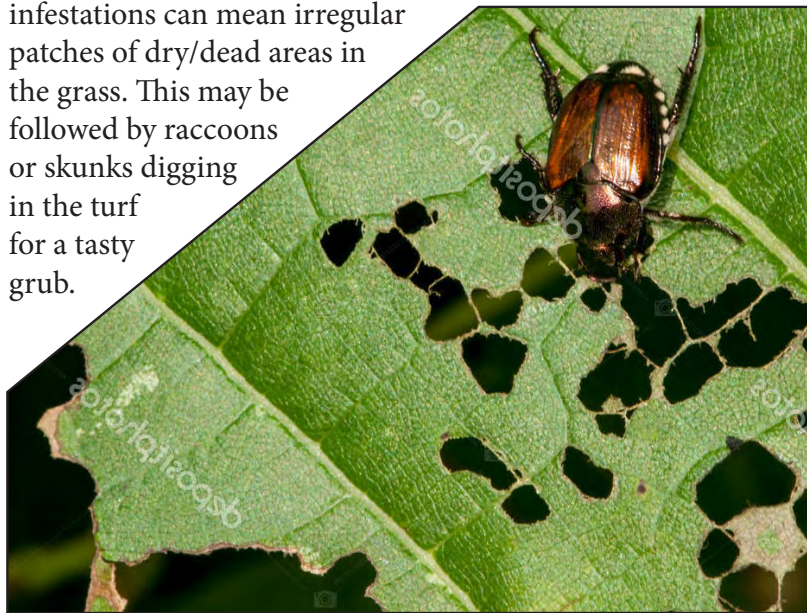
Adult beetles will feed on plants for four to six weeks before they die off. Meanwhile, the eggs hatch into grubs that live in the soil, feeding on the roots of grass. The grubs crawl deeper into the soil to survive the cold winter. In spring, the grubs move back up to the root zone to feed and then pupate in the soil and emerge as adult beetles in late June of the next year to begin a new cycle.

**Identification:** Adults are about 7/16" long. They are metallic green with copper wing covers. They have a row of white tufts of hair on each side of the body – similar sized beetles do not have these white tufts. Grubs in the soil are a C shaped white grub. They start out small but eventually get up to 1-1/4" long.

**Damage to plants:** When the adult beetles feed, they give off a pheromone which attracts more beetles, so you will often see them feeding in groups on a plant they really like. They skeletonize the leaves of plants by eating the tissue between the veins of the leaves. JB's enjoy chewing on up to 300 plant species. This is

what makes them such a problem because they will feed on so many different flowers, roses and other plants. They will eat the leaves of fruit such as raspberry, strawberry and grape. They may even eat apples that have damage from hail or birds pecking. They are also a problem in some agricultural fields such as soybeans.

**Damage to lawns:** Beetles love lawns and golf courses for laying eggs. Grubs feed on plant roots, and heavy infestations can mean irregular patches of dry/dead areas in the grass. This may be followed by raccoons or skunks digging in the turf for a tasty grub.



*Continued on page 7*

### In this Issue

What's Up with Japanese Beetles.....	1, 7
What's Up in the Gardens? .....	2, 6
Music In the Gardens .....	3, 7
Wildflowers for the Home Garden.....	4
2021 Photography in the Gardens .....	5
Art Fair in the Gardens.....	6
Membership Application/Renewal.....	Back Cover
RAP .....	Back Cover

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



## What's Up in the Gardens

By Joan Andersen

It is finally spring and a new season for Munsinger Clemens Gardens. Staff gardeners returned to work on March 29 and more started on April 5. In late March, the new baby plants arrived and staff worked for several weeks to transplant them into larger pots to grow in the greenhouse until they can be planted in the garden. As weather permitted, gardeners worked outside to remove straw from the flower beds to get them ready for planting.

I talked to Nia Primus, Gardens Supervisor, about her plans for the Gardens in 2021. For the Rest Area Garden located between the Rose Garden and the gift shop, she has chosen the color purple in honor of Prince – Nia is a big fan. If you are not, you can always think of the Vikings!

For contrast with purple plants there will be bright yellow and many shades of green. A centerpiece will be Butterfly bush 'buddleia Grand Cascade' that has lots of purple flower spikes and can grow 5' tall. Purple sweet potato vine 'Treasure Island Kaukura' and lime green sweet

potato plant 'Treasure Island Makatea' will be used. Another green plant is a celosia called 'Gekko Green' which is grown for its interesting green and purple/red leaves. Helianthus 'Suncredible Yellow' is a bright yellow sunflower that grows up to 42" tall. Another sunflower called 'Teddy Bear' is short for a sunflower at only 24-36" but it has large yellow fluffy double flowers.

The Formal Garden will have a bright design of red, orange and yellow flowers, with grasses for accent. Calibrachoa 'Callie Mango' and calibrachoa 'Noa Sunset' bloom in warm colors. Sun coleus is grown just for foliage. Coleus 'Sedona Sunset' has coppery orange leaves and Coleus 'Beale Street' has deep red foliage. Kniphofia has tall showy flower spikes. Kniphofia 'Papaya Popsicle' has dark orange and yellow flowers, 'Mango Popsicle' has softer orange flowers and 'Redhot Popsicle' has cinnamon red flower spikes. Ornamental grasses will be used for contrast to all the bright colors. Carex 'Red Rooster' is reddish brown and carex 'Prairie Fire' is a greenish bronze fine textured grass with orange highlights. Acorus 'Oborozuki' (sweet flag) is variegated lime green and yellow.

Spring started early in the Virginia Clemens Rose Garden. It was so warm in March that the tender roses were uncovered on April 5. Compost around the plant roots was left in place. Many roses were already growing and even though we had some colder weather in April than we did in March, the plants are doing well. As the weather warms, the compost will be pulled back from the base of the plants. Pruning will start when the plants start to show leaf buds and fertilizing will be done when the plants have their leaves.

Deb Keiser, Rose Specialist, continues to look for roses that have beautiful flowers, are disease resistant and have predictable hardiness.

*Continued on page 6*





# *Thank you*

## *Thank you for donations made in Memory of Carletta Vastag*



in the Gardens



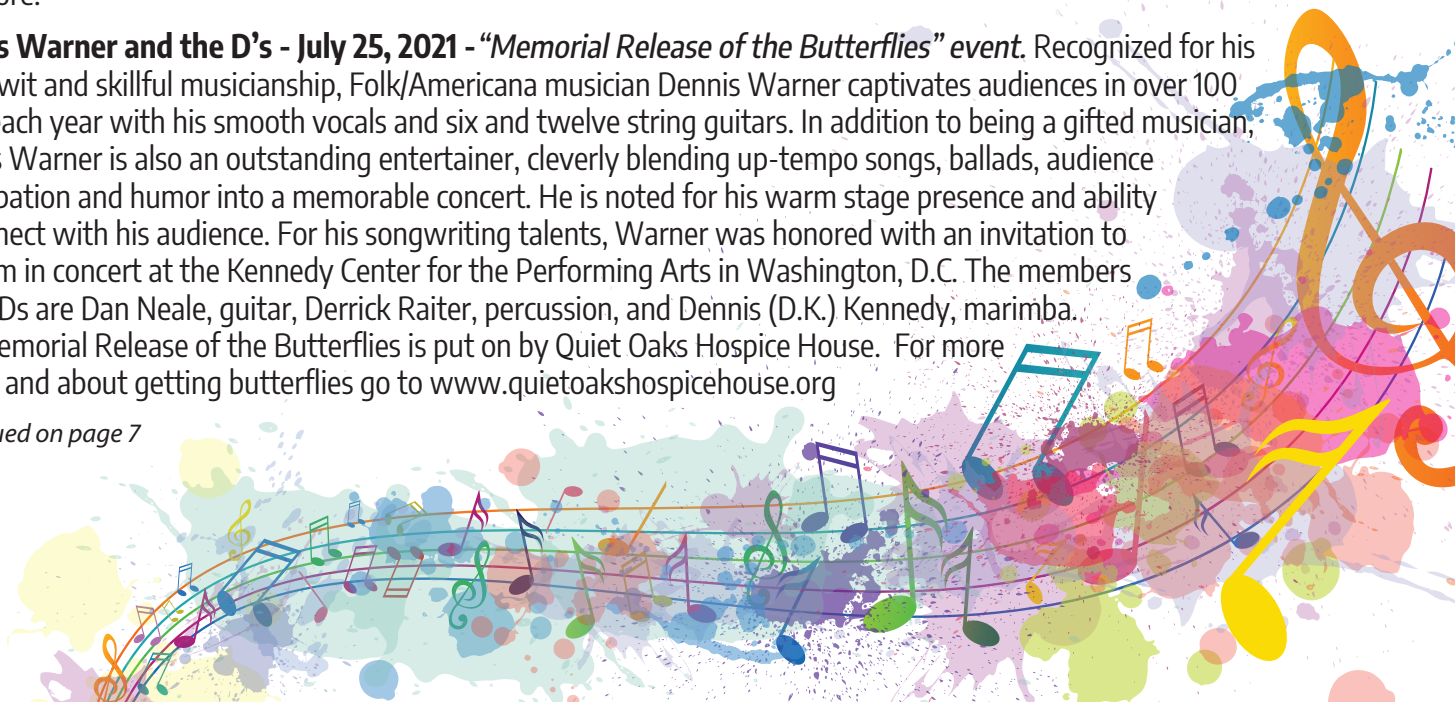
**Seaborn - June 13, 2021** SEABORN speaks the language of fiddle music to audiences around the world. Led by master fiddler/violinist, Cristina Seaborn, her ensemble performs traditional dance tunes, improvisational jazz, folk ballads, blues & rock. Born in Puerto Rico, moved to New York, then raised in Southern California, holding a degree in jazz violin performance from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Cristina now makes her home in the mid-America state of Minnesota. She loves music from all folk traditions including Celtic, Swedish, Cajun, jazz, classical and rock.

**Harper's Chord - June 27, 2021** Harper's Chord is an Americana-country cocktail with a twist of bluegrass. This four-piece musical group, led by vocalist Jill Moore, draws from their love of modern folk, bluegrass, Americana and country music. Harper's Chord has been captivating audiences for over nine years with their sweet harmonies and easy-listening acoustic songs. Their music has been heavily influenced by such artists as Brandi Carlile, Dolly Parton, Sarah Jarosz, Little Big Town, Emmylou Harris and The Duhks.

**The Half Steps - July 11, 2021** For more than 21 years, the Half Steps have been entertaining audiences throughout Minnesota with their unique brand of a cappella music. Gary Zwack, Steve Wilson, Richard Witteman and Paul Fedor bring humor and tight harmonies to an eclectic catalogue of tunes – from Elvis to the Pointer Sisters. Over the years, the Half Steps have gained a loyal following from performances at Joetown Rocks, Pioneer Place on Fifth, the Paramount Theatre, Millstream Arts Festival, with Collective Unconscious & friends for Beach Boys' "Pet Sounds", and more.

**Dennis Warner and the D's - July 25, 2021 - "Memorial Release of the Butterflies" event.** Recognized for his crafty wit and skillful musicianship, Folk/Americana musician Dennis Warner captivates audiences in over 100 cities each year with his smooth vocals and six and twelve string guitars. In addition to being a gifted musician, Dennis Warner is also an outstanding entertainer, cleverly blending up-tempo songs, ballads, audience participation and humor into a memorable concert. He is noted for his warm stage presence and ability to connect with his audience. For his songwriting talents, Warner was honored with an invitation to perform in concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The members of the Ds are Dan Neale, guitar, Derrick Raiter, percussion, and Dennis (D.K.) Kennedy, marimba. The Memorial Release of the Butterflies is put on by Quiet Oaks Hospice House. For more details and about getting butterflies go to [www.quietoakshospicehouse.org](http://www.quietoakshospicehouse.org)

Continued on page 7





## Wildflowers for the Home Garden

By Joan Andersen

Are you interested in growing native wildflowers in your landscape? We have all heard of coneflowers, black-eyed Susan and asters. Here are some additional plants to try. It is nice to grow wildflowers that will bloom at different times of the season and provide food for bees and butterflies all season. All of these should be available at nurseries that sell native plants.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*) has white flowers in very early spring. It will spread by seeds and rhizomes and is good for naturalizing under trees.

Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) has glossy heart shaped leaves and bright yellow flowers in early spring. Plant it near a stream or water garden.

Large Flowered Trillium (t. *grandiflorum*) has white flowers in spring that gradually become pink. It prefers growing in a woodland garden with medium moisture.

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) has pink flowers in May and June and will naturalize under trees.

Columbine (*aquilegia Canadensis*) blooms May to July and likes part shade. It is a good early nectar source for bees and hummingbirds.

Showy Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) is the Minnesota State Flower since 1902. It is an orchid that grows in bogs and wet meadows where the tree canopy is open to allow sunlight. It blooms in

June. Since 1925, it is illegal to pick the flowers or dig plants in the wild. They are sometimes available for purchase from nurseries, but be aware of their special cultural conditions since they usually will not thrive in a flower garden.

Meadow Blazing Star (*liatris ligulistylis*) grows up to 5' tall and flowers in July-August and is a major attraction for Monarch butterflies. It prefers sun and medium moist soil.

Button (Rough) Blazing Star (*liatris aspera*) grows about 3' tall and flowers July-Sept and is another butterfly and bee magnet. It prefers sun and drier soil.

Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) grows 3-4' tall and has unusual white bristly flowers in July. It likes sun and is not fussy about soil moisture.

Cardinal flower (*Aquilegia Canadensis*) has showy scarlet red flower spikes in July-September. It prefers full sun to part shade and moist soil. Parent plants are short lived, but it will self-seed.

Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) grows up to 5' and blooms July-August. It blooms with tall white flower spikes that are fragrant and very attractive to bees.

There are many more, but these are some of my favorites. In the right place where they are happy with the growing conditions, these plants will live for many years with relatively little care. Remember, growing our native plants in your landscape provides food for many native bees, butterflies and other insects that may be struggling to find a home in urban areas.





**WE NEED  
VOLUNTEERS**



**Looking For  
Volunteers To Help  
Plan Our Events And  
Join Our Board:  
  
Music in the  
Gardens,  
  
Photography in  
the Gardens &  
  
Art Fair in the  
Gardens.**

Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society is a non-profit that plans events in the gardens as well as raising money to help support the gardens. You would not be gardening at Munsinger or Clemens Gardens but helping with events. Please contact us if you would like additional information.

## 2021 Photography in the Gardens

You can enter your photos online now for the 2021 Photography in the Gardens contest. You submit and pay for your entries completely through the online process. This provides visitors of the gardens who do not live close to the St. Cloud area the opportunity to enter their photos. ALL entries must be entered online to be eligible. All Juniors (18 and under) can enter their first photo free of charge.

This year's contest runs until November 1st. Photos entries must be entered by Midnight on November 1st. If you want to submit photos this year, check out the rules and entry details on our website: [www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com).



Start taking your photos now. The gardens are beautiful year round.




# Art Fair in the Gardens

**Munsinger  
Clemens**  
Botanical Society

CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
AIR

**CMAB**  
Central MN Arts Board

This activity is funded, in part, by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature, through a grant from the Central MN Arts Board, with money from the State's general fund.

| [munsingerclemens.com](http://munsingerclemens.com)

July 15, 2021 | 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Continued from page 2



Tender roses are planted in the main rose garden where they will have winter protection, but shrub roses that are grown on their own roots that can survive our winters with just compost for cover (and snow, we hope) are preferred.

Just a few of the new roses to look for this year: 'Candy Cane Cocktail' is a floribunda that has white flowers with dark pink to red edges. 'Love at First Sight' is a hybrid tea with red blooms with a white reverse. 'Pretty Polly Pink' is a polyantha that is covered in sprays of medium pink flowers. 'Pearlescent' is a bushy shrub rose with very double white flowers with a citrus scent. 'Pinkerbelle' is a hybrid tea rose with pink, lavender and cream blooms. 'Perfume Factory' is a hybrid tea with magenta flowers and a fruity spicy fragrance. 'Pink Snowflakes' is a low shrub roses with clusters of single pink flowers. 'Silver Lining' is a floribunda that has very double silver lavender flowers. It is impossible to pick a favorite of all these roses!



*Continued from page 1*

So, what should you do? Start by monitoring your gardens to assess the number of beetles and the severity of the damage. It is best to try to control them before they attract more beetles and start to congregate. Prize plants such as roses can be covered with a fairly fine netting such as nylon insect screen to exclude the beetles. Early in the morning before the beetles are active, knock them into a bucket of soapy water. Leave them in the water for a day to make sure they are dead. Dump the dead beetles – they won't attract more.

There are some products that are labeled for use on JB's. Products containing pyrethrins as an active ingredient work by direct contact. Be cautious because these chemicals can also kill bees and other insects. Neem oil seems to deter JB's if the numbers are moderate. Risk is low to bees and other insects. *Bacillus thuringiensis galleriae* is a specific kind of BT that is somewhat effective against JB's and will not harm bees. Unfortunately, none of this treatment is very practical for a large garden like Munsinger Clemens Gardens. We are all going to have to adjust to having Japanese beetles in our landscapes.

Unfortunately, many pesticides available to the homeowner pose a risk to bees and other beneficial insects. These include carbaryl (active ingredient in Sevin) and the pyrethroids. If you decided to use one of them for a severe infestation, read the label and follow the directions, which will tell you what to do to avoid harming bees.

Some products are sold to treat the grubs feeding in the lawn. These products should only be applied if the damage to grass roots is severe. The challenge is timing to kill the grubs when they are actively feeding. Treating grubs in the spring is not worth it because they are too big to kill. If you are planning to use grub control on your lawn, it needs to be done from July through mid September when newly hatched grubs are actively feeding but before they burrow down in the soil for winter.

What does not work? Avoid JB traps. They will attract many more beetles than they kill. If you do use them, hang them far away from your desirable flowers. A product called Milky Spore is sold for use on lawns, but efficacy will vary based on environmental conditions such as soil temperature, as well as soil type and pH. Studies have shown that the effectiveness is not very predictable.

*Continued from page 3*

## *Music* in the Gardens

**Monday Night Jazz - August 8, 2021** A love of jazz brought the members of Monday Night Jazz together, and they've been playing practically every Monday night from 8-10:30 PM in downtown St. Cloud for over 15 years. They started at the Tavern on Germain, and moved to the Veranda Lounge in 2006. The line-up has changed a bit since the beginning, but the current incarnation has remained virtually unchanged for over five years. The band consists of founding member Muggsy Lauer on guitar, Karl Van Beckum on bass, Mike Anderson on sax, Richard Witteman on trumpet, Dr. John Harlander on piano, and Dr. Terry Vermillion on drums.

**Ring of Kerry - August 22, 2021** Ring of Kerry is a bursting-with-energy Irish music group that captures the hearts of listeners. The group takes its name from a beautiful craggy drive in southwestern County Kerry, Ireland. Its Celtic music, however, is played with a heart much closer to its American home. All five of its engaging musicians sing and play several instruments. From the thundering sound of the bodhran to the sparkle of the hammered dulcimer; from the lilt and rhythm of fiddle and guitar to the haunting wails of the flute and pennywhistles, the band has developed a blend that is animated, ruggedly beautiful and fun. Audiences always react with great enthusiasm!

### **Music in the Gardens**

The public success of these professional concerts has been gratifying, and the series continues to showcase high quality local talent. All concerts are held on alternating Sundays at 3:00 p.m. near the Gazebo in Munsinger Gardens on the banks of the Mississippi River. All concerts are free and the Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society will again sell those fabulous root beer floats.





PO Box 7594  
St. Cloud, MN 56302  
www.munsingerclemens.com

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ST, CLOUD, MN  
PERMIT NO. 335

**Co-Chairs**  
Joan Andersen  
Jill Florek  
Mary Margaret Bjorklun  
Sam Calvert  
Elaine Carter  
William Cook  
Jack Kelly  
Nia Primus  
Bette Raffenberg  
Bruce Regan  
Lora Honer  
MCBS newsletter is published  
four times a year.  
Articles and comments are welcomed.  
**Membership Questions**  
lakesidegirl@hotmail.com  
**Coordinator & Editor**  
lora@lorahoneredesigns.com  
Lora Honer Designs • 241-2316  
**Layout & Design**  
lora@lorahoneredesigns.com  
Lora Honer Designs • 241-2316  
www.MunsingerClemens.com

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

## 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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society

Mail to MCBS, PO Box 7594, St Cloud, MN 56302

Or visit our website to give at [www.munsingerclemens.com](http://www.munsingerclemens.com)

