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The Rose Garden by Carole Pike

Roses now cover a lot that could have housed a convenience store if Bankers Systems owner William Clemens had not intervened. Dr. Waldemar Wenner owned the corner house on Riverside Drive and the adjoining lot behind it on Kilian Boulevard. When he and his wife died, people speculated about what would happen to the Kilian lot. Clemens, who lives across the street, saw surveyors checking it out. He and his wife, Virginia, fearing someone would put up a structure that would obscure their view of the Mississippi River, purchased the lot from the Wenner family in 1989 and gave it to the city.

Saint Cloud nursery supervisor David Morreim recalls that, having established the Formal Garden four years earlier, he wanted to design a rose garden. The sunny corner lot seemed



like a perfect place. He called Dorraine Umerski of the Granite City Rose Society to see if the Society would make a donation. She then asked if it would be proper for her to write a note to Virginia Clemens requesting a small donation. The next thing Morreim knew, William

Clemens had summoned him to the Bankers Systems board room. Morreim remembers that Clemens, after many direct questions, told him, "I'll pay for the remaining cost in construction. I'll pay for all the roses. I'll pay the salary of a full time rose grower for the season."

As with the Formal Garden, Government Youth Employment workers and the nursery staff built everything by hand. Morreim says he laid out a plan using a ruler and compass. According to maintenance supervisor Jim Achman, writing in the Summer 2009 issue of the MCBS Newsletter, the workers brought in three feet of black dirt and obtained rocks from local farmers to build retaining walls. They finally laid red brick paths in a basketweave pattern with a circle in the center.

"Virginia was a lover of roses and was greatly interested in the progress across the street," Achman recalled. "Housebound with multiple sclerosis, she would watch from her home and, with her great sense of humor, would comment on the various work habits of the workers." Morreim adds that at the end of the summer she told the workers, "I don't know your names but I know quite a bit about you."

Morreim purchased 1,100 roses from Bear Creek, the wholesale division of Jackson & Perkins, choosing top-rated va-



Clemens Gardens

Documenting History

- 1985 • Formal Garden
- 1989 • **Rose Garden**
- 1993 • Rest Area Garden
- 1994 • White Garden
- 1995 • Perennial Garden
- 1996 • Treillage Garden

rieties. He wanted a mix of colors that would flow together. The first rose gardener was Nancy Caspers, who had a horticulture degree from Brainerd Technical College and came on board in 1990. Then Steve Gessell, rose grower from the Becker Power Plant, took over from 1992 to 2000 and added better drainage, more soaker hoses, and pamphlet holders containing a history of the Gardens.

After the paths and the roses, Morreim wanted to add some other features. In a periodical called *Garden Design*, he saw an ad for Robinson Iron in Alexander City, Alabama, and sent for a catalog. The company creates iron pieces using antique patterns from all the major American foundries that operated in the early part of the 19th century. Using the catalog, Virginia Clemens selected the ironwork for

This is the second of a series of articles on the history of the Clemens Gardens.

Continued on page 6 • Rose

When many of summer's perennials are winding down for autumn, garden chrysanthemums refresh our gardens with colors ranging from many shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, bronze, pink, and white. The flowers themselves come in many different forms, from spider and quill types with long narrow petals to cushion and decorative types that have wider, more compact flowers.

Chrysanthemums are native to China and have been popular in the United States only during the past 60 to 80 years. The name "chrysanthemum" was assigned to the plant in the mid-1700s by Swedish botanist Linnaeus. Since then it has suffered an identity crisis. In the late 1900s, botanists reclassified the mum and placed it in the genus *Dendranthema*. However, botanists recently reversed themselves and placed the plant back in the genus *Chrysanthemum*. I wonder: Do some botanists have too much time on their hands?

The name chrysanthemum creates further confusion because it does not differentiate between the two types commonly available. Garden mums produce underground shoots or stolons which enable these plants to survive from year to year. If protected through the winter, garden mum plants produce numerous little plantlets and create an even bushier plant the following season. Florist mums, however, produce few or no stolons and are easily winter-killed, though they may overwinter in zone 4. They are the mums that are available as potted plants nearly year round in floral shops.

Both types are photoperiodic, meaning they bloom in response to short days and long nights. They require a specific amount of time under short day conditions to set flower buds. Typically, many garden varieties require 5 to 7 weeks to flower after the start of short days and can withstand several light frosts. Plant hybridizers have developed garden mums that are less day-length sensitive and there are now varieties available that bloom in early August. Florist mums require 8 to 14 weeks of short days, and the buds are often destroyed by a hard killing frost before they bloom. Therefore, in this area of the state it is probably best to enjoy a florist mum while in bloom and compost it when it is no longer attractive.

Since the 1930s, the University of Minnesota has had a mum breeding program and has introduced many garden mums. Available named varieties offer a myriad of choices of flower color, flower type and size, plant height, and time of bloom. Today, Minnesota maintains the only public mum breeding project in the country. In recent years, breeding work done by Dr. Neil Anderson has resulted in a trademarked series called "Mammoth Mums." These mums were originally called "My Favorite Mums." They are hardy through a zone 4 winter but will need some mulching in zone 3. As the name suggests, the plants are very large when mature. A single plant can be over three feet wide and be loaded with over a thousand flower buds. Although there is a very attractive yellow quill variety, most of them are daisy types and are available in a color range that includes red, pink, dark pink, white, and bronze. I have found that some of them are actually too large in a mixed bed, but they are stunning when open grown. For a list of recommended University of Minnesota chrysanthemum varieties as well as additional information on Mammoth Mums, go to [\[sion.umn.edu\]\(http://www.umn.edu\) and click on Gardening.](http://www.exten-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Mums are easy to grow and can provide years of enjoyment if you take care to select appropriate varieties, plant them in a sunny, well-drained location, and provide winter protection. Although you can plant potted mums anytime during spring, summer, and fall, the best time is early spring after all danger of frost has passed. Spring-planted mums have time to become well established and are much more likely to survive the winter. If the potted plants have been forced into bloom for spring sales, remove the flowers and prune back any long stems so that the plants' energy can be used for root development, resulting in good fall bloom.

Select a planting site that receives full sun and is several feet from street lights or other night light sources. Exposing the plants to light during the night may inhibit or delay bud formation. Chrysanthemums perform best in moist, well-drained soils. Poorly drained, wet soils produce poor growth and winterkill is likely. Before planting, work the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches and incorporate liberal amounts of organic matter such as peat moss, well-rotted manure, or compost. Space the plants 18 to 24 inches apart, depending on the variety and the effect you want to produce. Proper spacing is imperative to encourage air circulation and prevent fungal diseases.

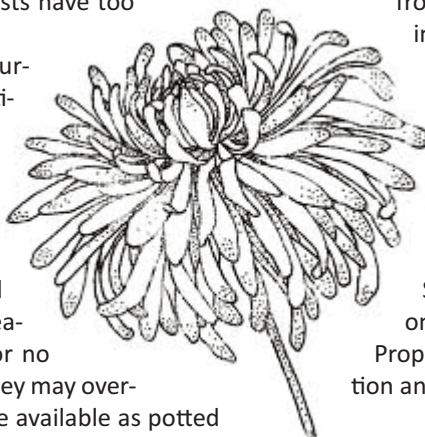
For good growth, early flowering, and abundant blooms, keep mum plants well watered throughout the season. To conserve moisture, reduce weeds, and encourage the growth of small plantlets to the side of the mother plant, apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch such as grass clippings, compost, or shredded leaves.

Garden mums are heavy feeders. Apply a slow-release fertilizer in the spring or feed them biweekly with a water soluble fertilizer. Another technique is to apply a granular balanced fertilizer in the spring and another in late summer as bud formation begins. If you prefer organic fertilizers, use alfalfa meal, blood meal, bone meal, compost, fish emulsion, milorganite, or rotted horse manure.

Although it is not required, pinching has long been recommended on mums. Pinching the branch tips anytime from early June until July 4 will delay flowering and produce shorter, more compact plants. Begin pinching out the growing tips of stems when the mum plants are six inches high. Plants can be renovated and the number of plants increased every three or four years by digging and dividing in spring as new growth begins. Stronger shoots are usually on the outside of the clump. Set the growing tip of each division just below ground level, placing at least three shoots in a triangular pattern.

Mums are not disease and insect free. Although quite uncommonly, they may be infected by leaf spots, bacterial blight, powdery mildew, rust, various wilts, and aster yellows. They may be attacked by insects including aphids, leafhoppers, plant bugs, leafminers, and spider mites. Many of these problems can be prevented by purchasing and planting mums that are free of insects and diseases, planting them in a sunny location, spacing them so as to allow plenty of air circulation, and keeping the garden free of weeds and disease-infected plants.

Continued on page 4 • Chrysanthemums



Chrysanthemums Herald Autumn

by Carl Hoffman

Cacti & Succulents: An Introduction

by William M. Cook

As summer turns to autumn, my horticultural attention turns first to my food harvest, and then to getting my significant collection of nonhardy plants ready for the winter. Over the years the latter has become a significant undertaking. Before I went on vacation in July I updated my potted plant records and discovered that I had 545 pots, give or take a few, which will need to find nooks and crannies in my home and office before winter. Of this collection over 80% are succulent plants, and these interesting plants have become a constant source of enjoyment to me. Succulents include a wide variety of species including the familiar cacti, sedums, and jades, as well as a diversity of less common plants. Over the next few newsletters, the plan is to cover in this space various aspects of the diversity, selection, and care of succulents. This essay is a general introduction to the group, to be followed later by articles on desert cacti, other nonhardy succulents both easy and hard to grow, and succulents which can be grown outside in central Minnesota.

For starters, let's define what a succulent plant is. The word "succulent" comes from the Latin *succos*, which means juice or sap. A plant is considered succulent if it has special adaptations for storing water in its tissues. All vascular plants have sap, but most do not store water; this is why regular water is one of the dominant needs for most plants. Succulent plants are in the minority, but they are neither rare nor do they form a natural botanical group. Succulents occur in more than 60 plant families and 300 plant genera, and it is common that succulents have close relatives which do not store water. Given these patterns, it is clear that succulence has evolved independently in the plant world many times. Because of the obvious advantages that water storage has in deserts, a majority of succulent plants are native to deserts and other arid areas, although they occur in many other habitats. A disproportionate

number of succulent plants come from the deserts in North and South America (for instance, most cacti, yuccas, and agaves) and southern Africa and Madagascar (among others, aloes and relatives, and many relatives of jade plants).

Beyond geography, an additional form of botanical variation is how different succulents store water, and in which tissues. As above, these ecological guilds do not normally form natural botanical groups of closely related species. Many of the familiar plants which store water in their stems are cacti, but there are a number of other groups, some of which (such as succulent *Euphorbia*) are easily confused with true cacti. Stem succulents are often stocky or cylindrical plants which have no or reduced leaves, and conduct their photosynthesis through green stems. Leaf succulents store water in their often hard, waxy leaves. Examples of leaf succulents include snake plants (*Sansevieria*, in the plant family Agavaceae), agaves (Agavaceae), aloes (Asphodelaceae) and sedums, hens-and-chicks, and jade plants (Crassulaceae). A variety of plants store water underground in tubers, and are thus labeled root succulents. Because the most interesting parts of these plants are underground, they are not usually collected by plant enthusiasts, but succulent they are. Finally, there is a miscellany of plants that store water in hugely fattened stem bases and



roots. These include among others the desert rose (Passifloraceae), ranging up to trees (for instance the famous African baobabs; Malvaceae).

I will discuss various of these groups in more detail in later installments, and here provide some general guidelines for care of nonwinter-hardy succulents. Most succulents are desert plants and thus have different care needs from most houseplants you may be used to. In the desert, light levels are very high and water levels are low, or at least very inconsistent. You need to be able to provide these conditions for your plants.

Water

In some ways it is very easy to provide relatively little water to your succulent houseplants. Just don't water them very much! Be aware that some water is needed, and never watering a plant will eventually kill it, no matter how hard-core a desert plant it is. I once gave some succulents to my mother with warnings about over-watering them, and at my next visit found the plants all shriveling. She had simply under-watered them, and they recovered after some drinks. However, the most common reason for death of cacti and succulents is over-watering, because you water your peace lily every few days and thus you do the same for your cactus. Succulent plant roots expect to be dry most of the time – that is how it is in the desert, so soil should fully dry between waterings. A big drink once in a while is better than repeated minimal waterings, as well. This also mimics the desert, which has a big thunderstorm once in a while, followed by long dry stretches. When watering your succulents, soak them—this may require soaking the whole pot in water to wick up the moisture, because very dry soil tends to repel water. Then wait a goodly while. If kept too wet, the roots of many succulents will rot. How much water is needed depends on the plant and the season; succulents like surprising amounts of

Continued on page 6 • Cacti

Gardening with Physical Limitations

by Diane Blazek

(National Garden Bureau, June 6, 2011)

Let's face it, gardeners age. Or, are afflicted with illnesses that can make gardening more difficult and less enjoyable. However, thanks to creative and inventive minds, there is now a wide variety of excellent tools and techniques to take some of the aches and pains out of gardening.

Following are a few techniques we've found that offer great advice for improving your gardening ability despite physical limitations.

1. Know your limits. Be aware of just how much physical activity you can manage and ask for help when needed.
2. Use the right tools (see samples below).
3. Act like an athlete! In other words, do a little warm-up activity before you begin gardening and give yourself a nice stretch after as well.
4. Try containers and raised bed gardening for less digging, shoveling, and bending.
5. Soaker hoses, drip irrigation, and timers eliminate the daily task of unwinding and rewinding heavy and cumbersome hoses.
6. Weeding after a rain or thorough watering makes it easier to get the weed roots without straining.
7. Keep tools sharp for easier (and safer) cutting.
8. Use ergonomically designed tools with longer handles for less stretching and bending. Pad the tool handles with foam if needed.
9. Use wagons to carry items around the garden rather than lifting and carrying. Create paths of a durable surface to make moving things back and forth in those wagons much easier.
10. Mount hanging baskets on pulleys to make it easier to raise and lower the plants for watering and maintenance care.

Here are some products that could help make gardening easier:

Ho-Mi Cultivator, from The Cook's Garden

Pro Hand Seeder, from **The Cook's Garden**

The Grow Box, from **The Garden Patch**

Kneeler Seat, from **W. Atlee Burpee**

Ergonomic loppers, from **Thompson & Morgan**

Handy Caddy, from **Territorial Seeds**

Long Handled Tools, from **Johnny's Selected Seeds**

Raised bed kit, from **Harris Seeds**

Automatic Pressure Pump Sprayer, from **Park Seed**

Garden Kneelers, from **Gardeners Supply**

Stand-up Ergonomic Tiller, from **Gardeners Supply**

Let's Go Garden! ••••▶

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Note that our purpose is not to promote any products.

Chrysanthemums • Continued from page 2

Good winter protection is crucial to the winter survival of garden mums. After a severe killing frost, cut the stems back to the ground and remove all debris, particularly if there have been pest or disease problems during the growing season. After the soil freezes to a depth of about two inches, cover garden mums with a six- to eight-inch layer of mulch. Leaves, marsh hay, clean straw, and pine needles will all work as a satisfactory cover mulch. It is important to remove the mulch as soon as the weather warms up in the spring to prevent rot. I keep the mulch handy so that I can toss it back over the plants if a hard frost threatens the tender shoots.

Although these plants require attention, most gardeners will agree that the showy profuse blooms of chrysanthemums at a time when the summer annuals and perennials are losing their beauty are worth any extra maintenance they require. It is not too late to enjoy them this autumn. Greenhouses are featuring hardy garden mum plants in large pots that will add beauty to your garden now and, with a little tender care, survive the winter and continue to perform.



Rose • Continued from page 1

the Rose Garden. She chose the Janney Crane fountain because it created a light mist that would enhance the roses, and she selected benches with hooved feet patterned after settees in the St. Louis Botanical Garden. When she died in 1998, the family donated a rose-topped bronze column at the west end of the Garden in her memory.

Under the guidance of current rose specialist Debra Keiser, our Rose Garden became an All-America Rose Selections test garden. Other contacts have led to the addition of miniature roses and delphiniums, plus Buck Roses, old garden roses, and hardy shrub roses. The number of roses has grown to over 1,800.

A statue of William and Virginia Clemens now stands beside the Rose Garden looking over the workers and visitors. Not only did the Clemenses save their view of the river, they enhanced it for all to enjoy.

The Cook's Garden • www.cooksgarden.com

The Garden Patch • www.agardenpatch.com

W. Atlee Burpee • www.burpee.com

Thompson & Morgan • www.tmseeds.com

Territorial Seeds • www.territorialseed.com

Johnny's Selected Seeds • www.johnnyseeds.com

Harris Seeds • www.harriseseeds.com

Park Seed • www.parkseed.com

Gardeners Supply • www.gardeners.com

Using Ground Covers in the Landscape by Carl Hoffman

In today's landscape, the ground cover of choice is turfgrass and it covers the soil in nearly every conceivable place. Although it succeeds in providing a suitable cover in most places, there are some unsuitable growing conditions that may prevent continued success. Other ground covers can provide a planting solution for these difficult sites. They can replace turfgrass in shady locations, provide erosion control on dry slopes, retard weed growth, and provide cover under trees and shrubs or in narrow spaces where grass mowing is impractical.

Ground covers not only solve problems but can also unify different components in the landscape. They can be woody or herbaceous, clump forming or spreading, evergreen or deciduous and range in height from an inch to four feet or more. The wide variety of plants available to use as ground covers provides many special effects in form, texture, color, and mass.

Tips to consider when adding groundcovers to your landscape

- Use ground covers for problem areas and unify divergent components of the landscape. They can be used as traffic barriers, visual guides, and space definitions.
- Use low ground covers for a transition between the lawn area and taller plants in the garden beds.
- Try ground covers where lawn grass won't grow or is too difficult to maintain. Why tolerate a straggly lawn in the shade when there are groundcovers that thrive in such a site?
- Select ground covers based upon their ability to add year-round beauty to the landscape. Herbaceous ground covers die back to the ground in the winter. If this is not the look you want, try evergreen perennials or spreading conifers.
- Select ground covers according to the site's conditions: sun or shade? clay soil or sand? moist or dry? It is much more rewarding to select plants that fit the site than those that require heroic measures to keep them alive!
- Moss makes a very attractive ground cover. While heavy, dense shade is often considered a curse, it is a blessing when it comes to moss. The color and texture of moss can add great interest and it is virtually maintenance free. In fact, moss gardens are becoming an increasingly popular landscape form.
- Consider the height of the ground cover. Which will fit the site and the purpose, a six-inch ajuga or a four-foot fern?
- Before planting, always prepare the soil as you would for any other permanent type of planting. Remember, ground covers are capable of giving long-lasting beauty and function, but their performance is only as good as the effort one puts into soil preparation.

- Weed control is a must until the ground cover is fully established. Weeds that invade ground cover plantings are not only unsightly but also competition for the newly planted ground cover.
- Beware of advertisements that state, "Easy, rapid coverage in either sun, shade, wet or dry." They may be horticultural nightmares due to their aggressive nature. Creeping Charlie was once sold as a ground cover! If you need fast coverage, closer planting of a better behaved ground cover may be a better alternative.
- Ground covers deserve our respect. They add interest and bring unity to the garden, making them the unsung heroes among the more horticulturally prominent members of the garden.
- If all else fails, remember that woodchips and other natural materials are also ground covers.

Ground covers for specific situations

It is beyond the scope of this article to list all available ground covers. Following are some readily available ones that will do well in zones 3 and 4.

Shade or partial shade:

Bugle-weed – *Ajuga*
Goutweed, Bishop's weed – *Aegopodium*
Wild Ginger – *Asarum*
Spotted dead nettle – *Lamium*
Lily of the Valley – *Convallaria* (can be invasive)
Japanese spurge – *Pachysandra* (hardiness can be a problem)
Barren strawberry – *Waldsteinia*
Hosta – *Hosta sp.*
Yellow archangel – *Lamiumstrum*
Moneywort – *Lysimachia* (can be invasive)

Sunny locations:

Lamb's ear – *Stachys*
Dwarf creeping phlox – *Phlox subulata*
Snow in summer – *Cerastium*
Thyme (Creeping, Lemon and Wooly) – *Thymus*
Sedums (Stonecrop) – *Sedum sp.*
Creeping juniper – *Juniperus sp.*

There are many more herbaceous and woody plants that will work well as groundcovers. For more complete lists and information on their use and culture, check the following resources:

[Ground Covers for Rough Sites](http://www.extension.umn.edu) – www.extension.umn.edu

[Ground covers for the Landscape](http://www.agcom.purdue.edu) – www.agcom.purdue.edu

[Ground Covers](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu) – www.ag.ndsu.edu

Cacti • Continued from page 3

water if they are actively growing, but darn little when out of season. Ambient rainfall in summer seems fine for many appropriately potted succulent plants. Most true cacti are dormant in winter (indoors) and can stay dry for weeks or months, but will only grow in summer with somewhat regular water. A number of succulents are actually cool season growers and will grow in our winter, and thus need moderate water then. How much water the plants experience also depends on . . .

Soil

Desert plants need well-draining soils. Ideally your pot soil contains potting mix, a small amount of organic material, plus some coarse sand, but if you are being lazy often commercial potting soil will do if it is not mostly peat (which holds onto too much water). Some succulents are actually not at all fussy about potting soil, but you need to know that before potting. How well-draining the soil is also depends on the . . .

Pot Selection

Succulents often need surprisingly small pots, compared to their above-ground size but minimal root structure. [As an anecdote, I once legally dug up a 6-foot-tall saguaro cactus just by digging shallowly around its base, only six inches or so away from the plant.] Clay pots are more porous than plastic, and thus facilitate drying. Remember that a small pot also has more surface area and will dry quickly. Never repot a succulent in a new pot more than one size larger than the old one. Pots in shallow but wide shapes also tend to fit succulents well.

Light

Probably the second most likely thing to go wrong with your succulents, behind water. Succulents generally like a real lot of light. In the winter they can almost never get enough—I have artificial lights, and this is clearly not even enough in some cases. Short of artificial lights, most succulents should spend winters in south windows. Turn them periodically, like with most houseplants. Winter-dormant plants, such as most cacti, are not trying to grow in winter, and light is not critical for them then. In the summer, all succulents should go outside if not in an extremely sunny window. Beware that many succulents lose their sun tolerance during winter just like you do, and will sunburn if not taken outside in stages.

Temperature

Ideally, you recreate the temperature regime in the desert. This means warm-to-hot temperatures in summer, cool in winter, and significant differences between night and day. I have found that artificial lights in my cool basement are ideal for many winter-growing succulents, but you can also put your drafty window to work. Consistent temperatures of 50° all winter are fine for many plants. I have noticed that various cacti barely grow, even in the middle of summer; it is simply not hot enough or long enough in a Minnesota summer to fully get them going. I keep most of my succulents outside in the fall until about early October. Most can take a slight frost but would die if temperatures go below the upper 20s. Similarly, they mostly stay inside until mid-to-late May.

These general guidelines don't apply to all succulents, but at least most of them. In future essays I will discuss some specific plants and their particular preferences.

Accessibility in the Gardens

Clemens Gardens are completely accessible, with handicapped parking and access located by the Virginia Clemens Rose Garden. There are steps located from the White Garden to the Perennial Garden and the Perennial Garden to the Treillage Garden. To access these gardens, wheelchairs may use the path that runs along the outside of the Gardens.

To access **Munsinger Gardens** from Clemens Gardens or vice versa, use the sidewalk at 13th Street SE. Constructed in the 1930s, Munsinger Gardens have limited handicapped accessibility, but visitors can park in our public parking lot and access Munsinger on the path that runs along the Mississippi River.

—Nia Primus, Gardens Supervisor

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## **On Memorials in the Gardens**

The city no longer takes or implements memorial requests for swings, benches etc. in the Gardens. It does, however, still allow for the purchase of memorial bricks. The price for a brick is \$50 for each year the brick is to be installed (i.e. 5 years = \$250). To order a brick, call Park & Recreation at 257-5959.

All the memorials in the Clemens Gardens that were purchased by the Clemens Family are supported by the Clemens Family.

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The Log Cabin

According to Dave Morreim, in the 1920s the log cabin in Munsinger Gardens was one of 8-10 cabins available for people to rent at the south end of Riverside Park, called Tourist Park. Then in the early '30s the cabin was moved and became the time keeper's cabin for the WPA workers who built Munsinger Gardens. Later someone added a stone fireplace to the building. For a few years it was a very rustic rest room. Then in the '90s the Rotary Club restored it and it became an information center until the building in Clemens was built. It is vacant now.

—Carole Pike

MCBS Events • 2011 • MCBS Events

**There is still time to
take pictures
in the gardens
and enter
the first ever
MCBS
Photo Contest.
For more information
see page 8
of this newsletter
or go online
at this address.**

MCBS Photo Contest  *Photography in the Gardens*

Entry Form Youth-18
 Adult

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Landscape Hardscape Garden where photo is taken:

Submit by September 15, 2011 to:
Lake George Municipal Complex
1101 7th St. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

Munsinger Formal
 Treillage Rest Area
 Perennial Photos not permitted
 White from the Rose Garden

www.munsingerclemens.com/photoform.pdf

“Art Fair in the Gardens” a Success

On top of achieving a beautiful day with sunshine and light winds, the artists and visitors at Art Fair in the Gardens saw it as a great success. The 37 artists displaying their work throughout Munsinger and Clemens spoke of helpful staff, beautiful settings, good organization, a “delightful experience.” Visitors commented on the “real quality” and “out of the ordinary” art.

The food and beverages provided by The Good Earth Co-op and Westside Liquors were well received: “fantastic and reason-

able,” “what a great addition,” “upscale,” “exceptional.” Music was provided by the Paul Imholte Group and the Stearns County Pachanga Society. One comment heard in the midst of art booths: “Oh, there’s music too?”

So, congratulations to the committee who pulled it all together: Mary Ann Phelps, Jill Florek, Joan Anderson, Ellen Nelson, and Lorna Nestel, with help from Bud Nestel and Bonnie Nies, plus other MCBS members who pitched in and the helpful, available Gardens staff.

• Important Notice •



Reciprocal Admissions Program (RAP)

The AHS RAP Directory
was not ordered this year.

It is now available online in full color.

For a listing of RAP benefits go to:

<http://www.ahs.org/events/reciprocal/index.html>

Local Gardening Groups

Benton County Master Gardeners

Contact: Janelle Daberhow, Extension Horticulturist
320-255-6169

Granite City Rose Society

Where: Whitney Center
Contact: Debra Keiser • 320-251-0442
President: dkeiser@charter.net

St. Cloud Flower and Garden Club

Where: Whitney Center
When: 3rd Monday of the month • 7:00 pm
Contact: Debra Keiser • 320-251-0442
Craig Heurung • 320-654-8061

Stearns County Area Horticultural Society

Where: Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Albany.
When: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:00 pm
Ken Birr • President
Contact: Diane Jesh • 320-836-2941

Stearns County Master Gardeners

Where: Whitney Center
Contact: Janelle Daberhow, Extension Horticulturist
320-255-6169

St. John’s Arboretum

Where: St. John’s Abbey
Contact: 320-363-3163

Sartell Volunteer Garden Club

Where: Sartell City Hall
When: 1st Tuesday of the month
Contact: Jessie Kovel, 320-203-0124



*Photography Contest Reception
at the Greenhouse
September 18 • 3:00*

There's still time for you to enter the MCBS Photo Contest. Take your pictures in Munsinger or Clemens Gardens (but not the Rose Garden) before September 15 and enter them under one of two age groups (Adult or Youth-18) and in one of two scenic categories (Landscape or Hard-scape). Closeups of flowers or people are not eligible.

Prints should be at least 8 x 10 inches and ready for hanging, with framing optional. Entries must be received by 4:30 pm September 15 at the Lake George Municipal Complex, 1101 7th Street South, with an entry form and fee of \$10 for each photo submitted (up to three per category). Judging will take place on September 16. First, second, and third place winners will be chosen from each category. First-place prizes will be \$100 for adult winners in each category and \$50 for youth in each category. Second and third place winners will receive framed awards. Winners will be notified on September 17.

Photo awards will be presented at a public reception in the new Munsinger/Clemens Greenhouse at 3:00 pm on September 18. If you haven't been there yet, now is your chance to see the state-of-the-art adjustable roof panels and other features for controllable growing conditions. Refreshments will be served, and special guests will be invited. Whether you've entered the contest or not, you can enjoy the festivities and the greenhouse.

After the reception, photographs will be displayed at the Saint Cloud Public Library, Paramount Theatre, Whitney Senior Center, Saint Cloud Civic and Convention Center, CentraCare Plaza, Saint Cloud Hospital, and Lake George Municipal Complex.

If you are interested in entering the contest, see www.munsingerclemens.com for tips and further details.

- *Entry form on page 7 of this newsletter.* •

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