



What's Up in the Rose Garden?

By Joan Andersen

If you visited the Virginia Clemens Rose Garden in July to enjoy the blooming roses, you would have seen that there were some areas where the rose bushes are small and a few areas that roses are missing.

Winter played a cruel joke (or it was a very bad Christmas present) on December 24, 2017. It began with eight days in a row of subzero temperatures with no snow on the ground followed by six more days of bitter cold from January 3 to 8. There was a little break and then we had five more subzero days on January 11 to 15. The coldest recorded temperature during that stretch was -24F on New Year's Eve, 2017. What a way to ring in the New Year! Generally, we get some snow before it gets this cold, and snow is an excellent insulator.

At some point during this period of snowless cold, several hundred hybrid tea, floribunda, miniature, and tender shrub roses were lost in the Virginia Clemens Rose Garden and Clemens Upper Trial Rose Garden. These roses were winter protected using the same method that had successfully been used in past years - lots of compost over the crown and insulated construction blankets bricked down tight.

We had 14.8 inches of snow in April. After that melted, the roses were uncovered in early May and many had black, dead canes. Since May, staff gardeners have been planting new roses to replace the majority of the roses that were lost.

350 roses were ordered from Weeks Roses and Star Roses to plant in the 2018 season. Unfortunately, over half of them

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2017 Susan Anne
"Reflections"

A frequent response was "I took many photos", because one or more might have surprising results. What an advantage it is to be able to click away without regard for paying for each photo to be developed. Photos capture a moment in time; a permanent reminder of specific sights and experiences.



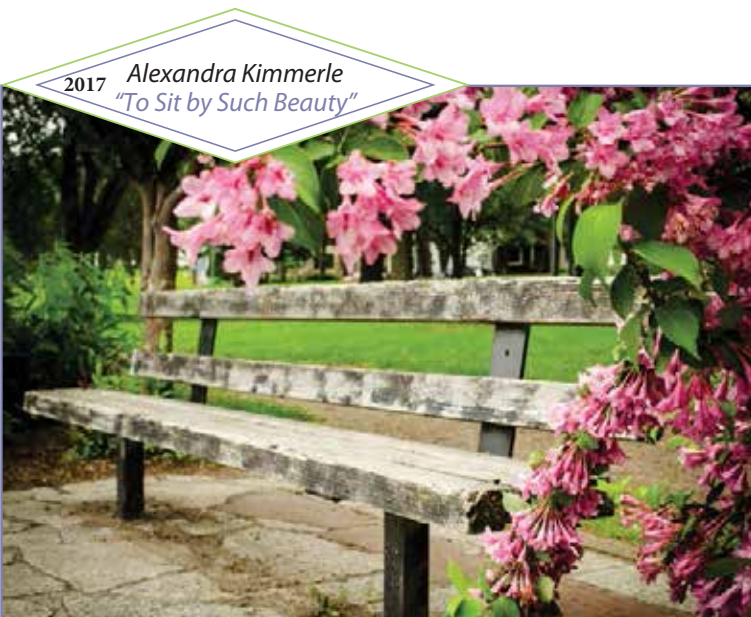
2017 Alesandra Kimmerle
"Hiding Beauty"

Thinking about the hard scape category, one photographer visited the Gardens after the growing season when the fountains were turned off. With the absence of vivid colors, the eye could focus on hard scape features, something that, perhaps, had been overlooked when the flowers were competing for attention.

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

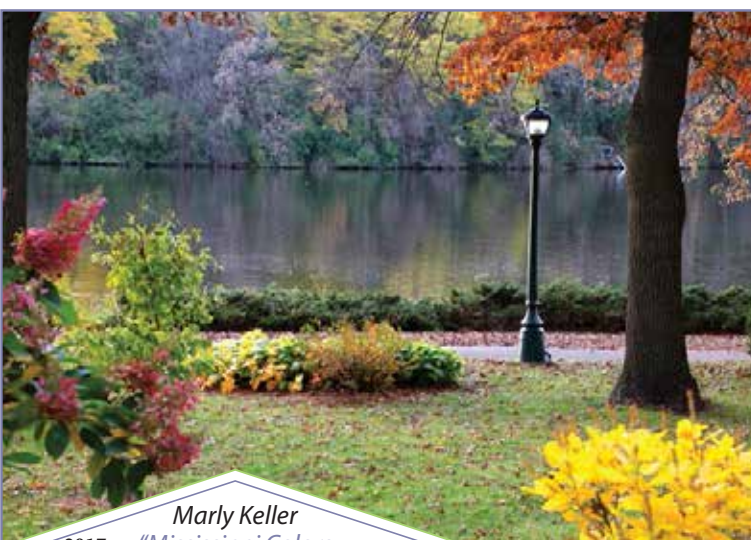
by Mary Margaret Bjorklun

For this article, contest winners were asked to share their ideas about photography and thoughts about the images they captured while visiting Munsinger Clemens Gardens during the 2017 contest season.



2017 Alexandra Kimmerle
"To Sit by Such Beauty"

Consider a different angle; the effect of shadows or something unnoticed in the past. Reflect on similar or contrasting colors, textures, shape or design. Winners mentioned that while shooting photos, some images just 'popped out'.



2017 Marly Keller
"Mississippi Colors
from Munsinger"

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Art Fair in the Gardens

by Joan Andersen

Art Fair organizers put in plenty of time worrying about the weather! We had periods of rain throughout the day but at least it was not too cold. Artists were sheltered by their tents and people still visited carrying their umbrellas.

There were a lot of positive comments about the flowers. I spent much of the day in the MCBS booth next to the gift shop and many people loved the color schemes in Clemens Gardens this year. The rainy weather really made the plants grow big and showy and the colors just glowed on a cloudy day.

MCBS wants to thank the Munsinger Clemens Gardens staff for an outstanding job getting the Gardens ready for the big day. They weeded the beds and deadheaded the flowers to make them look their best. MCBS also appreciates all the hard work by Nia Primus, Gardens Supervisor, and the Gardens staff who assisted with set up the evening before and the morning of the event. Their enthusiasm for this event is greatly appreciated.

We had a record number of artists booked to be at the Art Fair in 2018. We did have some weather-related cancellations but most artists set up even though rain was in the forecast. Thanks to all the wonderful artists who came for the day – they understand that weather is one thing we can't control.

The day would not be complete without music. Carlos Quinche played his flutes up by the gift shop. Down by the Mississippi River, we were able to move individual performers Cathie English (singer/songwriter/guitarist) and Nathan Neuman (singer/concertina player) to the Gazebo to shelter them from the rain. Unfortunately, we were disappointed that the rain caused a cancellation for The Pachanga Society because we did not have a sheltered place big enough for their group.

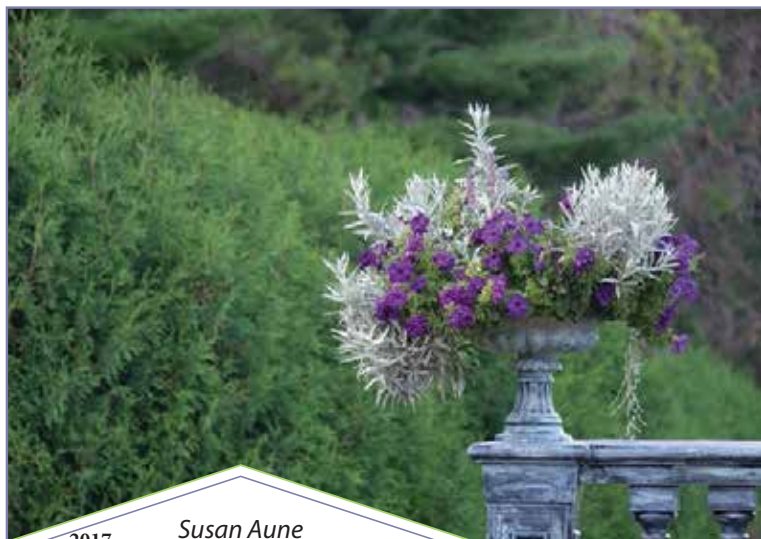
Everyone gets hungry from shopping and strolling around the Gardens. Food vendors Erbert's & Gerbert's, Good Earth Food Co-op, Nelson Bros. Cutting Edge Catering, Popcorn Patty, Christine's Sweet Confections, Warren's BBQ, Joy Christian Center and Mrs Goodcookie had great food choices for visitors to enjoy.

It is a big event to organize for MCBS, an all volunteer organization. Watch our website later this year for information on the 2019 Art Fair in the Gardens.





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2017 Susan Aune
"Purple Majesty"

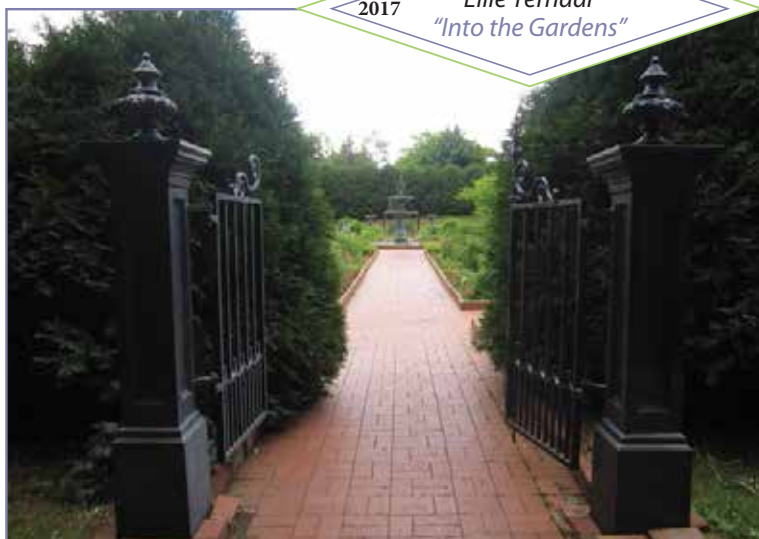
Another response was an appreciation of the gardening staff in that in the plans for the seasons reflect the ever-changing timeline for blooming. Spring, summer and fall might bring daily changes. Every day is a good opportunity for a photo shoot in the Gardens. The Gardens are a free feast for the eyes. The 2017 contest year, winning photos reflected four seasons; spring, summer, fall and winter. How great to have proof that the Gardens have something of interest and are an open invitation to visitors all four seasons.



2017 Ellie Terhaar
"On the Fence"

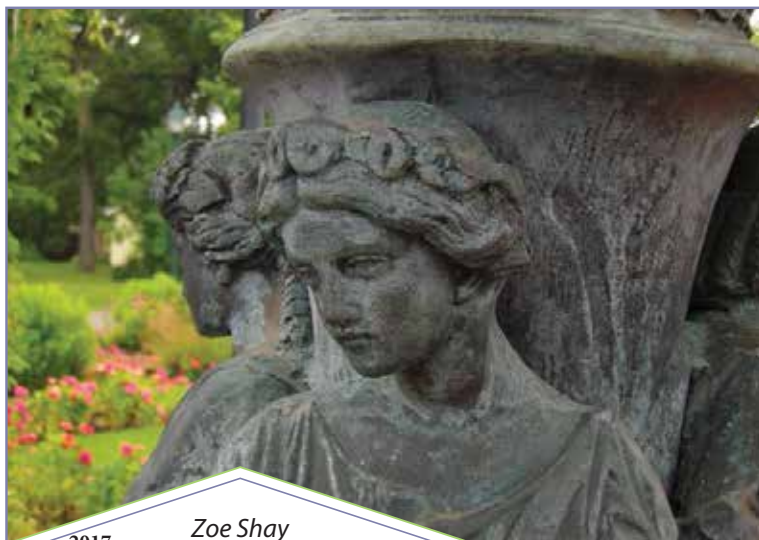
Before choosing photos to enter in the contest, one winner invites the neighbors for a photo show and encourages them to offer opinions of their favorite.

Another suggestion was to figure out what the brain and eye 'see' and try to match that with what was reflected in the view finder.



2017 Ellie Terhaar
"Into the Gardens"

Photography in the gardens



2017 Zoe Shay
"Anastasia"

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were lost due to freezing during shipment. (Note to truckers: do not leave a shipment of tender bareroot roses outside in an unheated truck for 24 hours in the winter!) Deb Keiser, Clemens Rose Specialist, was able to find some replacements for that order. She got 72 own root potted hybrid tea and floribunda roses from Roses Unlimited in June and in July she received a wonderful donation of 100 potted shrub roses from Bailey Nurseries. Since all of these were already in pots, they were growing and ready to bloom and now look beautiful in the Rose Garden.

It has been a year of rebuilding in the Rose Garden. The emphasis is on finding hardier, disease resistant varieties that grow on their own roots (not grafted). Next year will also be a year of rebuilding with the addition of the 200 roses that the Gardens will receive from the credit for the frozen shipment. Deb is currently placing her order for new roses for 2019.

When you visit the Rose Garden this summer expect to see many new roses, some smaller roses that survived a rough winter, and a few places that are missing roses that will be filled in next year. I can report that the new and surviving roses are growing and blooming well.

If you want to help, we welcome monetary donations to be used to purchase roses and other plants that were lost this past winter.



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2017
Marly Keller
"Lamp Post Path"

Cameras used were described as a 'point and shoot' type. Others borrowed a camera from a family member. If any readers feel a lack of talent, artistic eye or having quality equipment, one winner said her first camera was purchased for 50 cents and a Wheaties box top. Hey, everyone has to start somewhere!

2017
John Roscoe
"Hebe, Cupbearer of the Gods"



The purpose of the photo contest is to encourage people of all ages to try their luck with a local photo contest. This year, people in the Youth - 18 category will be able to enter one entry free of charge. Other entries will be charged \$5 each for youth - 18 and \$10 each for adults. We hope you agree that the entry fee, which supports the Gardens, is nominal, affordable, and encourages participation.

So now ...go forth, take a multitude of pictures, enter the photo contest or, for sure, enjoy St. Cloud's welcoming garden gem.

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2017 Photo Contest

2017

Ellie Terhaar
"Beside the
Rose Garden"



2018 Photo Contest

Last year's winning photos will be on display at the following places: *July and August*, River's Edge Convention Center; *September*, Waite Park Public Library; *October*, Quiet Oaks Hospice House.

This year's contest runs until November 2, when entries will be due, and a contest reception will be held on November 17. If you want to submit photos this year, check out the rules and entry details on our website: www.munsingerclemens.com.



2017

Kalli Terhaar
"Blue Dynasty"



2017

Abigail Gans
"Winter Wonderland"



MCBS Gift to the Gardens

You have to be a gardener to appreciate this gift – a new spreader. If you are a homeowner who applies fertilizer or herbicide to your own lawn, you know how much work it is. Imagine having to do these jobs on a site with many acres of lawn! One person would be walking for many hours to complete a job. Because of the large size of the Gardens, some areas could not be treated at all.

MCBS bought a new spreader to use for fertilizer and herbicide application in the Gardens. The operator is riding, not walking. The machine can broadcast the product, or the operator can use a wand to spot treat problem areas. If you are driving through a narrow area, the machine can broadcast at a narrower diameter and automatically adjust the amount of fertilizer needed.

With the new machine, all of the areas needing treatment can be done, due to the time and labor saved by using the new spreader. Munsinger Clemens Gardens is known for beautiful flowers, but having a nice lawn makes a wonderful “frame” for the blooms.



in the Gardens & The Butterfly Release



By Lora Honer

We would like to thank everyone for making the Butterfly Release on July 22nd a successful event this year with over 2000 people attending. The Butterfly Release was hosted by Quiet Oaks Hospice House. The butterflies were released after a short program from Quiet Oaks Hospice House. The Music in the Gardens concert hosted by Munsinger Clemens Botanical Society followed the release with music performed by Harper's Chord. And our root beer floats were a hit. So much so that we sold out completely. Thank you again to everyone who attended and supported this event. We hope to see all of you again next year.

Photo supplied by Katumba Design & Photography



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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.ahsgarden.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 _____

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