

Wake up...??!

February 2016

Volume 4, Issue 1

Happy New Year!

Punxsutawney Phil did **not** see his shadow and is predicting an early spring. Judging by how this mild winter is going I'm also predicting another early spring and therefore an early planting season. So its time to actively get prepared!

We will have a spring **All-Gardener's Meeting** this year on March 19th, location TBD. See the following article for details.

We have some new gardeners again this year. Arthur will have little or no turnover, we have a few new gardeners at Yale, and there is quite a bit of availability at Cornerstone.

We are making some changes to our policies and procedures, and some exciting projects are being planned. We will schedule work parties once we have a better sense of the spring weather.

So wake up from the off-season hibernation! I'm excited to share the news with you at the All-Gardener's Meeting.

Del

All-Gardeners Meeting (March 19th)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! We will have a **REQUIRED** All-Gardeners Meeting on **Saturday March 19th from 10:00 a.m.—12:00 pm**. If you are unable to attend please have someone attend on your behalf. We need to confirm the location, but it will either be at the **Luxton Park Rec Center** again **-or-** in the **community room at the PPMC** where we hope to have more space. It will be a great opportunity to meet your fellow gardeners. This is where you will receive your "official" plot assignments and you can sign up for your service commitments. We will also go over policies, procedures, and projects. We will review the new Gardeners Agreement and the accompanying handbook and everyone will need to sign a new agreement. Please RSVP to the Evite we will send soon.

A REMINDER: PLOT FEES!!!

If you haven't already done so, the fees are **due March 1st**. The fees will remain the same in 2016: \$30 for a full plot (\$20 for a half) at Arthur and Yale, \$10 for a 4x8 raised bed at Cornerstone, and \$20 for the GardenShare which includes soil and hydroponic plantings at Cornerstone. Please mail, walk, or run them to:

Prospect Park Community Gardens
125 Cecil Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Remember, we will not be chasing after people this year. **THIS IS YOUR FINAL NOTICE**. If we have not received payment by **March 1st**, we will release your plot to someone on the waiting list. So don't wait - please **get your payment in NOW**.

New and Improved Web Site

We have reorganized the Web site so that it better supports our operations. See the pages under [Member Info](#). They include a [Volunteer Hours log](#), a [Calendar](#), and [Garden Teams](#). Better yet, we are putting a team together (Kit and Kompany) to keep it updated and refreshed. We may be moving to a new platform where we can do even more with the functionality. More on this at the All-Gardeners Meeting.

Seed Swap

At the end of the meeting we'll have a **Seed Swap**. Bring some of your extra seeds and swap them with others who have seeds you would like to try. Later in the spring we will also sponsor a plant swap. This will be an opportunity to put the extra seedlings you grow to good use and to try some new plants that others have leftover in your gardens.

Thanks!

Thanks go out to Alex (C), Cathy Hughes (C-GS), Cheryl (C), Kit (C), Lydia (A), Martha (A-remotely), Renee (C), Sam (Y), Shanda (Y), Steve (Y), and Vera (A) who all participated in the Feb 4th Planning Committee Meeting for 2016

Welcome to the New Gardener!

See the article on Page 2.

PicStrip (click to enlarge):

Navigation

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42

days until
 PPCG Spring 2016 All-Gardeners' Meeting



Welcome New Gardeners!

It's still too early to tell everyone that is not returning, but we have picked up quite a few new gardeners this year. Welcome aboard!

- Gamini Kumara (Cornerstone)
- Jackie Hanzal (Yale)
- Jesse Mráz (Yale)
- Kathleen Davis (Cornerstone)
- Kevin Grotheim (Yale)
- Kristin Smith (Yale)
- Megan Clark (Cornerstone)
- Miranda Lodermeier (Cornerstone)

Service Projects

In 2016 we will be organizing around [Garden Teams](#) to handle the shared work of keeping our garden sites looking good and organization operating efficiently. We will make another run at composting and the food donation (garden gleaning) to make more progress there: these are two areas where we need to do much better. More on this at the All-Gardener's meeting. The teams you will be signing up for include:

- Composting (Organics Recycling)
- Food Donations (Garden Gleaning)
- Fundraising
- Site Leaders
- Technology
- Vacation Watering
- Administration

Click [HERE](#) for a description of the teams. The time spent on these projects will count towards the required service commitment.

Spring Crops!

Check out [THIS](#) seasonal planting guide for suggestions on spring veggies to plant and harvest.

Also, please remember to compost! We are encouraging techniques to compost within your own plots such as trenching. Please see the [January 2015 newsletter](#) for a great article on direct incorporation of organic matter back into the soil. If anyone would like to learn a little more about composting, click [HERE](#).

Spring Timeframe

- Click [HERE](#) for a short list of Helpful tips on beginning a garden!

- Please refresh yourself on the milestone dates in the Gardener's Agreement. Click [HERE](#) to see it on our Web site.

Hiawatha Food Forest Petition

A [petition](#) is online to support the creation of an ecological park and the nation's largest food forest at Lake Hiawatha in Minneapolis. If you like this idea please sign and share it with your community, friends and family. This can be another way to introduce food into our city's amazing parks system. Click [HERE](#) to check out the Petition

Garden Design Resources

Looking for help in laying out your vegetable garden? Consider using the square-foot gardening technique. You can get to the material by clicking on these links:

[Garden Design Process](#): Garden design guide

[Sq Ft Gardening](#): Square foot spacing handout

Contact FarmerDelMN@aol.com if you have questions on this.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION
VGB 1: Getting Ready to Garden
 Prepared by: Dal Hampton
 University of Minnesota Extension
 Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION
VGB 2: Planting Your Garden
 Prepared by: Dal Hampton
 University of Minnesota Extension
 Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION
VGB 3: Veggies One By One
 Prepared by: Mollie Dean
 University of Minnesota Extension
 Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION
VGB 4: Designing Your Garden
 Prepared by: Julie Davis
 University of Minnesota Extension
 Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION
VGB 5: Maintain Your Garden
My garden is all planted. Now what!
 Prepared by: Mary Wertz
 University of Minnesota Extension
 Master Gardener Program—Hennepin County 2013