COMMUNITY

A LOOK AT BORDERLAND

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Grow with us: Become a Beltrami County Master Gardener

Jan MAAS
MASTER GARDENER

Do you really enjoy being outside during the warm months, digging in the earth and watching your garden grow? Are you the one that friends and relatives turn to when they have gardening questions? Do people refer to you as the one with a "green thumb"? If so, have you ever thought about becoming a Master Gardener? Maybe you have, but quickly dismissed the idea because you just didn't feel like you knew enough.

Truth be told, none of us Master Gardeners feel like we "know enough," but we've learned where to go for answers in the areas that are not our strong suits. That's what the Master Gardener Core Course is all about.

The course teaches basic information on a wide array of gardening topics taught by horticulture faculty at the University of Minnesota. The course materials are a wonderful resource for all the topics that are taught.

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer opportunity and our mission is education through promotion of research-based horticulture information. Each Master Gardener must volunteer at least 20 hours each year. These hours can be achieved in any number of ways from writing articles (yes, I get volunteer hours for this) helping at the fair, giving talks at the library or for other groups, working in the schools with children, helping on the garden tour or garden workshop, or even answering a neighbor's question on what's eating her rose bush! Those are just a few of the volunteer opportunities.

In order to be a Master Gardener in Beltrami County the course must be completed online. It is doubtful that the course will be offered face-to-face in Beltrami County anytime soon.

The course starts in January and is completed in April. There is a total of 48 horticultural training hours. The cost is $275, of which one half will be reimbursed by the Beltrami Master Gardeners after the completion of internship hours. The first year after completing the core course is the internship and that year 50 volunteer hours are required for completion.

Now that I have piqued your interest, how do you go about getting registered for the core course? First of all, you have to complete the application. Email our local extension office at glgrinde@umn.edu or call 444-5722 for information. The deadline for application is Oct. 25. Once you have applied, your application will be reviewed and an interview will be scheduled. The interview is done by two Beltrami County Master Gardeners and is very non-threatening. Mostly the interview is a way to meet you, learn a bit about your gardening experience and answer any questions you may have. You also must pass a background check which is required by the University.

The Master Gardeners are not "all work and no play". We enjoy social events throughout the year, visit each other's gardens, share cuttings and extra seedlings and learn from each other. However, we are in need of more members. If you are an interested in gardening, please consider becoming a Master Gardener. It's a rewarding experience.

To find reliable information about gardening and other horticultural topics, go to the University of Minnesota Extension website http://www.extension.umn.edu/gardeninfo/. Local master gardeners will also answer your gardening questions via a voice-mail service. Call 444-7916, leaving your phone number, name and the nature of your question. A volunteer master gardener will give you a call.

LOOKINGBACK

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Looking Back is compiled by the Falls Public Library

Visit them online at www.internationalfallslibrary.us

25 YEARS AGO

Priscilla Katherine Layman and Steven Darryl Schrock, along with their parents, Amos and Rebecca Lyman of Littlefork and William and Ruth Schrock of Loman, announce their forthcoming marriage on Sept. 24 at 10:30 a.m. at the Black River Mennonite Church of Loman.

Pvt. William Gray has recovered from pneumonia and has been assigned to a new platoon to continue his basic training in the U.S. Marine Corps.

40 YEARS AGO

A girl was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Dougherty.

A girl was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Qualley.

Jeff Williams was named to "Sports Honor Roll" All Northland Team of the Week on WDIO-WIRT.

50 YEARS AGO

Jackie Larson, Connie Treat, Toni Paul and Marie Olson are Littlefork-Big Falls Homecoming candidates. Respective managers are Bradley Erickson, Robert Paul, Daniel Scott and Richard Paul.

A girl, Karen Marie, was born Sept. 13 at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Duane Johnson, Route 7, 5 pounds, 1/2 ounce.

A girl, Laurel Anne, was born Sept. 14 at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Duane Watkins, Ericsburg, 7 pounds, 4 1/2 ounces.

A girl was born Sept. 15 at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Morin, Route 7, 6 pounds, 14 1/8 ounces.

60 YEARS AGO

A daughter was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Little, South International Falls, weight, 9 pounds, 9 1/2 ounces.

A daughter was born today at Falls Memorial Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Braaten, Loman Route, weight, 6 pounds, 6 ounces; name chosen, Lorraine.

M/Sgt. Robert Barkovic's return today was the occasion for a real family reunion. Sgt. Barkovic was a Red prisoner of war for two years. Welcome banners were unfurled in the Falls business district as a greeting to returning servicemen who were prisoners of war in Korea.

The new Falls Bowling Center, re-located in the building formerly occupied by the Log Cabin Inn at 434 Third St., is rapidly nearing completion. Owner Archie Olson said today that all the work on getting the four-alley recreation center ready should be completed this week.

70 YEARS AGO

A daughter, Iva Lanette, was born today at Northern Minnesota Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Matheson of Kinmount.

Miss Evelyn Norton, who has been secretary to Falls High School Principal Leo Anderson for a year and a half, recently resigned her position to enter the University of Minnesota.

Miss Helvi Ripatti, who has been in charge of the Montgomery Ward order office here, will leave tomorrow to take over the supervision of the office in Superior, Wis.

Dr. L.H. Chelgren, an optometrist with the Jensen Optical Company, has opened his office in the Border Theater building at the location formerly occupied by Dr. A.B. Emmes.

BBB pointers for consumers looking to buy a new car

BBB STAFF REPORT

With sales of new cars at their highest level in six years, the Better Business Bureau of Minnesota and North Dakota is offering some tips to help consumers navigate this major purchase.

Buying a new car can be daunting. Making such a large financial commitment – with so many choices available and so many factors to consider – can leave people feeling overwhelmed.

If you're in the market for a new vehicle, here are some things you'll want to take into consideration first:

Determine your budget. This sounds straightforward, but there's more to budgeting a new car purchase than just the monthly payment itself:

How much gas will the car use? Remember that your results may vary from EPA mileage estimates. The website FuelEconomy.gov is a good resource for 'real-world' mileage data reported by car owners.

How much will insurance cost on the vehicle? Contact your auto insurance agent for quotes on various models you may be considering.

How much will maintenance and repairs cost? Online reliability reports can give you a sense of which models are more expensive to repair.

When considering monthly payments, use online payment calculators to see how different rates, down payments and loan terms can impact your payment.

Don't become so focused on the monthly payment that you lose sight of the purchase price, or total cost over the term of the loan. Extending the term of a loan from 60 months to 72 months in the name of a lower monthly payment can mean paying thousands extra over the life of the loan.

Explore financing options. Visit your local credit union or bank to see what interest rate they can offer on a loan, and then consider getting pre-approved. Having this information (or offer) in hand will allow you to decide whether dealer financing is a better option, and gives the dealer a 'target' to match or beat.

Perform your research before you visit a dealership. Websites such as Edmunds.com provide free information on what you can expect to pay for a particular model in your region, and can help you determine the value of your trade-in. Visit bbb.org to obtain reports on individual dealerships and see how they have responded to any complaints.

Comparison shop online. You can get a price quote on a vehicle from most dealerships in a matter of hours, and then compare competing quotes. A great time-saver!

Take it for a spin. Some consumers feel pressured by face-to-face sales, but you need to test drive a vehicle before buying it. Tell the dealer that you are there for a test drive only, and will make a decision on a purchase later. Don't be rushed.

Look for rebates. Many rebates are available to all consumers, but some carry eligibility requirements that should be disclosed in advertising – loyalty bonuses, active duty military, trade-in bonuses, etc. Make sure you understand these qualifications to avoid disappointment later.

FUNERALS

Tommy L. Anderson, 60

A memorial service for Tommy L. Anderson, 60, of Sioux Falls, S.D., who died Monday, Aug. 26, 2013, at Sanford Heart Hospital, Sioux Falls, was conducted at 11 a.m Friday, Sept. 13, at Littlefork Lutheran Church, Littlefork.

Officiating was Pastor Andy Berry.

Music was by Autumn Sather and Linda Nordlund.

Local arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

Daisy M. Bjork, 81

Funeral services for Daisy M. Bjork, 81, of Baudette, who died Thursday, Sept.12, 2013, at LakeWood Health Center, Baudette, were conducted at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17, at First Assembly of God Church, International Falls.

Officiating was Pastor Steve Kruse.

Music was by John Streiff.

Interment was at Forest Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements were with Green-Larsen Mortuary Inc., International Falls.

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