

1942-2017



MEN'S & WOMEN'S

GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

April 2017

The Garden Spray

Vol. 75, No. 4

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Coming Up: Gertens Greenhouse Tour & Pizza Lunch

GREENHOUSE TOUR AND PIZZA LUNCH, SATURDAY, APRIL 8

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Gertens
5500 Blaine Avenue
Inver Grove Heights

Meet at 11:00 a.m. near the customer service desk

We'll have a behind-the-scenes tour with Lew Gerten to see acres of annuals and perennials growing in the greenhouse as well as the production facilities.

After the tour, you're invited to take a look at Gertens large greenhouse located adjacent to the main store.

Lunch at Old World Pizza

Following the tour enjoy lunch at:
Old World Pizza (about a block from Gertens)
5660 Bishop Avenue
Inver Grove Heights

Make your reservation by April 5

If you plan to attend, please contact Sharla Aaseng at resmwgcm@juno.com or call (612) 623-9341 and leave a message with your name and how many are attending. Please let Sharla know by Wednesday, April 5.

If you have any questions, contact Larry Larson at (952) 949-9668.

-- Larry Larson

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

As I go out to retrieve the morning newspaper I smell spring and hear the birds chirping to further remind me of the seasons changing. Last week I noticed that the Dairy Queen is already open. Harbingers of spring surround us and soon the first blooms will pop out.

For many years, our club anticipated the April flower show put on by Bachman's at the Dayton's/Macy's downtown store. This year we were saddened when that lovely tradition came to an end as Macy's closed its doors. Instead, we will be treated to a tour conducted by Lew Gerten of the production greenhouses at Gertens in Inver Grove Heights on April 8. Don't forget to RSVP to [Sharla Aaseng](#) by April 5 for this event. We will again get to see spring flowers, smell the scent of earth and enjoy one another's company while we learn about a different aspect of starting and growing plants in our climate.

As your gardens break dormancy, please take notice of any perennials you can split and pot up for our May 9 plant sale. I have always appreciated the plants that individual members share from their own gardens. When I think of those shared plants I am reminded of my special red trillium from the Shannon's collection.

The anticipation of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's glorious tulip show, as well as the flowering crabapples on the Three-Mile Drive, reminds me of the role that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis played in launching this amazing institution in the mid-1950s. In Dr. Leon Snyder's book "Northern Treasure," he said "we must give credit to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for having sparked the idea from the beginning." Former club member Archie Flack was appointed chairman of the Landscape Arboretum Project and together with a state-wide committee and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, a feasibility study was done and the search for an appropriate site ensued.

I am also looking forward to my April visit to North Carolina where I will take in the gardens of the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, during their spring show "Biltmore Blooms."

My calendar is filling up with garden tour dates for this summer. Judy Berglund announced that our public garden tour will be held on Saturday, July 15. There are opportunities for all members to help with this tour by hosting at each garden. Please consider this when planning your summer calendar.

Make the most of spring and savor all there is to offer during this wonderful segue into

summer.

From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

I just read a fascinating article about mulch. No, really.

The article by Barbara Damrosch in the Washington Post told of Ruth Stout, gardener, writer and prohibitionist cohort of Carry Nation, who became a sort of godmother of mulch. Gardeners more experienced than me (pretty much everyone) have probably read Ruth's books. What gardener wouldn't want to read "Gardening without Work: For the Aging, the Busy and the Indolent?" I plan to get to know Ruth better.

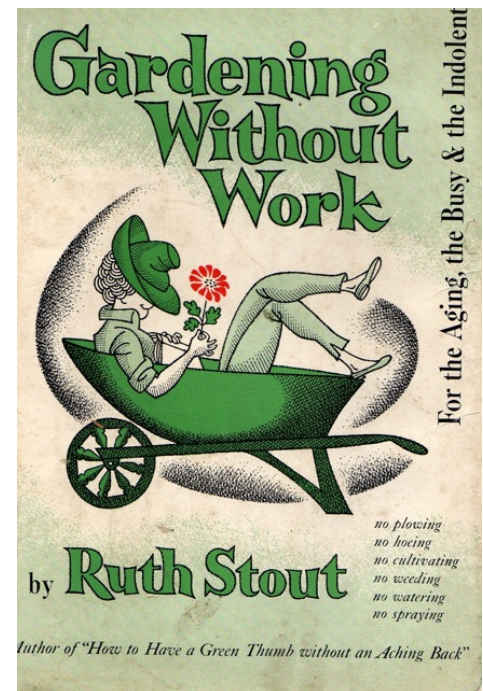
After many years of vegetable gardening, it dawned on Ruth that plants like asparagus create their own mulch, and she adopted a "live and let die" approach to mulching. It dawned on me awhile back if I chopped up daylily stalks into small pieces and left them in the garden they would feed the next generation. Who knew I was following in Ruth's footsteps?

I feel guilty about the two bags of commercial mulch that have been slumped on my patio for a year now. I'll use them this year--I promise--but from now on I'll try to follow Ruth's more organic approach.

Ten years ago an article about mulch wouldn't have been of much interest to me, but gardening changes a person.

-- Nancy Felice

["Gardening with Gumption," by Barbara Damrosch](#)



Plant Sale Update: New Plants

Gary Geister, Chair

IT'S GETTING CLOSER

FOURTH ANNUAL MWGCM PLANT SALE, TUESDAY MAY 9

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue, Minneapolis

Open to members and the general public from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Club dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Plant auction immediately follows dinner

More volunteers needed

Thanks to our Marketing and Publicity Committee, there will be more publicity for our plant sale in area newspapers and online newsletters. Anticipating more visitors, we're looking for additional volunteers to be on the floor to help people with their plant purchases. Plant sale hours are 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. If you can help for a couple hours, or the entire sale, email [Gary Geister](mailto:Gary.Geister) or call (651) 683-9136.

More new plants coming to the sale

Annuals

Salvia nemorosa 'New Dimension Rose'

Salvia is our FFF flower for 2017. This one has rose-pink flowers. Salvia attracts butterflies and reaches height of about 1 ft.



Cissus discolor 'Rex Begonia Vine'

This is no begonia at all, but rather a relative of the grape family that comes from Southeast Asia. Don't set it outside until night temperatures are above 50 degrees. Grow for the foliage. Can also be used as a houseplant. I saw this last year at a wholesale garden place in Michigan and had to have it.

Begonia 'Exotic Bossa Nova'®

This red begonia has a trailing habit, so works best in containers or hanging baskets. Sun or partial shade.



Petunia
'Crazytunia®
Blackberry
Cheesecake'

Lemon- and plum-colored flowers with a trailing and mounding habit. Great in containers or hanging baskets.

Perennials

Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'

2012 Perennial Plant of the year. A clump of heart-shaped silver and mint-green leaves with bright, light blue small flowers in mid spring. A great choice for your shade to semi-shade garden.



Cimicifuga ramosa 'Hillside Black Beauty'
Dark purple to nearly black foliage reaching 3 ft. tall with white flowers in late summer. Best foliage color in light shade.

Grass Schizachyrium scoparium 'Smoke Signal'

Shiny blue-green foliage that turns scarlet red in late summer to red-purple in fall. Sturdy stems stay upright all year long. This grass is in the Little Bluestem family and will do well in hot dry conditions.

Look for more information on plants at the sale plus the plant sale schedule of events in the *May Garden Spray*.



Plant Sale Update: Specialty Hostas

Steve Shubick

SPECIALITY HOSTAS AVAILABLE AT ANNUAL PLANT SALE, MAY 9

This year we have five each of nine specialty Hostas--a very good selection of mini, small, medium, and large. We selected two new different Hostas from the mouse ears group which has more than thirty named species. We also again have ten each of the American Hosta Growers Association Hosta of the Year, H. 'Brother Stefan.' Of the ten Hostas five are medium, three small and two minis.

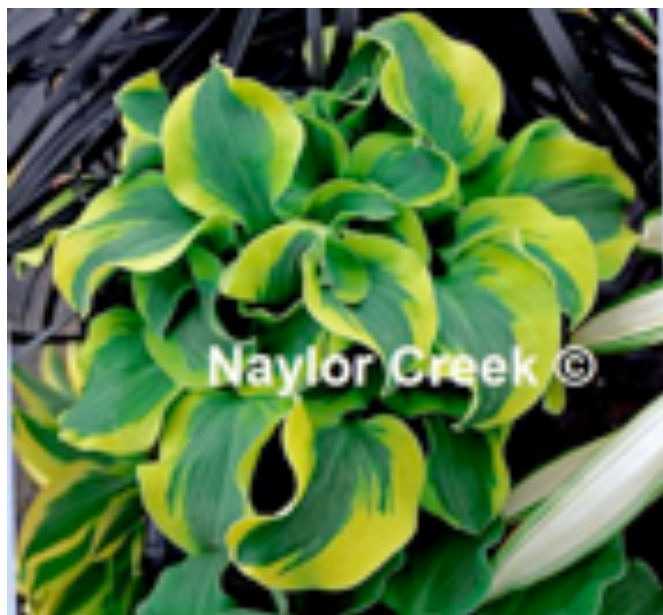
Specialty hostas are priced from \$10 to \$16. We will have five each of sixteen other hostas (listed below) priced from \$6 to \$12. If anyone has Hostas to donate for the sale, please contact [Steve Shubick](#).

2017 Hosta of the Year H. 'Brother Stefan'



Medium: 22" H x 35" W. Color: Medio-variegated. Parent: 'King Tut' x 'Mildred Seaver' seedling. May be Olga Petryszyn's best introduction to date. Large, heavily corrugated gold leaves with a wide, dark-green margin. A moderate grower that forms a spectacular specimen. Nearly white flowers in early summer.

H. 'Hosta Beach Boy' Medium: 20" H x 36" W. A new sport from H. 'Dream Weaver' with a wide yellow-to-cream center and a blue-green border. Looks like H. 'Great Expectations' but the leaf is much thicker and it grows much better. White flowers.



H. 'School Mouse' Mini: 6" H x 14" W, PPAF. Excellent sport from 'Church Mouse' with a wide yellow border. The leaves are quite wavy and add lots of interest--cute plant and a great addition to the "mouse" collection.

H. 'Sun Mouse' Mini: 6" H x 18" W. A gold version of 'Blue Mouse Ears' that is a bright spot in a trough or the garden. Plant in bright light for the best color.

H. 'Kiwi Blue Baby' Small: 6" H x 24" W. A small-medium Hosta with pale lavender flowers. Grows in half shade/sun. Makes a compact clump that stays close to the ground and grows slowly. Lavender flower.

H. 'Hands Up' Small: 8" H x 12" W. True tetraploid of H. 'Praying Hands' with great attributes: very thick, rubber-like leaves that stay much smaller than the parent and a creamy yellow-to-white border that is much more defined. Clump will be topped with lavender flowers.

H. 'Raspberry Sundae' Small: 10" H x 24" W. A return request. Bright cream-to-white leaves with a wide green border on raspberry-red stems that are red right up into the leaf. Give it early morning sun or good filtered light. Deep red scapes topped with dark purple flowers. Very showy.

H. 'Snake Eyes' Medium: 20" H x 40" W. A sport of 'Striptease' that has a more prominent white line between the border and the center. Really stands out.

H. 'Wheee!' Medium: 12"H x 33" W. Another return request. A blue-green hosta with a cream margin and lavender flowers. An introduction from a Dutch nursery registered by Piet Warmerdam in 2003, as a hybrid of H. 'Halcyon.'

H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print' Medium: 10"H x 20" W. Good grower and great substance on large, heart-shaped, dark green leaves with a wide yellow border that fades to white. Beautiful white flowers in midsummer. Highly sought after and stands out.

The sixteen additional Hostas are:

Very large

H. 'T. Rex'
H. 'Victory'

Large

H. 'Blue Umbrella'
H. 'Blue Hawaii'
H. 'Blue Angel'
H. 'Sugar Daddy'
H. 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'
H. 'Guardian Angle'
H. 'Guacamole'
H. 'Stain Glass'
H. 'Forbidden Fruit'

Medium

H. 'June'
H. 'Volcano Island'
H. 'Ben Vernooij'
H. "Sweet Innocence'

Small

H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'

Photos courtesy of Naylor Creek and Olga Petryszyn.

2017 Flower, Food & Foto Show

Judy Berglund, Chair

THIS YEAR'S FLORAL DESIGN THEME 75 YEARS: CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

Announcing the 2017 Floral Design Division Classes for the Flower, Food and Foto Show and to also celebrate the 75th Anniversary of MWGCM.

The design classes are as follows:

75 years - Diamond: Miniature design less than 6" x 6" x 6"

50 years - Gold: Design using fall-colored blooms

40 years - Ruby: Floral design using warm-colored blooms

30 years - Pearl: Floral design using white or cool-colored blooms



20 years - China: Floral design using pastel/spring-colored blooms

5 years - Wood: Floral design using wood/sticks in design

The materials used in the designs need to be "garden grown," but do not need to all come from your own garden. The materials you might find at a farmer's market are often garden-grown by the farmer.

There are two classes for floral design:

- Amateur - Open to all who have won five or fewer first place awards in the design division of a flower show.
- Advanced - Open to all.

This division historically has had very few entries, but last year's response was wonderful. So get your creative juices flowing and keep up the great work with floral arrangements in this year's FFF Show.

The FFF Show will be Saturday and Sunday, August 19 and 20, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.



Public Tour Committee

Dave Johnson, Denise Rust Co-chairs

VOLUNTEER GREETERS NEEDED FOR MWGCM PUBLIC GARDEN TOUR

This summer's MWGCM Public Garden Tour will be on Saturday, July 15, and features six gardens. The club needs volunteers as greeters at each of the six gardens. Duties of the volunteer will be to greet visitors, sell tickets as needed, record number of visitors, and distribute club information.

The tour hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the volunteer shifts will be from 9:00 to 12:30 and from 12:30 to 4:00. This means that volunteers would still have the option to view some other tour gardens.

We would like to have at least one greeter at each garden per shift and would prefer to have two (for a total of 24). Gardens are located in Bloomington (2), Edina (1), Hopkins (1), Minnetonka (1), and Plymouth (1).

Please consider volunteering for this activity. Sign up will be available at the Gertens Greenhouse Tour and at our April meeting, or contact [Judy Berglund](#) or [Dave Johnson](#).

The public tour is a major fundraiser for the MWGCM, and our hope is that each member will be able to sell at least four tickets in advance of the tour. More information to come.

-- *Dave Johnson and Judy Berglund*

Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair

MANY GARDENS IN ONE: PART TWO

The MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee divides the Mixed Border Garden at Lyndale Park into numerous sections. The March *Spray* article described the area at the western edge of the border nicknamed the "Desert Southwest." Immediately east of the "Desert" is a lush, flat area located in full sun where club member Tim Rosener designs and plants a colorful annual bed. Tim calls this a "carpet bed" or "quilt bed;" some call it his "floral painting." The backdrop for this annual bed is a grouping of upright conifers and deciduous shrubs.

Tim installs a new design every year planted solely with colorful annuals. He hunts down donations of his favorites--they must be good producers and grow in compatible heights to fit the designs. Most come from club member Paul Aarestad at Lakewood; they grow their own annuals in the greenhouses and grow a few extras for Tim. If Lakewood isn't growing all the colors Tim needs, the Park Board donates plants.

The first floral painting was in 2014. The design was the MWGCM letters done in burgundy alternanthera and gold Sedum rupestre 'Lemon Coral.'



The 2015 design was a colorful abstract representing the crown from the "Game of Thrones" TV series.



In 2016, an election year, Tim portrayed the flag of the United States using blue ageratum for the field of blue with white dusty miller stars, and stripes of Begonia sempervirens Cocktail Series® 'Whiskey' white and 'Vodka' red.



Thanks to Tim this area has become a main attraction in the border garden. This year Tim is again designing the MWGCM letters with a "75" for the club's diamond jubilee. It is also the 65th anniversary of the MGCM/MWGCM's supporting Lyndale Park. Stop by the garden to see Tim's newest painting. The committee works on Tuesday and Saturday mornings during the season and members are happy to answer questions! Contact us at mgcmgarden@q.com for a schedule.



"Seems like most of our winter migratory members have returned with the robins. Too bad the weatherman couldn't have arranged a more sunny reception. As this SPRAY is being written, most gardens have a January appearance much unlike Spring. Let's hope by meeting day our gardens will look more interesting.

"This is the caption over an article appearing in the Sunday, March 11 issue of the New York Times...'In traveling up and down or across the United States, the trend toward planting around factories and industrial buildings is bound to be observed. Many corporations in recent years have spent large sums of money not only for architects to build light, airy, buildings but also for landscape architects, designers, and nurserymen to plant trees, shrubs, lawns, flower beds. Even small parks have been created for employees.'

"Naturally, I am very pleased to find an article such as this which backs up my interest in having the Men's Garden Club launch out a program of making awards in our area for industrial beautification. I am positive this is the type of leadership that goes with a club of our prestige and I am equally positive that such a program will react to our credit on the part of the people of Minneapolis and its suburbs.

Joe Witmer, Chairman
Industrial Beautification

"Don't forget our May plant auction as you prick out your seedlings or divide perennials. Set aside those you cannot use, label them and give your fellow members an opportunity to bid

for the beauties. We will need a lot of material to auction this year if we are to make our already committed financial obligations.

"Did you hear about the gift of cactus plants a little old lady, who lives in one of those fancy-priced penthouses atop a marble column overlooking Central Park on that crowded little island of Manhattan, received from friends in Florida? Who not knowing anything about cacti subscribed to the local Texas newspaper in order to watch the weather so that every time it rained in Texas she watered her cacti in New York. (Passed on by Prexy George Titus)"

Editor: G. "Vic" Lowrie

To view the complete issue, visit the [MWGCM Garden Spray Archive](#).

In Memoriam

FAREWELL TO CHARLES BENSON



MWGCM Member since 1986

Thirty-year club member and thoroughly nice man Charles Benson passed away on March 16. He was a steady, kind presence at club events, and we will miss him. Charles was an art teacher in the Edina Public School system, and he demonstrated

his artistic talents in club activities as well. His distinctive floral arrangements at the TGOA/MGCA National Convention in 2001, were memorable, especially to those club members who cut every daylily from their gardens for them! He also entered distinctive floral designs in recent FFF Shows.

Charles was a prize-winning rug weaver whose entries were easily recognizable at State Fair and other competitions. Several of us have rugs purchased at the MWGCM silent auctions over the years, and those rugs will be even more valuable now because there will be no more.

We extend our condolences to Charles' daughters and their families. Rest in peace.

-- *Mary Maynard*

Membership Corner

Judy Brooke, Chair

WELCOME KRIS OLSON

Kris has lived in her Inver Grove Heights home for 30 years. She has many gardens, both flower and vegetable. She describes herself as a collector of plants and says, "When I find a plant I like, I find some place to park it." Her favorite garden center is Highland Nursery on West 7th in St. Paul because they have more unusual plants. She and her friend Judy Eiden discovered the Lyndale Park Gardens on one of their Tuesday walks and that's how they learned about our club. They attended our March program and both joined the club at that time.

-- *Judy Brooke*

WELCOME JUDY EIDEN

Judy lives with her husband Al in Inver Grove Heights on the edge of a park. She retired from Cub where she was the buyer for their Garden Center. She has known about MWGCM for several years and decided to join with her friend Kris Olson. Her landscaping recently experienced some changes when a new development destroyed some adjoining woodlands. She is now experiencing challenges with encroaching wild life, mainly deer and rabbits. She hopes to learn and apply information on low-maintenance plants, shrubs and trees that will persevere and provide seeds and berries for the birds.

She enjoys a spring day trip to Faribault visiting Donahue's with a side trip to the state

park in Nerstrand where she enjoys seeing the wildflowers on the forest floor including trout lilies and marsh marigolds.

-- *Sandra Mangel*

NEED ANSWERS TO YOUR GARDENING QUESTIONS?

On page 8 of your 2017 Directory, you'll find a list of Mentor Gardeners. These are club members who have volunteered to give advice about their gardening specialties. Contact them and they'll be happy to answer your questions. Also mark your calendars for the club meeting Tuesday, September 12, when the topic will be "Ask the Experts: Answers to All Your Gardening Questions."

Every member bring a member.

Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Board notes from March 2017:

The March board meeting was a quiet one, reflecting the quiet pre-gardening season that we are currently enjoying. Club finances are in order. Several committees have met during the winter to plan events and activities for spring and summer. Of particular note are the efforts by the Marketing and Publicity Committee to increase the club's visibility in the metropolitan area and increase membership, and the work of members to celebrate the club's 75th anniversary.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF MARCH 29, 2017

Checking Balance	\$21,284
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 2,356
Scholarship	\$ 2,916
Deane Fund at RCU	\$65,092
Working Balance	\$16,012

Petty Cash

\$ 100

MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank

\$ 5,282

Meeting & Event Calendar

April 8

Gertens Greenhouse Tour
5500 Blaine Ave. E.
Inver Grove Heights

May 9

Plant Sale and Auction
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
Minneapolis

June 13

Pollinator Friendly Gardening
Rhonda Fleming Hayes
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

June 24

75th Anniversary Celebration
Details to come

July & August

Garden Tours
Dates & Times TBD

August 19 & 20

Flower, Food and Foto Show U of M
Landscape Arboretum

September 12

Ask the Experts: Answers to All Your
Gardening Questions
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

October 10

Using Dwarf and Miniature Conifers in the
Garden
Jeremy Moore
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

November 14

Behind the Scenes at the Friends School
Plant Sale
Henry Fieldseth
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

2017 Officers & Directors

Club Officers

Directors

President
Sandra Abraham
Eagan

Vice President
Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Membership Secretary
Judy Brooke
St. Louis Park

Recording Secretary
Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Treasurer
Alan Gallaher
Edina

Past President
Judy Brooke

Judy Berglund
Minnetonka

Bonnie Haehn
Minneapolis

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Steve Shubick
St. Paul

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.



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