

1942-2017



MEN'S & WOMEN'S

GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

April 2018

The Garden Spray

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April Meeting Preview

Anne Spenningsby, Chair



"LANDSCAPING FOR SUSTAINABILITY WITH LESLIE YETKA

Tuesday, April 10

Location: Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

Leslie Yetka, director of programs at the Freshwater Society will speak on landscaping and sustainability, especially as it relates to water quality and climate change.

Menu

6:00 Social Time
6:15 Dinner
7:00 Business Meeting
7:30 Program

Ham
Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes
California Blend Vegetables
Spring Green Salad
Pineapple Upside Down Cake

- Permanent reservations are in effect.
- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, April 8.
- Email Sharla Aasang at resmwgcm@juno.com, or call (612) 623-9341 and leave a message.
- **NOTE: For last-minute cancellations call or email Sharla. If she can sell it, you won't be billed.**

From the President

Mary Barsness

If "April showers bring May Flowers," I say bring it on. I can't wait to start seeing flowers in the garden. The April birth flowers are the daisy and the sweet pea.

Daisies

Daisies are close cousins to sunflowers. The three most popular varieties are the Shasta daisy, African daisy and gerbera daisy. Shastas have snowy white petals with bright yellow centers and make great cut flowers. African daisies grow closer to the ground and have white, orange, yellow or apricot flowers. Gerbera daisies (or gerberas) are the most popular daisies and their large blooms can be found in a rainbow of bright colors. The center of the flower can be almost any color and often a single flower will have petals of many different colors.



The gerbera daisy (*gerbera jamesonii*) was discovered in 1884, near Barberton, South Africa, by Scotsman Robert Jameson. The gerbera is the fifth most popular flower in the world behind the rose, carnation, chrysanthemum, and tulip.

There are many meanings assigned to the daisy—from innocence, simplicity and joy to happiness, good luck and new beginnings. In Victorian times, daisies stood for loyalty and trust.

Fun daisy facts

- Daisies are often depicted in meadows ("flowery meads") in medieval paintings.
- They are believed to be more than 4,000 years old.
- Hairpins decorated with daisies were found during the excavation of the Minoan Palace on the Island of Crete.
- Egyptian ceramics decorated with daisies date back to ancient times.
- Some believed daisies kept away lightening, which is why they were often grown indoors.
- Daisies are also known in England as "bruisewort" because their crushed leaves can sooth bruised or chapped skin.
- Daisy leaves can be eaten and make a delicious addition to salads.

Sweet Pea

April's other flower, the lovely sweet pea, is a climbing garden plant known as the "Queen of the Annuals." These gorgeous old-fashioned vines bloom for about a month in spring. The long-stemmed sprays of fluted and ruffled blossoms produce an irresistible medley of fragrances.

Sweet peas can be traced back to 17th-century Italy and were brought to England and cultivated for their sweet aroma. Its horticultural name, *Lathyrus odoratus*, is

derived from the Greek for pea and the Latin for fragrant.

Sweet peas gained popularity in late Victorian gardens and bouquets were often sent as thank-you gifts. They are considered to be the floral emblem of Edwardian England and were an important part of floral arrangements for every wedding and dinner party.



The sweet pea continues to be used in floral decorations and wedding bouquets for its exquisitely soft, paper-like texture, its pretty pastel color palette and its sweet, fruity fragrance. Despite its name the seeds of the sweet pea are poisonous if ingested in quantity.

There has been a revival of many of the smaller-flowered, fragrant 19th- and early-20th-century cultivars, and today's sweet-pea breeders continue to introduce many new varieties.

From the Editors

Nancy Felice, Tom McKusick, Co-editors

This month we're turning over the editors' column to Sandra Abraham who asked us to share this:

I'd like to share the story of how a group of gardeners came together last summer to help a mutual friend get ready for a garden wedding.

A request for our assistance came from a friend of Carole Ann and Doug Brekke. Their son was to be married in their gardens in late August and the task to get the gardens into shape was daunting. A friend, Mary Wahl, sent pictures of the garden along with a list of what needed tending. There was quite a long list of garden chores to be done and only one month to get the work done, so a few club members were approached in order to see if we could get some teams together to help out.

We formed teams of two to four people to go to the Brekke's gardens over the span of three weeks to weed, trim, deadhead, transplant perennials and plant annuals. The day before the wedding, members even staged the garden with "guest plants" from their own collections.

The Brekke's gardens were beautiful and they received many compliments from the wedding guests who came from many parts of the world to celebrate the occasion. Carole Ann and Doug remain grateful for this act of kindness from club members.

-- Sandra Abraham

2018 MWGCM Plant Sale Update

Gary Geister, Chair

IT'S ALMOST HERE

FIFTH ANNUAL MWGCM PLANT SALE, TUESDAY, MAY 8

Open to members and the general public from 1:00 to 6:30 p.m.

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

PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Thanks to everybody who already signed up to work on our plant sale. We still need volunteers, especially to:

- Work at the checkout table.
- Work as sales assistants on the sale floor.
- Clean up after the sale.

I will be bringing signup sheets to the April club meeting. Please help where you can.

-- Mary Maynard

PLANT SALE SIGNS: HELP GET THE WORD OUT

Pick up lawn signs

If you signed up to place a plant sale sign in your yard, please pick up your sign from Susan Tapp at the April 10 meeting. Contact [Susan](#) with questions.

Help put up signs prior to sale

We need two to four more volunteers to assist with placing small plant sale signs anytime Wednesday, Thursday or Friday (May 2, 3 or 4) at major intersections in the St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church neighborhood and near the lakes. It's best to work in pairs so one can drive and the other place the sign. Please notify [Becky DeLaCruz](#) if you are able to help.

Spread the word

In April and early May, expect to receive several emails with plant sale information. Please help us get the word out to your co-workers, neighbors, friends and family by sharing the plant sale details via email, Facebook, Nextdoor and placing flyers.

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

A SAMPLE OF THIS YEAR'S NEW PLANTS

The neo-natal center (our basement) is aglow with florescent bulbs above germinating seeds. Also arriving at our front door are lots of boxes loaded with plants. It's like opening Christmas presents or birthday gifts. Lots of great surprises!

Plants have come from: North Carolina Farms, Wagner's, Mast Young Plants, Four Star Plants, Creek Hill Nursery and Walters Gardens. More plants are coming from Jolly Farmer, Bluebird Nursery, and Glacial Ridge Growers supplier of native plants for the sale

Here are just a few of the new plants available:



Dark purple Bloomerang Syringa. A reblooming lilac that I already have in the greenhouse with flower buds. I may bring some to the April meeting to sell if they are in bloom by then.



Dipladenia. A member of the mandevilla family, this one tends to trail down instead of climbing. Its red or white blossoms attract bees and hummingbirds.



Megawatt Bronze leaf begonia. A very large begonia much like the Whopper begonia with red or rose flowers.



Petunia Constellation Aries. Much like the Night Sky petunia with varying degrees of white and purplish blue blooms on the same plant.



Pentas Star Cluster Pink. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds.



Gerbera Daisy. Coming in a variety of colors. Keep this plant consistent with water.



Whopper Begonia. A very large begonia in three varieties: red with green or bronze leaves or rose with a bronze leaf.



Craspedia (Golf Beauty). Recommended by Sandra Abraham. Bright yellow golf ball-shaped flowers for containers or in the flowerbed. 2' tall.



Coleus Roaring Fire

-- Gary Geister

2018 Plant Sale News: Speciality Hostas

Steve Shubick

We will have five each of eleven selected Hostas for sale, including mini (3), small (4), medium (2), and large (2). This year we selected two new, different Hostas from the mouse ears group which now numbers more than fifty mice. We also have ten each of The American Hosta Growers Association, Hosta of the Year, H. 'World Cup.' Prices are \$8.00 to \$18.00. Other hostas in the sale are priced \$6.00 to \$12.00. If anyone has any Hostas to donate for the sale please contact [Steve Shubick](#).



2018 Hosta of the Year
H. 'World Cup'



Hosta 'World Cup' is a special seedling of 'Komodo Dragon' x 'Super Bow.'

It features rich, bright gold leaves that are cupped and wavy. Very pale purple flower, in mid-season. Sun Exposure: Part sun to shade.

Medium 28H" x 40W"



Naylor Creek ©
H. 'Yellow Polka Dot Bikini'

Sport from 'Striptease' with bright yellow borders that eventually turn apple green. Leaf center is dark and shows the typical 'Striptease' white line. Distinctive early on but as it changes it begins to look very similar to H. 'Hanky Panky.' The beautiful spring show is well worth it.

Small 9" H x 17" W

Sport from 'Diamond Tiara' with beautiful thick leaves and a very wide white border. Very showy. Vigorous grower in the garden forming a flattish mound of



H. 'Diamonds are Forever'

petite leaves. Excellent for edging a shade border.
Small 8" H x 12" W WPP26011



H. 'Cherry Tart'

Small, fast-growing plant is a crisp, bright chartreuse and gets brighter leaves until it glows yellow, with deep red petioles that darken even more.
Small 6" H x 15" W



H. 'Smoke Signals'

An outstanding "blue." Symmetrical clump holds intensely blue-green leaves in an upright manner with the somewhat folded, flat leaves filling every space. Holds its color late into the season.
Medium 17" H x 36" W



H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print'

This hosta will be the Hosta of the Year for 2019 by the American Hosta Growers Association.

Highly sought after and is back again this year. This stunning hosta produces heart-shaped leaves with very wide, wavy, green margins. A hybrid of two unnamed seedlings, this hosta was registered in 2006 by Mary Chastain of Tennessee. White flowers bloom in midsummer.

Medium 10" H x 20" W



H 'Fire Island'

A return request by club members, Stunning red petioles hold bright yellow to greenish-yellow wavy leaves. Lavender flowers.

Medium 15" H x 24" W



H. 'Forbidden Fruit'

Stunning fully tetraploid form of 'Orange Marmalade'...thick leaves have glowing yellow-orange centers set off by a wide blue-green border. Vigorous grower with lavender flowers. Medium 10"H x 20" W PPAF



H. 'Flamenco Mouse'

One of the latest introduction of the "mouse ears." This tissue culture sport of H. 'Blue Mouse Ears', is another great addition to the "mouse family." Leaves are nicely ruffled but the really outstanding quality are the dark purple flowers which are different from any other "mouse." Mini 4" H x 8" W



H. 'Funny Mouse'

A newer member to the "mouse ears " family. Reverse variegation of 'Snow Mouse' with a clear white border surrounding a blue-green centered leaf. The border turns to creamy or green late in the season. Mini 6" H x 14" W



H. 'Paradigm'

Another requested hosta. This blue green hosta has a cream margin and lavender flowers. It is an introduction from a Dutch nursery and registered by Piet Warmerdam in 2003 as a hybrid of H. 'Halcyon.' Hosta of the Year for 2007 by the American Hosta Growers Association. Paradigm means "sets the standard." Large 22" H x 48" W

THIS YEAR'S FLORAL DESIGN THEME: "WONDERS OF THE UNIVERSE"

Announcing the 2018 Floral Design Division Classes for the Flower, Food and Foto Show on August 18 and 19:

1. Pluto: Miniature design less than 6" x 6" x 6"
2. Milky Way: Use white or cool colored blooms.
3. Mars: Use red or warm colored blooms.
4. Venus: Use pastel colored blooms.
5. Earth: Use only foliage.
6. Space Junk: Design created in a recycled container.

The materials used in the designs need to be "garden grown," but do not need to come from your own garden.

The materials you might find at a farmer's market are often garden-grown by the farmer.



Two 2017 entrants.

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.

Photography Committee

Lloyd Wittstock, Chair

WE NEED YOU FOR THE PHOTO DIRECTORY

We are updating the MWGCM Photo Directory, and would like to include every member's photo. The directory is kept on the MWGCM website in a password-protected area. We are missing photos of the members listed below. Please see Lloyd Wittstock or Andy Marlow at a regular club meeting to have your photo taken. Or, you can email a shoulders-up headshot to ajmarlow@comcast.net, or send me a print of same.

-- *Andy Marlow*

Jenny Bodner
Andrew Gawboy
Ann Hanson
Sharri Harmel
Robert Heiberg

Mary Lee Hanson
Kathy Johannes
Gena Mary Lodolo
Beate Marlene Lundstrom
Maria Manion

Linda Pahl
Mark Pahl
Theresa Rooney
James Shober
Zan Tomko

Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolf, Chair

CONIFERS IN THE GARDEN, PART 2

In the February *Garden Spray*, I described our favorite arborvitae/*Thuja occidentalis* that are grown in the park garden. Our next favorite conifers are junipers. Spreaders are the most popular, and our absolute favorite is *Juniperus chinensis* 'Daub's Frosted.' It grows 18" tall and 5' wide or wider. Pruning lateral branches can keep it in check. This eye-catching juniper has light golden-yellow new growth contrasting with feathery blue-green interior foliage. Companion plants with burgundy foliage make stunning combinations.



Juniperus 'Daub's Frosted'

Another favorite for its silver gray-blue foliage is *Juniper virginiana* 'Grey Owl.' Height is about 2', width 4.' It also has an abundance of silver-blue berries. We plant the Grey Owls next to burgundy foliage weigelas, such as 'Spilled Wine' or 'Wine and Roses.' The feathery foliage of the Grey Owls make an eye-popping contrast with the pruned round shape of the weigelas.



Juniper 'Grey Owl'

Two other spreading junipers we grow are *Juniper horizontalis* 'Blue Prince' and *Juniper procumbens* 'Nana,' the Japanese dwarf juniper. Both are at the front edge of the border garden.

We have a triangle of *Juniperus virginiana* 'Skyrocket.' They can reach 15' to 20' with a width of 3' to 4' feet with stunning silver-blue. We prune them for denser foliage and a shorter height.



Three upright '
Skyrocket' junipers

Another upright juniper we planted just last year is *Juniperus chinensis* 'Hetzii Columnaris.' The foliage is a deep dark green and very dense. They can reach 15 to 18' high and 4' to 6' wide. They are sold trained as tiers and spirals so can also be pruned. Ours are still young but will make a tall and upright statement in the back of the border.

We heartily recommend adding garden-size conifers to your garden. They add structure and all-season foliage color, and are wonderful to view all winter. Stop by the MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden at the intersection of Roseway Road and Dupont Avenue in Lyndale Park in Minneapolis. Contact Kay Wolfe with any questions at mgcmgarden@g.com.

Reminder

"Spring is in the Air"

Galleria, 69th Street and France Avenue, Edina

Through Sunday, April 8

Open during normal business hours

Free

Bachman's flower show continues through Sunday.



Marketing & Publicity Committee

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

The MWGCM will take part in several local garden center events this spring. These are excellent venues for providing more exposure for the club and reinforcing introducing that gardening is an exciting and rewarding experience.

Dundee Nursery and Landscaping Company's 24th Annual Spring Expo

Saturday, April 7 and Sunday, April 8

16800 Highway 55, Plymouth

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Bob Olson and Andy Marlow will offer a presentation titled, "Some Things You Didn't Know, That You Wanted to Know, About Hostas!" and Judy Berglund will present on "Small Space Veggie Gardening."

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.: Demos and lecturettes

Sunday, Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Dundee's Garden Party event, where the public is invited to plant a hanging basket or annual planter.

The MWGCM will have a booth for distributing brochures and bookmarks. Dundee estimates attendance is typically 400 - 500.

The MWGCM will be the featured gardening club at Sunnyside Gardens on Saturday, June 9. Specific details are TBD.

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

Just like a garden, our club continues to grow. Please welcome these new members.

MARK AND LINDA PAHL

The Pahl's met in high school. After some years in Chanhassen, they now live in Bloomington. Mark is a realtor, and Linda has worked for the same insurance company for over 30 years.

Mark has been told he has a natural green thumb, however Linda will confess to killing plants. Together they feel they've gotten gardening down to a science, with a routine for fall and spring cleanup, and maintenance through the growing season. Their gardening interests include perennials, especially roses. They are working on converting much of their former vegetable area into dahlias. Last fall Linda was happy to see her 6-1/2-year old grandson work on his gardening skills by helping Grandpa tip the roses.

BEATE MARLENE LUNDSTROM

Originally from Germany, Beate lives with her husband, Barney, in south Minneapolis, near the Lyndale Park Gardens. She is retired from a career in executive administration for several German companies.

Beate's small urban garden is mostly shade, and she hopes to meet other club members who deal with similar challenges.

She grows tulips, hellebores, and primulas, pots of herbs, and also grows perennials and bi-annuals from seed. Beate loves touring English gardens, and one of her prized garden jewels is her columbines grown from seed from Hever Castle Gardens, Anne Boleyn's childhood home. In addition to gardening, Beate reads, quilts, and knits.

LINDA WILKINS

Linda learned about MWGCM through *Northern Gardener* magazine. After visiting our February and March presentations, she decided to join.

After living in Omaha and Seattle, she and her husband now live in Richfield where she has gardened for about 20 years. When raising her three sons she grew vegetables for the family. Now she integrates vegetables with perennials. She is also a Master Gardener. Linda knits and is interested in painting garden scenes and learning more about garden photography.

ANNE HANSON

Anne, a retired librarian, heard about MWGCM through the gardening section of the Star Tribune. She moved into her home with a half-acre yard in Minnetonka in 2016. She planted the front garden her first growing season, started the back yard last year, and plans to continue work this year.

Anne has a son and a daughter, and three young grandchildren, two of whom have shown some interest in gardening, which she encourages with garden and nature-related Christmas gifts.

Anne started gardening with hostas in 1975, when her neighbors offered her if some divided hostas. Anne says she didn't even know what they were, but said "sure, why not," and the rest is history.

-- Kathy Lenarz



Kathy Lenarz welcomes Beate Lundstrom, Dorothy and Harold Ludtke and Linda and Mark Pahl at the March meeting.

Every member bring a member.

In Memoriam

RUTH BERG

Longtime members will remember Ruth Berg, who joined the Club in 1996, and remained a member until the last few years. Ruth passed away on February 19 at the age of 90. She was the wife of Howard Berg, who joined the club in 1980. Ruth and Howard were mainstays of the club for many years, and we miss both of them.



MARION MCKEEN

We were sorry to learn of the death of David McKeen's mother Marion who passed away on March 3 at the age of 91. Our condolences to David and his family.

-- Mary Maynard

Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

JANUARY 2018 BOARD MEETING

The December Board meeting is one of transition, as we thank retiring members for their service and welcome new members. Information was provided to our new members about the practical workings of the board and a schedule for the upcoming year's monthly board meetings was set.

The club ended the fiscal year in excellent financial condition. Topics of discussion for the coming year include investigating how to improve our technology equipment, reviewing the condition of our trophies and awards, and revising the details of our very successful spring plant sale.

MARCH 2018 BOARD MEETING

Highlights of the March board meeting included an in-depth report related to several issues essential to our club, including topics such as improving fund raising efforts, revising our website, and increasing our retention of members. The board will consider these suggestions in the coming months. Changes to policies and procedures will be shared with the general membership as the board makes them. The club's financial records were reviewed by the Audit Committee and found to be in "perfect order."

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF MARCH 28, 2018

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Checking Balance | \$ 25,066 |
| Designated Funds | |
| Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden | \$ 1,406 |
| Scholarship | \$ 4,413 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Deane Fund at RCU | \$ 62,020 |
| Working Balance | \$ 19,247 |
| Petty Cash | \$ 100 |
| MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank | \$ 5,380 |

Meeting & Event Calendar

April 10

Leslie Yetka: Landscaping and Sustainability
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

May 8

Annual Plant Sale
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

June 12

Jan Welsh: Butterfly Bootcamp: Gardening to Attract Butterflies
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

July

Garden Tours TBA

August

Flower, Food & Foto Show

September 11

Barbara Ronningen: Overwintering Ornamental Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

October 9

Fiona Lennox: Native Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

November 13

Mary Meyer: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Grasses
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

December 11

Holiday Party

Club Officers

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Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Vice President

Anne Spenningsby
Minneapolis

Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

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Edina

Past President

Sandra Abraham
Eagan

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John Cooke
St. Louis Park

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

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