

The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

2014, Volume 72, Number 5

May

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
May 13	SMC	Plant Sale
June 10	LWC	"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape" Tim Malooly
July TBD		Member Garden Tour
Aug TBD		Garden Tour

More info on Page 11

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S.,
Mpls. (Lower level)

LWC = Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S.,
Minneapolis

SMC = St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church,
3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis

Note: Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the May Plant Sale.

Call or email Carole Ann Brekke at 952.435.6029 or

numsix24@comcast.net by Friday, May 9 to reserve a meal.

Menu for May 13:

Pulled pork sandwiches
Cole slaw Baked beans
Fruit Brownies

Plant Sale and Auction

Tuesday, May 13th, 2014

**New Location: St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis**

Schedule of Events

3:00 Pre-order plants available for pickup
3:00 Country Store opens---note 1 hour earlier than last year
3:00 Silent Auction begins
6:00 Country Store closes
6:15 Silent Auction closes
6:00 Dinner is served in the carpeted Dining Room with floor to ceiling windows overlooking Lake Calhoun.
6:55 Silent Auction winners announced
7:00 Live Auction begins

WINTER OFFICIALLY OVER!

-- Gary Geister

After one of the longest, coldest, most brutal winters, I have classified the words "snow" and "cold" as new 4-letter swear words. I don't want to hear or say them. Now that we have winter behind us we can look forward to flowers and green. With Spring brings us our Annual Plant Sale. Again please note that it is at a new location and also the Country Store will be opening up at 3:00.

More information on Pages 4-5

Looking Ahead: Wise Use of Water in the Landscape June 10

We will return to Lakewood Cemetery for this presentation by member Tim Malooly.

Notes from the Prez:

-- *Randi Larson*

When Larry was president of the club in 2008, we were lucky enough to be invited to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's 50th anniversary party. We were given this honor because of the Arboretum's long connection to the Men's Garden Club.

The official history of the Arboretum states that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is credited with promoting the arboretum idea, raising funds and looking for a site "in partnership with the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center".

At the party we attended, there were members of the Dayton and Pillsbury families and others whom Director Peter Olin successfully tapped for large donations. Larry and I felt out of place in this company so we sat with people at a table in the back who looked like 'just folks.' It turned out that we sat with the family of Dr. Leon C. Snyder, the founder of the Arboretum!

We can follow nature's coming alive this season in our back yards and at the Arboretum. Tulips will be budding out soon and you should know about the wonderful tulip display at the Arboretum. Crab apples will also be in bloom very soon.

There will be a Spring floral exhibit in the Oswald Visitor Center thru May 2. There will also be an exhibit on creating habitats for butterflies and other pollinators that opens May 7. There are classes and tours, contests and sales, day camps for kids, cooking lessons, music and photo displays. You can learn, do, eat, and enjoy a myriad of things at the Arboretum.

Finally, if you're planning a visit, you can call or email to find out 'what's in bloom' at 612-625-9791 or www.arboretum/umn.edu/whats_inbloom.aspx. We visited the Arboretum last June when the azaleas were blooming. What a spectacular site that was! There were field tests of the new azaleas going on and it was wonderful! What a delight to come across something so beautiful and so unexpected.

The day to day functions of the Arboretum could not be done without members' contributions and volunteers. So I would encourage everyone to belong to the Arboretum and to become a volunteer, if you are able. You can be cool (like Nancy Bjerke, who volunteers by driving one of the tour buses at the Arboretum).

I would also like to mention the club's plant auction and sale coming up Tuesday, May 13 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. If you are a new member of our club, you don't want to miss this event. There will be lots of plants to buy and also a silent and regular auction. Something for everyone!

Randi

Editor's Note

Mary Maynard

It must be spring. We are switching from worrying about freezing to death to worrying about drowning. And our plant sale is coming up. I took a drive past St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church this weekend and was once again struck by the stunning setting. I can't wait to spend the day there.

Please plan to bring a few plants for the Country Store, as well as any empty trays or boxes that you can spare. And bring yourself and your friends and neighbors. It's always a fun day.

Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 04-15-2014

Checking balance	\$15,377
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,357
Scholarship	<u>\$7,560</u>
Working Balance	\$ 6,460
 CD	 \$5,260

Membership Corner

Every Member Bring a Member

MWGCM Wins MPRB Award

By Kay Wolfe

MWGCM has won the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB) Group Volunteer of the Year Award for 2013. MWGCM is being recognized for the gardens that we have created at Lyndale Park. The club started the Perennial Trial and Border Garden project in 1997, and today this area is a beautiful 300 foot long border garden. The club's support of Lyndale Park goes back to 1952, when around 200 crab apples trees were planted in the park. After the tornados of 1981 took out many trees in the park, MGCM helped create and plant the Lyndale Park Arboretum, and that work was recognized by an award from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The MPRB recognizes volunteers in two categories, Remarkable Volunteer Awards for adults, both individuals and groups, and the Rising Star Awards, which go to youth ages 13 to 17. The award recipients will be recognized on May 21 at the Board of Commissioners meeting. Our group will receive a \$500 donation to be used to enhance our work at the park.

Thanks so much to all the Lyndale Park Garden Committee members, present and past, who have made this possible. Thanks to all club members for the funds that come through the club budget, and a special thanks to all who have donated to the Park Garden Memorial Fund. This garden would not exist without all this support. It is a joy for us to be able to create this beautiful garden for the residents of our metropolitan area. And it is a joy and honor to chair a committee of such wonderful and dedicated club members. I thank the club for this opportunity.



The cleanup crew on April 26, from left to right: Kirky Otto, Dave Johnson, Eric Smoczyk, Tami Hagen, Robert Kean, Tim Rosener, M.T. Pulley, Sharla Aaseng, Judy Berglund, Kay Wolfe, Auxiliary Member Gary Opperman. (Still working, not pictured: Rodger Sefelt, Steve Shubick) -- Photo by Alan Gallaher

Plant Sale and Auction – Continued from Page 1

Your Plant Sale Committee and Publicity Committee have been working on getting more public (nonmember) participation at this sale so please mention this plant sale to friends, neighbors, co-workers and relatives. We will be open to the public from 3 to 6. This all helps to the success of this sale.

To any garden club members: if you are able to help out with the sale in any way it would be appreciated.

Any plants or items for the Country Store or Silent Auction would also be greatly appreciated.

If you have any plant container trays at home collecting dust bring them to the sale as we always tend to run short.

We have plants coming from Eisle's Nursery, Gardenview Greenhouse, Creek Hill Nursery and Bluebird Nurseries.

Some Plants of note that we will have at the sale are:

Grass of the Year Carex Grayi

Hosta of the Year Abiqua Drinking Gourd

SunGold Tomato Voted best tasting tomato by club members last September

2014 FFF Vegetable Bean---Try the Yard Long Red Noodle Bean

2014 FFF Flower Zinnia----Try one or all seven varieties of zinnias



Welcome SPRING Come to the Sale (SUPPORT YOUR CLUB). Buy one plant or a truckload of plants. SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Plant Sale: 2014 Edition

By Lynda Carlson

The plant sale and auction promises to be extra special this year offering an expanded selection of plant material in a new location.

Also new this year:

- *Ask the Experts gardening help desk
- *Terrace Horticultural Books spring collection
- *Minnesota State Horticultural Society

Share this news with your gardening friends, and don't miss out on this exciting event. Fun. Guaranteed.

To get to St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church:

The church is at the intersection of Irving Avenue South and 35th Street in South Minneapolis. From 35W, take the 35th Street Exit and go west. Jog south to 36th Street and continue west to Irving Avenue (3 blocks past the entrance to Lakewood Cemetery). Turn right and go one block.

See next page for photos and a partial list of plants that will be available at the sale.

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<http://www.mwqcm.org>

A Partial List of Plants that will be Available at the May Plant Sale

NOVELTY ANNUALS

Mexican Sunflowers
 Pumpkin on a Stick
 Cotton
 Castor Beans
 Succulents

Annuals

Datura
 Joseph's Coat
 Amaranthus
 Love Lies Bleeding
 Amaranthus
 Molten Fire Amaranthus
 Celosia
 Texas Hummingbird Sage
 Snapdragons
 Zinnias (7 varieties)
 Sweet Potato Vine
 Bacopa
 Pink Pinheads
 Lantana
 Persian Shield
 Moroccan Begonias
 Verbena
 Angelonia

Annuals – cont.

Purple Fountain
 Grass
 Diascia
 Springeri fern
 Calibrachoa
 Scaevola
 Pennisetum
 Fireworks
 P. Cherry Sparkler
 Alternanthera Red
 Threads
 Alternanthera
 Raspberry Rum
 Spiralis Juncus
 Ageratum
 Alyssum
 Begonia Pink Charm
 Cosmos
 Lobelia
 Marigolds
 Moss Roses
 Jewels of Opar
 Licorice
 Red Geraniums
 Variegated Nicandra
 Verbena bonariensis

Annual Vines

Black-eyed Susan
 vine
 Candy Corn vine
 Mexican Flame vine
 Morning Glory
 Hyacinth Bean
 Cup and Saucer vine
 Cardinal Vine
 Spanish Flag

Under the Sea

Coleus
 Gold Anemone
 Lime Shrimp
 Molten Coral
 Langostino
 Bonefish
 Lionfish
 Red Coral

Coleus

Tapestry
 Sangria
 Mardi Gras
 Silk Sunset
 Dark Ruffles
 Pink Ruffles
 Fishnet Stockings

Perennials

Solidago 'Crown of
 Rays'
 Asparagus Vine
 Chocolate Vine
 Prairie Clover
 Gallardia
 Sea Foam Ground
 Cover
 Climbing Hydrangea
 Heuchera 'Frosted
 Violet'
 Echinacea 'Hot
 Papaya'
 Magnolia Vine
 Sea Holly

Hostas

22 varieties

Vegetables

Tomatoes
 Peppers
 Basil
 Cilantro
 African Blue Basil



Photos by Gary Geister



Bees: What Can I Do to Help?

Kirky Otto

We're all pretty well aware of the plight of bees right now. Colony Collapse disorder is recognized and discussed: bees fly off from their hives and can't find their way home, or die from the accumulated stresses of pesticides, diseases, and lack of food. It's a complex situation, with many facets to it, but what can one gardener do? Quite a bit, actually.

First, you can avoid using systemic insecticides such as neonicotinoids, or buying plants that have been treated with them. Second, have you tried native plants? Dr. Marla Spivak, who heads the Bee Lab at the University of Minnesota, speaks on a regular basis to groups who are interested in helping bees, both native (some 350 species in MN) and imported (honey bees). In a recent presentation to Hennepin County Master Gardeners, she spoke about two of the disasters (monocultures in agricultural and urban settings, neonicotinoids and other systemic insecticides) and some very basic actions we can take to help pollinators survive. One thing which we as gardeners are ideally suited to do is to install mass plantings of flowering native plants.

Mass plantings are needed because bees, in returning to their hives with legs pockets packed with pollen, meet other bees who are just going out to forage, and those who have found a good supply do a complex "dance" which tells their hive-mates where they found the good stuff. They aren't able to convey "and then about 300' farther along the fence, there's another such plant." They convey direction and distance to a source, so the larger the planting, the better. Further, pollinators need to find pollen and nectar through the whole season, April to October. No one needs to turn an entire front yard rose garden into native plants, but one large planting of *Geranium maculatum* or *Penstemon grandiflorus* or *Lupinus perennis* someplace in the yard will supply a wide range of native bees in April and into May. Honey bees will thrive on a Hawthorn tree or pussywillows in the spring.

In the fall, *Nepeta x faassenii*, catmint, will be alive with both honey bees and native bees. The same with *Sedum 'Autumn Joy'*, and *Liatris aspera*, Rough Blazing Star. For an excellent list of suggestions, use your computer: go to www.beelab.umn.edu; on the left side of the home page, click on "bees." At the bottom of that page is a list; click on "1. plant bee flowers everywhere" and you'll get a list, with indications of whether the plants attract honey bees, native bees, or both. For a more extensive list of plants that attract native bees, and what months they bloom, go to www.extension.umn.edu/garden. On the list of options under that general heading, click on "Yard & Garden." On the right side of the Yard & Garden page, scroll down the archives dates and click on November, 2010. The first article is by Dr. Marla Spivak on the plight of bees, and the second is an article on planting bee-friendly gardens by Karl Foord, U of MN Extension Educator, with all the details you'll need to get started.

The bees will thank you for planting a patch of garden for them, and so will those of us who like to eat.



MWGCM Lyndale Park Gardens Schedule for May 2014

-- Kay Wolfe

We had a productive cleanup day on April 26th. Here's the work schedule for May.

May 6, Tuesday	Shrub Planting 9:30 a.m.
May 17, Saturday	Remove old trial plants and clean up. 9:00 a.m. Caribou Coffee Volunteers in Lyndale Park and bags of free spent coffee grounds for all community gardens.
May 20 & 27, Tues.	Annual planting Design Team at 9:00, planting team at 10:00 (NOTE: Rain dates are Thursdays)
May 31, Saturday	Trial plant planting 9:00 a.m.

All are welcome!

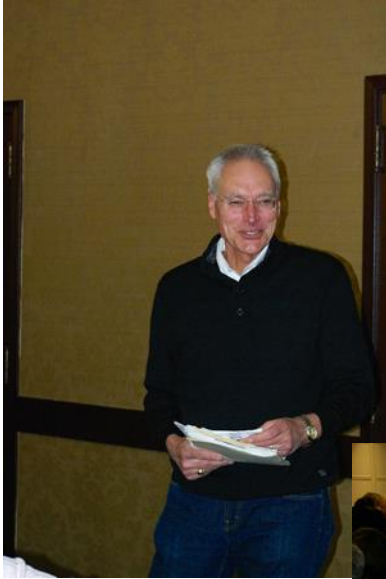
For more details contact mgcmgarden@q.com



Flattering photos of workers' best sides by Alan Gallaher

From the Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show

Photos by Robert Kean, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Jan Parker



More Photos from the Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show



And Even More Photos from the Flower Show



Calendar of Events for 2014

May 13

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

June 10

"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape"
Tim Malooly
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

July TBD

Garden Tours?

August 16-17

Flower, Food and Foto Show
U of M Landscape Arboretum

August TBD

Garden Tours?

September 9

"Houseplants"
Renee Lynch
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

October 14

"Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle"
Hennepin County Master Gardeners
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

November 11

Hostas
Bob Olson
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Nancy Bjerke, Lynda Carlson, Gary Geister, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Mary Maynard, Kirky Otto, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Alan Gallaher, Gary Geister, Robert Kean, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Jan Parker (MWGCM guest)

Check out Bob's Blog!

Bob's driveway was piled high with manure a day and a half before the monsoons began. For all the gory details, go to our website (<http://www.mwgcm.org>) and click on "Bob's Blog" at the top of the page.

**MEN'S and WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB OF
MINNEAPOLIS, INC.**



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Club Officers:

President: Randi Larson

Minnetonka

Vice President: Tom McKusick

Minneapolis

Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin

Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Judy Brooke

Minnetonka

Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd

Minneapolis

Falcon Heights

Past President: Sandra Abraham

Eagan

Directors:

Raymond Bauch

Plymouth

Alan Gallaher

Edina

(Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd)

The Spray

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Return To:

The Garden Spray

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Mpls., Inc.

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First Class Mail

**May
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