

The Garden Spray

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

2013, Volume 71, Number 7

July

It's Tour Time!

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
July 16		Garden Tour
July 31		Photo Contest Deadline
Aug 3		Garden Bus Tour
Aug 17-18	Arb	Flower, Food & Foto Show
Sept. 10	LHC	Tomato, Pepper Fest
Oct. 8	LHC	Cactus & Succulents
Nov. 12	LHC	Fall & Winter Color
Dec. 10	LHC	Holiday Party

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

Arb = University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

July 16 Schedule (Third Tuesday)

- 6:30 p.m. Tour Tami Hagen's Garden
(appetizers and beverages)
- 7:30 p.m. Tour Nancy Bjerke's Garden
(desserts)
- 8:30 p.m. Tour Longfellow Gardens
(optional)

Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the July or August tours.

Please complete registration form on Page 7 and send to Denise Rust. Reservations for July tour are due by Friday, July 12.

July Member Tour

Tuesday Evening, July 16

South Minneapolis

Members Tami Hagen and Nancy Bjerke are opening their gardens on the evening of Tuesday, July 16. Enjoy appetizers at Tami's garden, followed by desserts at Nancy's garden. And visit the nearby Longfellow Gardens afterward.

More information on Page 4.

August Bus Tour

Saturday, August 3

Tour three award-winning private gardens on this bus tour. The bus will leave the Fridley North Star Rail Station Park and Ride Lot B (6151 East River Road, Fridley, MN) at 1:00 p.m.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot now!

More information on Page 6.



-- Photo by Andy Marlow

Save time and postage: Register for both tours at once! Reservation form is on Page 7

(You will be able to register for the August tour later if there is still space available on the bus.)



Notes from the Prez:

-- Sandra Abraham

Garden Tour Season Arrives

How many garden tours have you signed up for so far? I can't seem to resist them. First of all, there is our own member's tour on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 and then our August 3, 2013 bus tour and picnic. Our club will be participants in the Tangletown Tour on July 27, 2013 by hosting an informational table at one of the gardens on the tour. We hope to introduce many "tourists" to our club in the hopes they find us intriguing and consider attending a meeting to find out more about our club.

I hope everyone has planted their peppers and snapdragons in anticipation of the August 17-18 FFF show at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Chuck Carlson says there are only 3 entries in the photo (Foto) contest so far so get out there and start capturing the summer bounty. Odds are you may have a pretty good chance of winning a ribbon!

My 60 gallon rain barrel filled up last week with only one day of rain. Now that I have so much free water I haven't really needed to water because of all the rain we have been getting. My problem now is the overflow water. I guess that gives new meaning to the phrase, "when it rains it pours", so now I have to go out and fill watering cans to lower the level of water in the barrel so I can harvest more rain.

All of our birds have fledged now for a total of 5 house finches and 5 robins. We can now say we are empty nesters. I have yet to see where the pair of hummingbirds has made their nest, but they were putting on quite a show outside our deck window so I am guessing it is close by.

My first rose is blooming this week, Stanwell Perpetual, which is a spinosissima hybrid and is very fragrant. The rabbits pruned the canes this winter; however they actually did a very good job and the blooms on the remaining canes are

outstanding. The other shrub roses are setting buds but the hybrids are struggling.

The radishes did not do well this year but the spinach and lettuce thrived with all of this cool rainy weather. Bring on the sun so we can get the rest of the vegetables up to speed! I was inspired by our June speaker and have planted three artichokes to see if I can get a pretty plant and maybe a fruit or two.

When you are out and about this summer don't forget to take a stroll through the Lyndale Park Gardens and the Robert's Bird Sanctuary planting site where some of our members have truly made an impact with their gardening skills and dedication.

Whatever gardens you choose to visit this summer or wherever you roam around our wonderful city parks may you find new and interesting places to enjoy our Minnesota summer.

See you on the tours!

From the Editor

-- Mary Maynard

Another full issue! Thanks to Nancy Bjerke and Tami Hagen for opening their gardens to us for the July tour. I look forward to seeing them.

And don't forget to submit photos for the photo contest by July 31. If you've never done this, I encourage you to dive in! I am not much of a photographer, but every once in a while even I get a lucky shot. And we don't have to submit all those other not-so-lucky photos!

The August tour should be exceptional. Right now we only have one bus reserved, so send in your reservation as soon as possible so your spot can be reserved - and so we can arrange for a second bus if necessary.

And, of course, don't forget the FFF Show in August! The show schedule is on our website now. My favorite event of the year!



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 6-14-2013

Checking balance	\$18,103.21
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,567.83
Scholarship	<u>\$4,830.28</u>
Working Balance	\$11,705.10
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

How did you like the new name tags at the June meeting?

Marketing and Publicity Committee Update

-- Judy Brooke

Thanks to Kay Wolfe, Andy Marlow, Bob Olson and Lynda Carlson for contributing their time and expertise, we have a new club brochure which is really quite beautiful. It will be used as another recruitment tool along with the bookmarks.

A new or revised club logo is still a work in progress. The committee is reviewing several ideas with the goal of having a recommendation for the Board by the July 1st Board meeting.

On Sat. July 27th, club volunteers will staff a table at one of the gardens on the Tangletown Garden Tour. The purpose will be to promote our club and recruit new members.

Photos from June Meeting

--Chuck Carlson, Lloyd Wittstock





July Tour Information

-- Robert Kean, Andy Marlow

Schedule:

6:30 P.M. – Tour the garden of Tami Hagen while enjoying appetizers and beverages

7:30 P.M. – Tour the garden of Nancy Bjerke while enjoying desserts

8:30 P.M. – Official Tour concludes

Optional: Self-guided tour of nearby Longfellow Garden, before or after the tours of the members gardens (it is open until 10 P.M.).

Cost for July tour: \$8 per person

Tami Hagen 4541 32nd Avenue South

There is no other way to describe it – Tami's garden has a shamelessly vast array of plants. With a small south Minneapolis yard there are no mass plantings in her garden. Instead you will find nearly 100 unique plant varieties arranged together in almost a dozen or so distinct garden areas. Can you imagine the work involved in a dozen gardens? Now, remind yourself that it is a small south Minneapolis yard and everything once again becomes quite manageable; for the most part!

The yard was established in 1928, the year the home was built. As only the third family to live in this home, she found herself to be quite a loyal gardener, reviving and maintaining what was planted before their arrival. However, the yard is slowly changing after losing a large elm in front and the old white lilac in back.

Prize plants: her blueberry bushes and jack-in-the-pulpit! Plants that she still pines away for include trillium and French pussy willow (*Salix caprea*). Unique yard features: the stone birdbath, flagpole and brick patios.

You'll see that she dabbles in vegetables with a small pottage garden. This year she's hoping to plant potatoes, collard greens, carrots and two tomato plants, putting the herbs into the flower beds.

Tami says "You are all very welcome to view my gardens and, more importantly, to impart your wisdom on me! I am very humbled to have the Men and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis tour my yard."

Nancy Bjerke 4904 38th Avenue South

Nancy's garden is five years old. One of her challenges is growing plants under Back Walnut trees which are in the neighbors' yard but close to the edge of the lot. Vegetables grow in containers and perennials are mixed with annuals for color. There is a 30 foot arbor across the back of the yard which supports vines. Unfortunately, her wisteria was set back from this past winter and she lost a few clematis.

The front yard rain garden is over 200 square feet. Two downspouts and half of the driveway direct water into the rain garden. Nancy is in the process of establishing a boulevard garden which is two inches lower than the curb and sidewalk enabling it to receive rain water runoff. *(Cont. next page)*



July Tour information – continued from previous page

Longfellow Gardens

Longfellow Gardens is the part of Minnehaha Park that covers the land bridge over Highway 55/Hiawatha Ave. and includes the area west of the bridge down to the creek.

A formal garden, which features a pergola, graces the top of the land bridge and also provides a stunning view of the downtown skyline. In contrast, native shrubs, flowers, and grasses have been planted close to the creek to stabilize the shoreline, compete with the reed canary grass and other invasive species, and provide wildlife-friendly habitat. A gentle slope of prairie flowers and grasses provides a transition between the "wild" creek's edge and the land bridge's sedate beauty.

With its varied perennials and annuals, the gardens provide a picturesque backdrop for weddings and other special events.

Directions to Gardens for July Garden Tour (See map on next page)

All three gardens are best approached from Hiawatha Avenue (MN 55). Come south on Hiawatha from I-94 or north on Hiawatha from MN 5 at Fort Snelling.

Garden of Tami Hagen, 4541 32nd Avenue South (6:30 p.m. appetizers)

Turn west off Hiawatha on to 46th Street South
Turn right on 32nd Avenue South
Garden will be the fifth house on your right

Garden of Nancy Bjerke, 4904 38th Avenue South (7:30 p.m. dessert)

From Tami's, go east on either 45th Street South or 46th Street South
Turn right on 34th Avenue South
Turn left on East Minnehaha Parkway
Turn right on 38th Avenue South and go one block
Garden will be the second house on the right after you cross 49th Street

Longfellow Gardens (Optional: you may visit **before** or **after** seeing the other two gardens)

Before

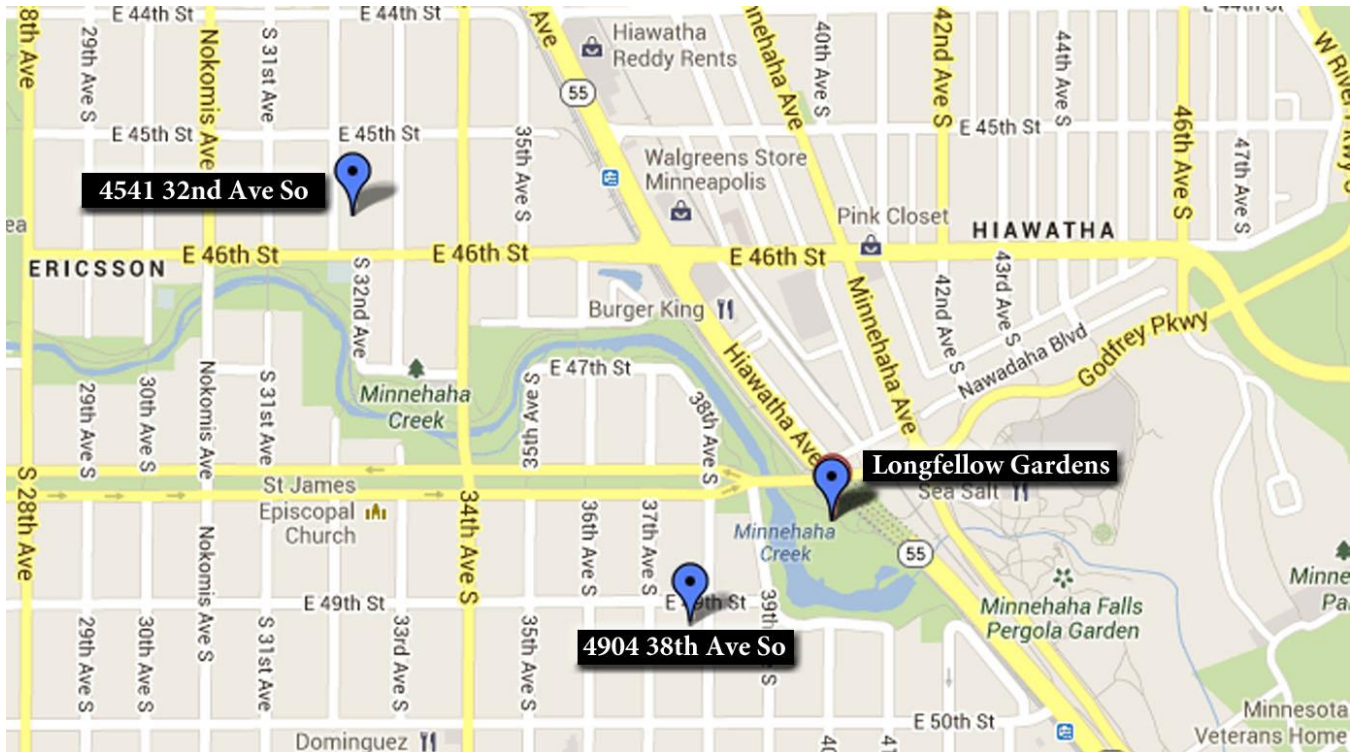
Turn east off Hiawatha on to 46th Street South
Turn right on Minnehaha Avenue
Take the first right in the traffic circle on to East Minnehaha Parkway
Garden parking lot entrance will be on your left just after the Longfellow House

After

From Nancy's house go north to 37th, 38th or 39th Avenue South
Turn right on to East Minnehaha Parkway
Garden parking entrance will be on the right after you cross Minnehaha Creek



Map for July Tour



August Garden Tour: Three award winning private gardens

-- Bob Olson

A bus tour of three award winning private gardens in the Northwest Metro Area will leave from the Fridley the North Star Rail Station (Park & Ride lot B) Saturday August 3 promptly at 1:00 p.m. The cost of this tour, which includes a catered lunch, is \$25 per person.

These seldom seen superb gardens have been on multiple national garden tours, including The Gardeners of America, The American Hosta Society and the American Hemerocallis Society. They have received recognition and awards for their landscape appeal, original hybrids and overall garden excellence. They are stocked with cutting edge specimens of day lilies, hostas, irises and Oriental/Asiatic lilies in addition to unusual conifers and pleasing landscaping designs.

Space on the bus is limited! There will be more information about the gardens of Lloyd and Patty Weber, Len and Jan Brenny and Don Dean in the August *Spray* (or on our website at http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/August_Garden_Tour.html), but you can reserve a spot on the bus now on the reservation form on Page 7.



Garden Tour Reservation Form

I/WE PLAN TO ATTEND THE FOLLOWING MWGCM CLUB TOUR(S):

Tuesday evening July 16, 6:30
Gardens of Tami Hagen and Nancy Bjerke, SE Minneapolis
Self-driving tour with snacks and beverages
(Registrations due **Friday, July 12**)
Cost: \$8/person

Name _____

Name _____

Saturday afternoon, August 3, 1-5
Gardens of Lloyd & Patti Weber, Don Dean and Len and Jan Brenny, north metro
Bus tour with catered dinner
(Registrations due **Wednesday, July 31**)
Cost: \$25/person

Name _____

Name _____

Mail registration and payment to
Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444
(763)560-7747, dkkrust@hotmail.com
Make checks payable to MWGCM

Can't decide about the August tour yet? There will be another reservation form in the August Spray.





A Chance to Share Your Favorite Plant Photos: The 2013 MWGCM Photo Contest

-- Lloyd Wittstock

The 2013 Photo Contest gives you an opportunity to show those photos that you once used to put in an album and maybe now post to social websites. But if you give them over to the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis this month, you will be sharing them with a community of like-minded plant enthusiasts.

You can send up to 20 digital photos and two prints. So find and organize your entries, including 20 in 12 categories for the juried contest, write up your list, and send the jpeg files to Chuck Carlson at 1001 Hackmann Circle, Fridley, MN 55432. All entries will be judged by a jury of your peers, and many will be found worthy of mention. Full rules are posted at our website mwgcm.org under the "Photo Show Winners" link at the top of the page.

The prints go into the other part of our contest, the part **for members only**. You can print two of your favorite photos, with horticultural content, and mail them to us, but by all means before July 31. This part is called the People's Choice, because it is decided by ballots cast at the Flower, Food and Foto show in August, with a chance to win gift cards of \$25, \$15 and \$10 value. So you will be sharing those with a group of visitors to the Arboretum as well as with club members.

Step up to the plate; share your photos for both parts of the contest or for just one. We will take less than 20 if you only want to send a few. At least send us some. And we'll see your favorite plant, garden, wildflower, landscape or vacation photos at the Arboretum on August 17 and 18. So do like you learned in kindergarten and share.



One of the winning photos from 2012 show by Lloyd Wittstock



Looking Ahead: Holiday Party Moving to Embassy Suites

-- Larry Larson

The garden club's annual Holiday Party is moving to the banquet room at Embassy Suites for the upcoming December 10, 2013 event. New Holiday Party Chairman Larry Larson said it was a difficult decision. "I've been going to the church for the annual Holiday Party since I joined the club in 2001, but I thought we needed a different environment than our normal meeting event," he said. "I was looking for something that was a little more festive," he added, "and something that didn't require so much work from our holiday committee."

The Embassy Suites is located at Hwy. 494 and Penn Avenue just off American Boulevard in Bloomington. The event will likely cost about the same as this year's event would have cost. "Last year, the cost estimate given to us by our caterer did not include his tip and the tax, so it was quite a surprise when Treasurer Andy Marlow received his bill," Larson said. "So to make up for the tax and tip this year, the cost would have jumped to at least \$22 or \$23 even if we would have stayed at the church."

The event will be catered by the restaurant staff of Embassy Suites. The meal will consist of turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, candied carrots, a dinner roll, salad, and desert. Coffee, milk and water will also be available. Larson negotiated with Embassy Suites to get two banquet rooms for the event, giving our club plenty of room to house the silent auction and dinner tables. The meal will be served by the staff at Embassy Suites, so there will be no standing in line to get the meal.

The club can begin gathering at our banquet room at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. If you intend on bringing an item for the silent auction, you can bring it at 5:30 p.m. and give it to a member of the Holiday Committee, but no one will be allowed into the banquet hall until 6 p.m. That gives the Holiday Committee a chance to set up the silent auction. If you bring a silent auction item at 5:30, you can, if you desire, spend the extra time at the bar, which is right next to the banquet room. You may also order wine for dinner at the bar but you must pick this up yourself; no bar service will be offered by Embassy Suites personnel at our party.

Silent auction items may also be dropped off at the home of any holiday committee member. More information concerning the silent auction will be available before the party.

All the tables will be set up by the staff at Embassy Suites, meaning no member of the Holiday Committee will have to labor for 3 to 4 hours in the morning setting up the tables. The evening business meeting and award presentations will take place as usual. There will be no entertainment at this event (but Santa may make an appearance). The Embassy Suites will decorate the room in the appropriate holiday atmosphere.

Small poinsettias will be on every table, as per custom, and they will be available to take home by every lady at the table. Large poinsettias from Bachman's will also be available for either the silent auction or drawing.



Lyndale Park Garden News: Help from the “Universe”

-- Kay Wolfe



Ever declare a wish to the “Universe” and have help pour in?

Last October I visited New York City’s Central Park Conservatory Garden. I loved the way they used annuals with lots of leaf color, planted in front of stands of shrubbery. I took lots of photos and when I got home I sent them to all the Park Garden Committee members with the line – “Look at this! What an inspiration! Don’t you wish our garden could look like this?” I could not see how we could actually copy the idea because it would mean purchasing lots of annuals.

And then help came pouring in. First the Mpls. Park & Recreation Board gardeners offered us the AAS winners for our garden. Then they said we could have a budget and order plants from Rush Creek Nursery. Then Paul Aarestad, former club member who is the head gardener at Lakewood Cemetery, offered us some of their plants—they grow their own in their greenhouse and always have leftovers. We had so many offers we could not imagine how we were going to plant them all!

We bought more shrubs for backdrop plantings and installed them on Tuesday, May 7. Most of the annuals were delivered on May 21, and we planted in front of and around the shrubs—about 300 annuals. Then we left a space for more shrubbery—and planted another 100 to 200 annuals on May 28. The following week we made yet another trip to Bachman’s Wholesale store for shrubs, and planted them with the few remaining annuals in front. Most of the AAS winners were planted in the Trial Garden space. Move over Big Apple—the MWGC of the Mini-Apple is going to have spectacular public gardens too!

You must go down and take a tour this summer. Or better yet--join one of our work crews and spend time in this lovely paradise. Special thanks to all those that helped plant and design: Rog Sefelt, Tim Rosener, Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean, Judy Brooke, Mary Maynard, Steve Shubick, and MT Pulley. More Trial Garden perennials were planted this year too—Robert Kean, Nona Johnson, MT, and Mollie did the job on the Saturday crew. For information or an opportunity to weed or groom contact Kay Wolfe: mgcmgarden@q.com

(For anyone new to the club—the club donates plants and maintains a 300 foot mixed border garden and perennial trial garden in Lyndale Park in Minneapolis near Lake Harriet. Our garden is north of Roseway Road, just east of the Peace Garden across the street from the Rose Garden. A big sign on the boulevard marks the spot: “Trial Garden.” We are “Park Stewards” in partnership with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Department.)



-- Photos of Central Park Conservatory Garden by Kay Wolfe

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<http://www.mwqcm.org>



Calendar of Events for Rest of 2013

July 16

Garden Tour
Nancy Bjerke, Tami Hagen
6:30 p.m.

July 31

Photo Contest Deadline

August 3

Garden Bus Tour
Len Brenny, Don Dean, Lloyd Weber
1:00 p.m.

August 17 & 18

Flower, Food & Foto Show
U of MN Landscape Arboretum

September 10

Tomato & Pepper Festival
MWGCM members
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

October 8

“Winter Hardy Cactus & Succulents”
Craig Johnson
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

November 12

“Planting for Fall and Winter Color in Your Garden”
Terry Yockey
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

December 10

Holiday Party
Embassy Suites, Bloomington

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Robert Kean, Larry Larson, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Bob Olson, Denise Rust, Jean Strande, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe

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



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Club Officers:

President: Sandra Abraham
Eagan

Vice President: Randi Larson
Minnetonka

Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Jean Strande
Golden Valley

Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd
Minneapolis

Falcon Heights

Past President: Robert Kean
Minneapolis

Directors:

Judy Brooke
Minnetonka

Don Trocke

Bloomington

(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

July
2013