



The Garden Spray

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

2014, Volume 72, Number 9
September

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Sept 9	LPG	Trial Garden Tours
Sept. 9	LWC	"Know Your Soil"
Oct. 14	LHC	Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle
Nov. 11	LHC	Taking Better Pictures of Your Plants
Dec. 9	TBD	Holiday Party

More info on Page 11

LHC = Lake Harriet Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis

LPG = Lyndale Park Garden, Dupont Ave S. & Roseway Road, Minneapolis

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

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$13. Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Sept. 5 – **no later!** Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation. For last minute cancellations, call Nancy Bjerke at 612-353-5220. If she can sell it, you won't be billed.

Menu for September Dinner Meeting

- Roasted Pork with Gravy
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Vegetable
- Apple Spice Cake
- Salad
- Rolls

September Program Rene Lynch: Know Your Soil

Our September meeting will be at the Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum Reception Room. Rene Lynch, President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota will talk with us about our garden soil. In addition to her presentation, Rene will test up to 30 soil samples of club members for pH at the presentation. Bring your soil sample in a Ziploc bag!



Lyndale Park Garden Tours



Our Lyndale Park Garden is right around the corner from Lakewood Cemetery. Stop in before the formal club meeting for a tour – and some coleus cuttings.

Committee members will be on hand starting at 5:15.

More information on Page 4

Schedule for Tuesday, Sept. 9

- 5:15 Tour Lyndale Park Garden
- 6:00 Social time at Lakewood Reception Room
- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:00 Business meeting
- 7:30 Program

Notes from the Prez:

-- *Randi Larson*

How about our tour committee!!?! Wow, what a year! We had three terrific tours this summer. That must be a record. And that included a catered lunch at the Koopmans' and an evening of munchies and sweets on August 5th. A big thank you to all who volunteered (or were coerced) to host, greet, or feed the tour goers. Your efforts made the tours very enjoyable. The FFF show at the Arb is always a fun event to visit (and fairly stressful to participate in because one never knows what the garden will produce on that day). Thank you to everyone who brought specimens from their gardens. Judy Berglund is very persuasive. She knows the room looks more interesting when there is a lot to see.

I was pleased to read in last month's Spray about the Minneapolis public school students who visited the Lyndale Park Garden at the invitation of Minneapolis Park Board staff. It was a positive experience for all involved and some of the students might want to volunteer to work in the garden or, at least, have an appreciation for the work involved in making it look good. There will be an opportunity for us to visit the Lyndale Park Garden prior to our September meeting. Committee members will be available to guide us starting at 5:15 p.m. The garden is beautiful! We should all be proud of our club members' accomplishments



Call for Nominations

-- *Sandra Abraham*

Nominations are now open for the offices of Vice President, Treasurer, and Director for the 2015 ballot. Please contact me with any potential candidates you may want to nominate for any of these offices. If you are interested in serving in any of these offices I will be happy to talk with you about that possibility. Thank you,
Sandra Abraham, Chair, Nominating Committee

Editor's Note

-- *Mary Maynard*

We have many, many photos in this issue. Thanks to everyone who provided photos of two garden tours and the FFF Show. And thanks to everyone who made those tours and the FFF Show happen.

And I wish to thank the Tour Committee for having me on the August 5 tour. For a brief shining moment, the yard looked pretty good. And now it's back to its normal shaggy self.

You may have noticed that we have a new photo header on the front page. Thanks, Kay Wolfe, for giving me an update! You'll see our club's "living initials" at the Lyndale Park Garden. Make sure you visit the garden before the regular club meeting on September 9. The garden keeps looking better and better.



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 08-18-2014

Checking balance	\$18,493
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$ 681
Scholarship	<u>\$7,660</u>
Working Balance	\$10,152
CD	\$5,260

Membership Corner

Welcome to new members Gary Mosiman
 and Julie Carley!
 See more about Gary and Julie below.

Membership Corner

Welcome new members husband and wife, Gary Mosiman and Julie Carley from Minnetonka, email: carleymosiman@msn.com. They are members of the American, the Minnesota and the Midwest Regional Hosta Societies as well as the North Star Lily Society and the Arboretum Auxiliary. Gary and Julie have some 800 varieties of hostas in their garden. Over the years, they have hosted tours of their garden for both the Arboretum Auxiliary and the hosta societies. Julie read an article about our club in the Strib and thought it would be fun for her and Gary to become members. Subsequently, many of us enjoyed meeting Julie and Gary at the recent club tour of Bob Olson's and Mary Maynard's gardens. This gardening couple will be a welcome addition to our club and brings our total membership to 85.

Every Member Bring a Member

Judy Brooke, Membership Secretary

With September comes our return to monthly club dinner meetings and programs. Please take a few moments to focus on how you can help increase our membership. Think about someone you know that has an interest in gardening. It might be a neighbor, a work associate, a gym buddy, a church friend, a relative etc. Invite them to join us at an upcoming dinner and program. The club will pay for their meal. Again, the only prerequisite is that they are interested in gardening. Also, remember to reach out to our new members who joined in 2013 and 2014. They will be wearing the green name tags. Help us live up to our reputation of being a warm and welcoming club. Thank you one and all.

Tour the Lyndale Park Garden on Sept. 9

Kay Wolfe

Before the Sept. diner meeting at Lakewood, the Lyndale Park Garden Committee will conduct continual tours of the Lyndale Park Garden between 5:15 and 6:00 PM.

The **garden is located** at the intersection of Dupont Ave S. and Roseway Road, just around the block from the Lakewood Cemetery main entrance.

The **best spots for parking** are: 1. On Dupont Ave S. going north – there are bays for parking. This is the closest to the garden. 2. Peace Garden Parking Lot. Go west on Roseway Road and turn right in to the parking lot next to the Peace Garden. Pay at the automatic pay station.

Construction caveat: There are two large (almost 2 foot diameter) sewer pipes running along our garden out in the grass area. These are easy to climb over, but may not be for with anyone with a walking disability. However, one can sit on the pipes and toss your legs over. If you park at the Peace Garden parking lot, you can walk on the north side of the Peace Garden and avoid climbing over the sewer pipes, but it is a longer distance to the MWGCM garden.

For **handicapped parking**, it is possible to park on the grass at the construction site on the north side of Roseway Road, between the street and the sewer pipes. Two blacktop curb access sites with a woodchip road have been installed. At 5 PM the construction workers' vehicles will not be there. You can sit on the sewer pipe and enjoy the view of the garden! Such accommodations!



Coleus Cuttings Available at the Perennial and Trial Garden on Sept. 9

You will see many many beautiful coleus varieties at the Perennial and Trial Garden. September 9 is a good time to take cuttings for the winter.

We will have pots, potting soil, and scissors available for you do some cuttings to take home with you. We'll provide printed directions so you know what to do all fall and winter. Carol Schreier and Mollie Dean will be on hand to help you identify the coleus varieties.

Trial Garden Update: New “Trials”

By Kay Wolfe

In 1996 the MWGCM entered into an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota Floriculture Department to participate in a joint project growing and trialing perennials in Lyndale Park in Minneapolis. Over the years the University has obtained fewer and fewer perennials to grow and evaluate, and now in 2014, they have decided to terminate the trial project altogether. This vacates the 6 foot wide trial bed that runs the length of the 280 foot garden border—a total of 1680 square feet of garden space! Now the Lyndale Park Garden Committee has a lot more space for our very own trials. Here are some of our latest experiments. Stop by the park and see them!

Karikomi Wave

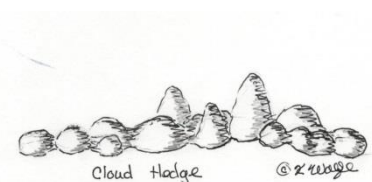


Seven *Thuja occidentalis* ‘Little Giant’ were planted in a grouping in 2013. Hopefully they will grow together and slowly merge into a “karikomi wave” – a mass of shrubbery commonly grown in Japanese gardens. Our inspiration came from the Montreal Botanical Garden – committee members Mollie Dean and MT Pulley brought back photos. As they grow, the back row of arborvitae will be pruned so that they “roll over” the front row – forming an undulating wave.



Cloud-Pruned Hedge

For this arrangement we purchased boxwood, *Buxus sempervirens*. The idea is to plant various sized balls and cones in a group, and they eventually grow together to form a cloud shape. We have grown five of the mounding ball-shape variety ‘Glencoe’ or ‘Chicagoland Green’ since 2008, so we know they are hardy. We added some of the upright cone-shape form ‘Green Mountain’ which grows 3 to 6 feet tall – and we know this variety is hardy since club member Bob Olson has grown it for years. The two varieties have a similar leaf size and color – so should merge nicely. Here is a photo of the planting done in spring of 2014, and a drawing of the “cloud” which we hope they will eventually form. This inspiration came from a great book titled *The Art of Creative Pruning* by Jake Hobson. If you visit the park garden now, take note of the tiny little coleus in the front of this grouping – they have grown!



Please remember the Park Garden Memorial Fund when you renew your membership, or plan for year-end giving. This award winning garden needs the continued support of the MWGCM members. Send any queries to Kay Wolfe at mgcmgarden@q.com.

FFF Flower and Vegetable Show Recap

Judy Berglund

This year's Flower and Vegetable portion of the Flower, Food and Foto Show was outstanding. **A BIG THANKS** to the 18 exhibitors (who brought in almost 250 exhibits) and the committee members who made everything possible. We really appreciate all of you that took the challenge and exhibited 21 outstanding amateur floral designs. We had many, many visitors at the show due to the art crawl on Saturday and the many activities on Sunday. We have 17 people interested enough in membership to sign up to start receiving our newsletter every month.

Here's a summary of the main awards:

Champion Flower and Best of Show: Coleus 'Mint Mocha' by Judy Berglund

Champion Vegetable: Small Eggplant 'Little Purple Tiger' by Judy Berglund

Reserve Champion Flower: Potted Pepper 'Black Olive Chili' by Jim Dzandara

Reserve Champion Vegetable: 'Cinderella Pumpkin' by Margaret Hibbard

Featured Flower: Zinnia 'Burpeeana Giant Mix' by Judy Berglund

Featured Vegetable: Bean 'Contender' by Judy Berglund

Best First-Time Exhibitor: Mary Barsness

Flower Sweepstakes: Margaret Hibbard

Vegetable Sweepstakes: Judy Berglund



More FFF Photos on next page

Photos from the FFF Show

By Judy Berglund, Andy Marlow and Lloyd Wittstock



Foto Contest Results

The full contest results will be announced later, but the Sweepstakes Trophy went to M.T. Pulley, and the Best in Show Photo was this picture of a water lily from Soni Forsman's garden by Mary Maynard.



Photos from July 26 Bus Tour

Photos by Alan Gallaher, Mary Maynard, M.T. Pulley, Denise Rust



Photos from August 5 Tour

By Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow and Denise Rust



Getting to Know Your Board Member: Tom McKusick

Tom McKusick

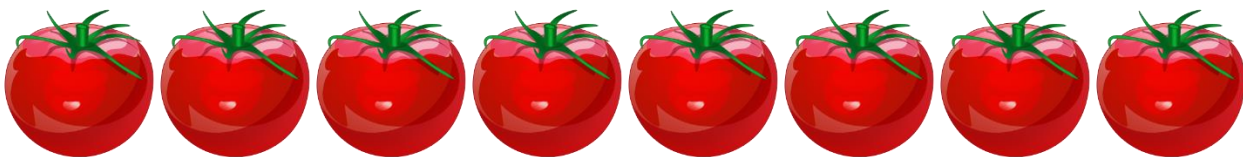
I started gardening when I bought my current house in Minneapolis in 1991, but my garden activities really stepped up when I joined the Minnesota State Horticultural Society as Publisher of *Northern Gardener* magazine in 2007. I've worked in magazine publishing since the late 80's, and this seemed like the perfect opportunity to combine my professional expertise with one of my personal interests. When you're surrounded by gardeners and seeing spectacular gardens all summer long, and exposed to magazine articles, books, and websites about gardening every day at your job it's natural to be influenced by it. I can't seem to call on any of my advertisers without purchasing a plant or two—and often more than that. It's an occupational hazard I guess.



My house sits on top of a hill with a steep slope in both the front and the back, and is shaded by seven oak trees, so gardening there has been somewhat of a challenge. Still, I like experimenting to see what I can grow—I just don't always have the greatest results. A few years ago I got tired of mowing the front lawn with its 45 degree angle, so I mulched over it and began planting it out with mostly native plants. I'm about two thirds of the way finished with converting it into what I hope will one day be an area that's relatively low maintenance. (yeah, I know—wishful thinking!)

Today, as much as anything, I'm a vegetable gardener. I have two community garden plots a couple of blocks from our office in Roseville, and it's where I grow many different types of vegetables—including 75 different varieties of tomatoes, mostly heirlooms. To some this may seem like a bit much, but in fact I scaled back a bit this year. Two years ago I grew 100.

I joined MWGCM in 2010 to experience the community of gardeners that it represents, and to help in any way I can to preserve the legacy of the club and increase its membership. I was honored to be asked to serve as an officer, and as president next year. I hope I can fulfill the club's faith in me, and I look forward to hearing your ideas on how we can make the Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis even better.



Calendar of Events for Rest of 2014

September 9

Guided tours at Lyndale Park Garden
"Know Your Soil"
Renee Lynch
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

October 14

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

November 11

"Taking Better Pictures of Your Plants"
Andy Marlow
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

December 9

Holiday Party
Location TBD



Appetizers at Bob Olson's Garden on August 5

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Mollie Dean, Bonnie Haehn, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Judy Berglund, Chuck Carlson, Alan Gallaher, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, M.T. Pulley, Denise Rust, Lloyd Wittstock

**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

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