



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

**2015, Volume 73, Number 12  
December**



**Upcoming Events**

**Holiday Party on December 8!**

*Larry Larson, Committee Chair*

Date	Location	Event
Dec. 8	ES	Holiday Party
Jan. 12	LHC	Peonies: Bounteous Blooms and Lush Foliage (Mary Yee)
Feb. 9	LHC	Landscaping with Iris and Siberian Iris (William Dougherty)
Mar. 8	LWC	Flowering Shrubs (Debbie Lonnee)
Mar. 29	Macy's	Macy's Bachman's Flower Show

Don't forget to send in your reservation for this year's holiday party. The party is set for Tuesday, December 8 at 6 pm at the Embassy Suites West in Bloomington. Dinner is at 7 pm.

This year's dinner will consist of turkey with all the trimmings, so don't miss out! Get your checks for \$23 each sent to Larry Larson ASAP. All checks must be received by Larry on or before Dec. 1.

This year's added attraction will be Benny Weinbeck, an electric piano player. He will be performing from 6 to 7 pm.

Please remember to bring a silent auction item to the party. The more items we have, the more fun it is. You can deliver your silent auction items to any holiday committee member or bring it with you to the party.

You can find all the pertinent information about this event including the reservation form in last month's Spray. See you there!

*Not sure where this Embassy Suites is? Rudimentary map is on Page 4*

*ES= Embassy Suites 2800 American Blvd West, Bloomington  
LHC= Lake Harriet Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis  
LWC= Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S, Minneapolis*

*More calendar information on Page 11*

**Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the Holiday Party.**

Reservations must be **at Larry's house** by **December 1**. Reservation form was in the November Spray. Link to November Spray on our website:  
[http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Events\\_files/Spray1115\\_1.pdf](http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Events_files/Spray1115_1.pdf)

**Looking Ahead to January:  
Peonies: Bounteous Blooms and Lush Foliage**

## Notes from the Prez

-- Tom McKusick

When I was thinking about what I wanted to say in my final President's note, I reflected back on this past year and my experience as president versus what I expected when I agreed to take on the role. Like some others who've been asked to serve as Vice President, and then President, I was concerned that the duties would be too much with my full-time job. And at times, it was a fair amount of work. But the challenges were mostly good ones—certainly there are more unpleasant tasks to be had than dealing with an unexpected windfall like the Deane gift.

What I found time and again as the year progressed was that I was surrounded by a really great team of board members who are willing to work hard, share responsibilities and tackle projects that weren't always easy, like making updates to policies in the member handbook and restructuring parts of our budget. I'd especially like to thank Judy Brooke and Alan Gallaher for solving some of these thorny issues—the club will benefit from their efforts for many years to come.

So based on my experience, if you're asked to serve on the board as an officer—or even as the Vice President—I urge you to consider it. Don't immediately dismiss it as too much work. Yes, at times it may be demanding, but that's what serving as a volunteer in a group like this one is all about, isn't it? And for me at least, the rewards that resulted from meeting goals as part of an outstanding team made it worth the effort. I'm proud of our accomplishments on behalf of the club this year, and I'm grateful I had the opportunity to serve as president.

But just because I'm leaving the office of president doesn't mean you're rid of me for good in the pages of this newsletter. Nancy Felice and I will be co-editing the *Spray* starting in January,

taking over from Mary Maynard who is finally ready to pass on her editor's pen. While Nancy and I will have some changes in store for the *Spray*, including its format, we're acutely aware of the daunting assignment ahead of us to live up to the stellar standards Mary set during her long tenure as editor. Wish us luck!

## Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

My swan song! One of the things I like about being the editor of the *Spray* is that I know what's in it before it goes out. From now on, I will have to wait for the *Spray* to get to my mailbox just like other members. I have also been happy to serve as editor or co-editor for the past 10 years because I will never be able to give as much back to the club as it has given me.

But it's time for a fresh look, new eyes and new energy. And Tom and Nancy have the skill and insight and energy to take the *Spray* in a new direction befitting the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

My thanks go out one last time to all of you who have contributed to the *Spray*, especially to the ten presidents – starting with David McKeen and finishing up with Tom McKusick; and to photographers Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock who have documented so many Club events. The *Spray* would be nothing without all of you contributors, and I am most grateful.

I am looking forward to doing a little more writing myself. You may see a few "Lazy Gardener" articles in future *Sprays*. In the meantime, an excerpt of an old article is on Pages 9 and 10.

Wishing you all the best this holiday season! See you at the Holiday Party!

## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 11/22/2015

Checking balance	\$83,755
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park Garden	\$ 3,985
Scholarship	\$ 6,950
Deane	<u>\$ 62,434</u>
Working Balance	\$ 10,388
Petty Cash	\$ 100
CD	\$ 5,282

## Membership Corner

**Every Member Bring a Member**

## Welcome New Members: Katherine Schafer and Zan Tomko

*By Judy Brooke and Sandra Mangel*

Katherine Schafer lives on 32nd & Aldrich. She purchased her home in 1979. Her front gardens and the boulevard face west where Katherine plants perennials, edibles, and sprinkles in annuals for constant color. Her inspiration comes from visiting other gardens and chatting with other gardeners. "That is why I joined the club, to interact with likeminded people and I have found the MWGCM members to be very friendly."

She looks for additions to her garden emphasizing no neonicotinoids. As a former teacher, her summers were free allowing her time to cultivate extensive gardens which occupy the boulevard, front and backyards.

When she is not in the garden, she loves to travel and is now planning a trip to Norway.

Zan Tomko moved from Illinois to Minneapolis four years ago. Her interest in plants began as an undergraduate taking a course in weaving and learning what plants give dyes. She has a B.S. degree in Art Education and a Master's degree in Fine Arts Photography. Zan has taken several courses in horticulture and in Peoria IL worked for the Park District helping design a prairie restoration project. She's also taught adaptive gardening for people in transition.

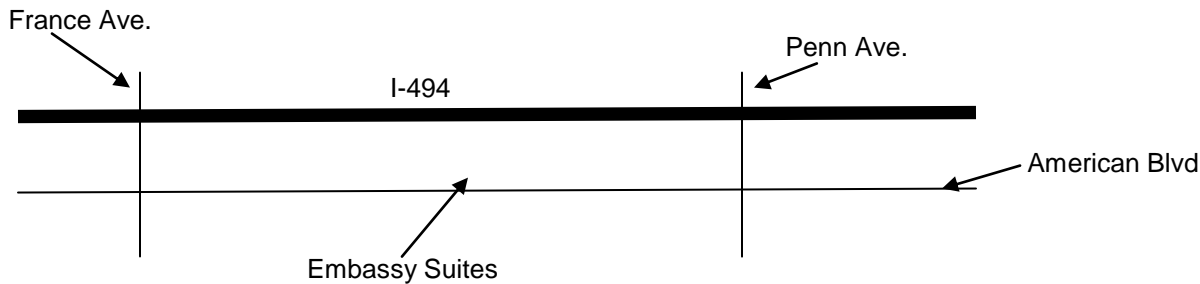
Currently Zan is an instructor at Takoda Institute where colleague and garden club member Lloyd Wittstock told her about our club. She also works part time at the Arboretum, doing community outreach at the Learning Center. For more about Zan, go to her website, [www.zantomko.com](http://www.zantomko.com)

Congratulations to Robert Kean for reaching the 25-year mark. Robert joined the club in 1990.



## Holiday Party: Embassy Suites Dec. 8

This Embassy Suites is located near SouthTown on American Boulevard between Penn and France Avenues in Bloomington. Here's a rudimentary map, but you'd do much better with Mapquest or Google Maps or your GPS. 2800 American Blvd West, Bloomington. See you there!



## 2016 Officers and Directors Elected

The following slate of officers was elected at the November club meeting. The Vice President slot remains open, and the rest of the Board will cover the VP duties.

President: Judy Brooke  
 Vice President: Open  
 Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin  
 Treasurer: Alan Gallaher  
 Past President: Tom McKusick

Directors: Steve Shubick  
 Judy Berglund  
 Bonnie Haehn  
 Dave McKeen

Also, Sandra Abraham has agreed to serve another term as President in 2017 with the condition that she *not* serve on the Board as either VP in 2016 or Past President in 2018. This condition was accepted enthusiastically.

Thank you all for your service to MWGCM. Thank you to Randi as she rotates off the Board after a three-year stint, and to Sandra, who has found a way to serve the club yet again.

## **Board Meeting Highlights**

*Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary*

- The slate of officers and directors was presented at the November board meeting. We do not have Vice President nominee; responsibilities of the vice president will be carried out by Board members.
- Budget was reviewed, with changes made to line items for committees. The Deane Fund will move from the General Fund to being a Designated Fund.
- 2016 programs have been set.
- Scholarship winners were named.
- Rookie of the Year Award recipients were named.
- President's Cup awardee was named.

*The full minutes are available to any member who'd like more information after the minutes have been approved by the Board. Please get in touch with Laurie for a copy.*

## **Letter to the Editor, December, 2015**

Dear Mary:

Thank you so very much for your long run at Editor of the club's newsletter *The Garden Spray*.

Mary has been our editor for 10 long years! She and former member Jason Rathe took over the Spray editor duties in 2005. For a few years Jason did the layout, and Mary gathered the information. However, for most of the last 10 years, the Spray has been under Mary's guiding hand.

Mary sets the club's yearly calendar. She sends out monthly notices to all of us, reminding us of articles due. And on months when there is an annual event on the calendar – she contacts the appropriate members for information – tour information in summer, the slate of officers for November, the budget to be approved at the January meeting. The Spray and its Editor run our club! And she has been keeping us all going for 10 years, 12 months of every year, with no break. She even schedules her vacations around the Spray deadlines.

So, a huge thanks to Mary for all her hard work. We will miss your editorial column and your great sense of humor. Hopefully, that will still appear in special articles!

Kay Wolfe  
In awe of the Editor

*Your editor is blushing. My thanks for all the kind words – from Kay and from so many other members.*

## Terrace Award Goes to Jerry and Lee Shannon

*Kent Petterson*

Jerry and Lee Shannon received the Terrace Award from Terrace Horticultural Books at a reception on Saturday, November 14. Here is some background from Kent Petterson, who is the proprietor of Terrace Horticultural Books in St. Paul:

Minnesota has been blessed with many great gardeners, but none are more important than the husband and wife team of Jerry and Lee Shannon of St. Paul. It would be impossible to spend even a few minutes with either one of them without discovering their passion for gardens and for gardening.

Jerry and Lee are hands on practitioners; there probably isn't a plant type they haven't tried to grow with great success. We all know there are limits to our success in zone 4 Minnesota, but with the help of a greenhouse and their experienced touch, an inspired and beautiful garden is the result.

Their garden encompasses two-thirds of an acre. They are collectors of unusual woody and herbaceous plants which are grown in sunny and shady perennial borders, a dwarf conifer collection, a large rock garden, a cactus garden, a vegetable garden, a formal garden and a roof top garden. The educational nature of their gardening has been extended through featured stories in various periodicals and television features. In 2011 the Minneapolis Star Tribune named the Shannon garden one of five most beautiful gardens in Minnesota.

Both Jerry and Lee have been active in the Minnesota State Horticultural Society for close to 50 years, volunteering in many capacities, serving on committees on the Board and as President in Jerry's case.

*Congratulations on a well-deserved award! Photo courtesy of Kent Petterson.*



## Lyndale Park Garden News

*Kay Wolfe*



The Lyndale Park Garden Committee “wrapped up” the season on Tuesday November 3. It was a beautiful day with temps still reaching into the 60’s. As you can see in this photo, the garden now looks like a temporary village. Our attempts at winter protection do seem to pay off. We fence the shrubs we know the deer find tasty with snow fence. Of course, it really won’t keep them out if they are determined, but it seems to cause them to wander on and graze elsewhere. Some evergreens, especially in their first season, get burlap screens built around them. This works better than actually wrapping the shrub itself with burlap – less chance for the burlap to pull moisture out of the needles. We hope all will survive and be in good shape next April! Now it’s time for a winter rest.

Thanks so much to the great committee: Rog Sefelt and Robert Kean as crew leaders; Rog, Tim Rosener, Sharla Aaseng who manage design for a portion of the garden; all the workers that are there weekly: Sharla, Mollie Dean, Don Doeksen, James Empson, Marcia Hunter, Nona Johnson, Robert, MT Pulley, Tim, Steve Shubick, and Kathy Lenarz. And thanks to all members that donated to the garden fund last year – we have planted lots of new shrubs this year. This year some of the committee members started a new committee – the LP Native Garden-- and began installing native pollinators to the west of our mixed border garden; and the Arbor Day Committee is planning to refurbish the areas to the east – removing buckthorn and planting shrubs. The MWGCM is continuing its legacy of caring for Lyndale Park.

Contact me if you are interested in any of these public garden groups. We have great fun and learn a lot! I’m at: [mngcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mngcmgarden@q.com) or 952-922-0762. Kay Wolfe, Chair of the LP “Mixed Border Garden.”

*There’s always something new to learn at the park gardens! Photo courtesy of Kay Wolfe*

**Photos from November Meeting**  
*Mary Maynard and Lloyd Wittstock*





## From the "Confessions of a Lazy Gardener" Archives: Fall Cleanup

*By Mary Maynard, excerpted from the October, 2000 Spray*

Hmmm. How much of this do I really do? Probably more than I think. Here's a list.

Identify anything that could qualify as "winter interest". This is another way to say "What could be put off until spring with some minimal justification?" I leave up the grasses and sedums for sure. Probably the coneflowers and verberna bonariensis, maybe obedient plants, anise hyssop, anything else that looks kind of structural or provides seed heads for the birds. Also the mums: I've found that they do better if left standing, for whatever reason.

Cut back perennials that don't meet the "winter interest" criteria after they have died back.

Remove the annuals that have frozen. These can be easily identified as the things that look dead. I compost most of the annual remains, but I do get completely rid of things that might carry some disease -- mainly the tomato and pepper plants (possible carrier for blight or leaf spot diseases), and things like zinnias and phlox that are subject to powdery mildew.

Dig up the tender bulbs, if you feel like it. Many people prefer to buy new dahlia bulbs each year. There's something to be said for this, but I'm too cheap. I save cannas, dahlias and callas from year to year. Cannas and callas get stored in big plastic garbage bags in a dark closet in the basement that stays about 55 - 60 degrees. Dahlias need to stay cooler, so they are stored in a styrofoam cooler out in the minimally-heated tuck-under garage. (I'm saving the details of dahlia handling for an article next year. You'll have to renew your membership to hear about Dahlias the Lazy way.)

Rake up the leaves, if you're lucky enough to have trees. This isn't a huge problem at our place. In fact, we have to rake up the neighbors' leaves to get enough. This makes us look very altruistic and neighborly, when in actuality we're selfishly hoarding leaves. We only rake the leaves on the lawn. Leaves in the flower bed become "winter protection" and stay there until spring. Sometimes, they become "mulch" in the spring and never get raked out....

Cut back all irises and dispose of the leaves. This is an attempt to prevent borer eggs from wintering over. This is probably futile, since they'll just come over from the neighbors', but give it a shot.

Pull out the shredder and shred up all the stuff in the compost pile. This will minimize the space taken up by all those dry, dead stems and will speed up the composting process. Do not attempt to shred vegetable "scraps" such as whole zucchini or watermelons in the shredder. It's not pretty. After shredding is complete, run the shredder until it runs out of gas and store it for another season.

*Continued on next page*

**Lazy Gardener: Fall Cleanup** – *Continued from Page 9*

Protect the roses and tender perennials with leaves. Mums seem to survive better when covered with loose leaves rather than bags of leaves for some reason. I won't bore you with the details of rose protection here, since it's been covered before.

Check labels and replace or renew those that don't look like they'll make it through the winter. I have to admit that I have trouble remembering which daylily is which in the spring, so I try to make sure the labels are intact and easy to read.

Stash containers, statuary, etc. in the porch, shed or garage to keep them dry and avoid damage from freezing water over the winter.

You might have noticed that I have not advocated completely cleaning out the hosta beds to reduce the slug egg population and for general hosta hygiene. Bob Olson has described his laudable practices in this area. I remind you that Bob does not qualify as a Lazy Gardener, in this or any other area.

OK. If it isn't time to do Christmas shopping by now, pick up a few good books, curl up by the fire, and wait for the seed catalogs to start coming in!



**Did you know that**

The earliest sunset is 4:32 p.m. The sun sets at 4:32 for 13 days in a row, starting on December 4.

The latest sunrise is at 7:51 a.m. The sun rises at 7:51 for 12 days in a row, starting on December 28.

*Data from Astronomical Applications Department, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, DC*

## Calendar of Events

### **December 8, 2015**

Holiday Party  
Embassy Suites  
2800 American Boulevard **West**  
Bloomington

### **January 12, 2016**

Peonies: Bounteous Blooms and Lush Foliage  
Mary Yee, Minnesota Peony Society  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

### **February 9, 2016**

Landscaping with Iris and Siberian Iris  
William Dougherty  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

### **March 8, 2016**

Flowering Shrubs  
Debbie Lonnee  
Lakewood Cemetery

### **March 29**

Macy's Bachman's Flower Show  
Macy's Downtown

### **May 10**

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

### **June 14**

Tips for Competing in Plant Shows  
Judy Berglund, Mary Maynard and Friends  
Lakewood Cemetery

### **July & August**

Garden Tours  
Dates and time TBA

### **August 20 & 21**

Flower, Food and Foto Show  
U of M Landscape Arboretum

### **September 13**

Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to your  
Garden  
Lakewood Cemetery

### **October 11**

Hydroponic Gardening  
Larry Cipolla  
Lakewood Cemetery

### **November 8**

Low Maintenance Lawn Care  
Sam Bauer  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

### **December 13**

Holiday Party  
Location TBD

### **This Month's Contributors: Thank You!**

Printed Content: Judy Brooke, Mollie Dean, Alan Gallaher, Larry Larson, Laurie Levin, Sandra Mangel, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kay Wolfe.

Photography: Mary Maynard, Kent Petterson, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe

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



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**Club Officers:**

**President: Tom McKusick**

Minneapolis

**Vice President & Membership Secretary:**

**Judy Brooke**

Minnetonka

**Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin**

Golden Valley

**Treasurer: Alan Gallaher**

Edina

**Past President: Randi Larson**

Minnetonka

**Directors:**

**Judy Berglund**

Minnetonka

**Bonnie Haehn**

Minneapolis

**David McKeen**

St. Louis Park

**Steve Shubick**

St. Paul

**The Spray**

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.

Return To:

**The Garden Spray**

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

Mary Maynard, Editor

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**First Class Mail**

*December*  
**2015**