

MEN'S & WOMEN'S



GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

December 2019

The Garden Spray

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Larry Larson, Sandra Mangel, Becky DeLaCruz

2019 MWGCM

HOLIDAY PARTY & SILENT AUCTION

Reservations are due Monday, December 2

[Dinner RSVP & Silent Auction Form](#)

Tuesday, December 10

Embassy Suites, Bloomington

2800 American Boulevard West (off Penn Ave. & 494)

6:00 p.m. - Social Hour, Ring Toss Game, Silent Auction begins, slideshow of club events, appetizers and cash bar.

7:00 p.m. - Dinner followed by announcement of awards, Dean Fund grant recipient and scholarships winners.

Submit your 2019 Holiday Party and Silent Auction Reservation Form ASAP to Sandy Mangel, 4100 Bryant Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55409.

Please email any 2019 MWGCM event photos to [Anne Spenningsby](#) ASAP, to be included in the slideshow.



GET READY TO MAKE YOUR BIDS!

Silent Auction bidding will occur during the social hour and dinner. Members are asked to bring items for the Silent Auction between 5 - 6 p.m. Proceeds from member-donated items will benefit our General Fund. Ideas for member-donated

items include:

- Homemade baked goods, candies, cakes, jam/jellies, etc.
- Homemade or handcrafted items (quilting, note cards, crafts, etc.).
- Tickets to events/movies.
- Wine/beer for the auction or Ring Toss.
- Gift certificates or gift cards to restaurants, garden centers, etc.
- Donations of time, talent or services (gardening consultation, teaching a craft or skill, making a meal, etc.).
- New gardening items such as birdhouses/feeders, plants, books, tools, pots, etc.
- Remember: bring things that you yourself would buy--no white elephant gifts please!

If you know what you are donating, please fill out the "Member-donated Silent Auction Items" section of the Reservation Form. You can email [Becky DeLaCruz](#) with this information or call her at (727) 644-0176 through Sunday, December 8, or bring your item to the Holiday Party before 6 p.m.

Browse your Silent Auction Catalog

Businesses have been solicited in recent weeks, making for a wide-variety of businesses-donated items. A Silent Auction Catalog has been emailed to members and contains a list of business-donated gift cards and other items. We hope the catalog will help you prepare for a fun night of "shopping."

Need a ride?

If you need of transportation to the Holiday Party and Silent Auction, please email [Kathy Lenarz](#) or call (612) 869-8471.

Have questions?

Questions pertaining to the Holiday Party, please email [Larry Larson](#) or [Sandy Mangel](#). Questions pertaining to the Silent Auction, please email [Becky DeLaCruz](#) or call (727) 644-0176.

Please submit your 2019 Holiday Party and Silent Auction Reservation Form ASAP. It will be a night to remember.

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolf, Chair

END-OF-SEASON REFLECTIONS



It has been an absolute joy this year to create such an outstanding work of art with my committee at the Lyndale Park Gardens. Here are their comments on how the year went:

*"I appreciate that Mother Nature handled most of the watering! I enjoyed showing off the garden during the "Evening in the Gardens" event. I feel challenged to design my section of the garden for next year and look forward to the results. I value the deepening friendships that the garden workgroup fosters, and I enjoy learning from you, Kay."
--Cece Keefe*

*"We have much to be thankful for. The space itself is a challenge to our group as it provides a blank canvas yearly for change and the opportunity to expand our knowledge of new planting materials. Working with the group has given me the confidence to try new ideas in my own yard. I love the idea of giving time to a garden that so many are able to enjoy. When some in our group have had health issues, others generously step up to provide extra time and effort to complete the job. Kay, you know that none of this would happen without your devotion, drive, and organizational efforts. Thanks for a wonderful year."
--Judy Eiden*

"Every Spring, I think the garden can't possibly be more beautiful than the previous year, but then amazingly it is. The generous rain really helped in keeping the garden looking large and lush for the whole summer. I'll also credit the design folks for their excellent garden designs and selection of plant materials.

*"Other highlights:
The gardens (Natives, Shade, Border, Winter Interest) are all maturing and looking good. They flow together to create a continuous beautiful expanse.*

"The Pawpaw trees (considered marginally hardy in our zone) came through the extreme winter with no trouble and are actually starting to look like trees (about 6 feet tall now).

*"Progress was made in taming the wild and weedy areas in the back of the gardens. This makes the whole area look better and should reduce weed encroachment into the border beds."
--Robert Kean*

*"There's nothing like the smell of mulch and wood chips in the morning!"
--Paul Waytz*

*"Each person on the committee is an excellent gardener and each one brings a special skill--pruning, designing, diagnosing issues, organizing the work--so that the whole garden flourishes with beauty and health."
--Mollie Dean*

Thanks to the committee and the whole club for such an enjoyable season. There is always space for new recruits. Join our committee in 2020. Sign up at mgcmgarden@g.com.

In art and gardening,
--Kay Wolf

Nominating Committee Update

Mary Barsness, Chair

2020 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Anne Spenningsby, Phoenix Heller, Linda Wilkins, Bill Clark, Sue Clark, Mary Barsness, Linda Thompson, Kathy Lenarz (not pictured: Suzanne Holt)

At the annual business meeting of the MWGCM held on November 12, 2019, at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, the following officers and directors were unanimously elected for 2020:

President - Linda Wilkins

Vice President - Phoenix Heller

Recording Secretary - Sue Clark

Membership Secretary - Kathy Lenarz

Treasurer - Bill Clark

Directors - Mary Barsness, Linda Thompson, Suzanne Holt

Past President - Anne Spenningsby

Photo: Andy Marlow

Deane Fund Grants Update

APA'HALAKA GARDEN AT LAKE HARRIET

Though the arctic willow has lost most of its color, its structure retains its beautiful shape and continues to be a source of fascination when November winds swirl around the lake. The ninebark is a deeper maroon and has its own particular form. Though the dogwood has lost its golden leaves, the bark provides the bright interest we were striving for. We will see what transpires when the snow flies.



--Paul Waytz

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

The days are shorter and the evenings longer, as we prepare to gather with family and friends for holiday celebrations. As another year slopes towards its end, it is only natural to look back and register thanks for all we have been given.

From the membership perspective, 2019 has been another good year. We have a total of 136 members, including 19 who joined during the year, and 24 who have been members for 20 or more years.

Most of our new members initially came because they were invited by a current club member. Others heard about us from our plant sale, found us online, or saw us working at Lyndale Park Gardens.

Newer club members wear the green name tags at our meetings. Veteran members, remember to include them in your conversations. New members, please

feel free to ask questions and join in. We are glad to have you with us.

And to all Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis members, thank you for all your volunteer time; the knowledge, advice and the plants you have shared; your smiles, laughs, and companionship.

Every member bring a member.

IN MEMORIAM

CAROLE ANN BREKKE



Carole Ann joined the club in 1995. In 1997 she joined the Club Tour committee, eventually serving as co-chair, then chair. Her garden was on many club and public tours. She was president when the club hosted the MGA/TGOA national convention in 2001. She was also a member of the Plant Auction and Hospitality Committees. Carole Ann's contributions were recognized with the 2005 President's Cup, 2012 Outstanding Service Award and 2015 Lehman Trophy.

Club members share their remembrances:

"Carole Ann and I had so much fun organizing club tours. While Club Tour chair in 2000, she convinced me to have a sit-down afternoon tea in my garden for all members attending and helped make it the "most talked about event" for years. I have such wonderful memories of the fun and great gardening ideas we shared. Carole Ann attended meetings and helped with hospitality until her illness

prevented her from participating. She was an outstanding club member and is greatly missed."

--Kay Wolfe

"When I think of Carole Ann, I think of her beautiful smile. It showed her joy in life and her welcoming spirit. She had a beautiful garden at home. The front yard had a unique flowing water feature she constructed with her husband Doug. The back yard had many beautiful spaces featuring a multitude of plants all correctly and beautifully placed and thriving. At her funeral we learned about the many people whom Carole Ann impacted, and I am glad that she brought her smile and spirit to MWGCM."

--Mollie Dean

"Carole Ann was one of the sweetest, nicest people in the club, as well as an excellent gardener. She was also fascinated by my alternate persona as Santa Andy. One year I put up a visit from Santa as a silent auction item at our Holiday Party. Naturally Carole Ann was the winning bidder, and if I remember correctly, the only bidder. I went to her beautifully decorated house when her two granddaughters were visiting. The younger one was charmed; the teen-ager not as much. But Carole Ann was delighted by the whole thing and kept thanking me for many months after."

--Andy Marlow

"Our club members had tremendous respect for Carole Ann. This was exhibited in 2017 when Carole Ann and Doug's son was to be married in their garden. There was much to do including weeding, trimming trees and shrubs, and eventually decorating the gardens for the ceremony. One of her dear friends from the neighborhood requested assistance from the MWGCM. The call went out and a dozen or so members stepped up to get the gardens in tip-top shape. Carole Ann was highly treasured as a friend and member of the club and will not be soon forgotten."

--Sandra Abraham

"The first thing I think of when I think of Carole Ann is her garden. She seemed able to grow almost anything, and every corner had a fabulous vignette. (Former member Eldon Hugelen always speculated that the topsoil from her entire housing development ended up on Carole Ann and Doug's lot.) Carole Ann was always willing to be on tours and also hosted some fine root beer float parties for board

members and committee chairs.

"The second thing I think of about Carole Ann is more of a feeling: my extreme gratitude. In 1999, I was the head of the Nominating Committee, and was getting nowhere trying to find a vice president. After calling 15 club members who all declined, I was sinking into depression. In desperation, I called Carole Ann, though I knew Doug had a serious health scare. Despite that, Carole Ann said 'yes.' In honor of Carole Ann, I am going to try to say 'yes'"more often."

--Mary Maynard

"The first thing I think of with Carole Ann was her warmth. We shared a name and a birthday. I always thought those elementary kids who rode her school bus were really lucky. Just think of her warmth and her smile greeting them each day. She was a wonderful Grandma too and gardener and club member. She truly left this world a better place."

--Carol Schreier

[Read obituary for Carole Ann Brekke.](#)

Board Meeting Highlights

Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

Highlights from the November 5, 2019 Board meeting:

The 2020 program and speakers have been finalized. Highlights for the coming year include a speaker on Chinese gardens, a member/speaker on succulents, and a presentation on Gardening for the Ages.

The 2020 budget process is underway with input from committee chairs. Membership renewal is underway as well.

The board approved establishment of the Website Committee. Kate Ladner as webmaster will serve as liaison with the Marketing and Publicity Committee.

The Nominating Committee submitted the slate of candidates for 2020, for vote at the Annual Membership on November 12.

Scholarships have been approved for four students at \$1,000 each.

A Deane Fund grant application for the Garlic Project at Plant, Grow, Share was reviewed and approved.

[Read the complete version of the Secretary's minutes.](#)

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Bill Clark, Co-treasurers

U.S. Bank

Beginning balance	\$ 55,328.33
Bank deposits	\$697.00
Checks paid	\$1,432.23
Ending balance	\$ 54,593.10

Royal Credit Union (Deane Fund)

Balance	\$ 69,105.54
Total Balance	\$123,698.64

2019 Meeting & Event Calendar

December 10

Annual Holiday Party & Silent Auction

2019 Officers & Directors

Club Officers

President

Anne Spenningsby
Minneapolis

Vice President

Linda Wilkins
Richfield

Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Sue Clark
Minnetonka

Co-treasurers

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Bill Clark
Minnetonka

Past President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Directors

John Cooke
St. Louis Park

Suzanne Holt
Minneapolis

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

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