



Holiday Party Update Sandra Mangel, Chair



MWGCM Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction

Tuesday, December 14, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Embassy Suites Banquet Hall
2800 American Blvd. W., Bloomington

- Social hour with punch and appetizers (cash bar in lobby).
- Silent Auction of member-donated items.
- Full turkey dinner with dessert bar.
- Electric piano entertainment by Benny Weinbeck.

We extend a special invitation to MWGCM members and their guests, especially new club members and others who have not attended before.

Holiday Party Program includes:

Special commentary by Andy Marlow and Mary Maynard.

Presentation of the U of MN Arboretum Winter Lights exhibit with Peter Moe.

Announcement of MWGCM Award winners.

Important: Submit your [Holiday Party reservation form](#) along with the \$35/person by Monday, December 6.

Silent Auction Details

Club members are asked to contribute items for the Silent Auction to help offset Holiday Party costs not covered by the \$35/person fee.

Please bring your Silent Auction items to the banquet hall between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. Bid sheets will be filled out that evening.

Suggested items include:

- Homemade baked goods, candies, cakes, jam/jellies, etc.
- Homemade or handcrafted items (quilting, note cards, crafts, etc.).
- Tickets to events/movies.
- Wine or specialty beers.
- Gift certificates or gift cards to restaurants, garden centers, etc.
- Donating your time, talent or services (gardening consultation, teaching a craft or skill, making a meal, etc.).
- New, unused gardening items such as bird houses/feeders, plants, books, tools, pots, etc.

Please bring items that you yourself would buy—no white elephant gifts please!

Bidding will be open from 6:00 to 7:40 p.m. Announcements will be made 10 minutes prior to the end of bidding and also when the auction ends.

Winning bidders may pay for their items after the program; cash, checks (made out to the MWGCM) or credit cards will be accepted.

(Members whose donated items have not sold are asked to take their items home that evening.)

From the President Linda Wilkins

As the holiday season approaches, I've been thinking that the world is a much scarier place now. Is it possible to have a holiday like in the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" for just a week? Or even one day?

Many recent events have changed the focus of our lives. The climate is forcing our attention on how we've taken our natural resources for granted. COVID is forcing our attention on how we socialize, gather or even sneeze in public. And increased crime has forced us to be more aware of our surroundings.

We gardeners have always been students of the weather and natural resources. We continue to learn and adjust to environmental changes and do what we can to leave our world a better and more beautiful place than when we started. This letter marks the beginning of the holiday season and a good time to be filled with hope for the future.

Don't forget we are celebrating this last year with our holiday party. Please join us as we recognize those who have gone the extra mile for our club. We'll enjoy entertainment by Peter Moe and the lights of the Arboretum, Benny at the piano, and our own Andy and Mary. We'll have a silent auction with items donated by the members. It will truly be a wonderful night!

We'll gather at the Embassy Suites on Tuesday, December 14. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with punch and hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Masks are preferred during the social hour. Dinner begins at 7:00 and the awards program at 7:30. Remember to bring or contribute an item for the silent auction even if you're not attending the party. If you can't bring it to the party, call Linda at (612) 597-6200, and we'll pick it up.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the party.

Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair

Retiring

It has been my great pleasure, honor and joy to have been the chair of the MWGCM public garden in Lyndale Park for the past twenty seasons.

In 1996 MGCM entered into an agreement with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to plant and maintain a Perennial Trial



Garden. The University of Minnesota Department of Horticulture ran the garden, and growers who wished to have their perennials evaluated in the three-year trial donated plants. MGCM planted and maintained the garden, data was taken by a Hennepin County Master Gardener, and the results were available on the university floriculture website.

Since only a six-foot deep border was needed for the Trial Garden, the committee began designing, planting and maintaining the space behind it. The Park Board named this garden the “Perennial Mixed Border.” Around 2014, the university stopped running the Perennial Trial, and the whole space became a designed garden.

In 2002, I offered to chair the Perennial Garden Committee, which has evolved into the Mixed Border Garden Committee .

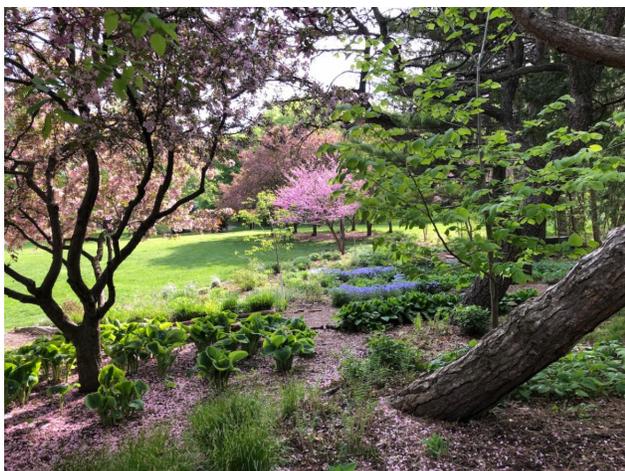
It has been my honor to have worked with some very talented horticulturists and I have learned a lot from them. Many thanks to Rog Sefelt who was in charge of maintenance (and in charge of me, too, for many years!). Tim Rosener, first the MPRB Rose Garden gardener, and then one of our volunteers, shared valuable advice. Sharla Aaseng helped me with design and plant procurement. Many volunteers helped plant, weed, and maintain the beds.

When I agreed to be the chair in 2002, I never dreamed this garden would become such a place of beauty. It is amazing what can happen when you have a vision and a team of people to not only share that vision, but help create it.

The leadership role of this project will now be in the capable hands of Robert Kean. Robert has been on the committee since its inception and has led the Saturday crew for many years.

Many thanks to the club for such an amazing experience.

Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens Carol Schreier & Mary Helebrant, Co-chairs



Looking back at this past season, I just finished the report for the Park Board for 2021. Twenty-one gardeners put in 401 hours digging in the dirt at the native/shade gardens. That includes a successful launch of the Self-Guided Walking Tour of the gardens on the club web site. It is now accessible to anyone.

It has been a time of transition as Mary Helebrant and I sort out the division of responsibilities that Kirky and I shouldered during the years of developing these gardens. As it is with gardeners, we are expanding. Not in a direct way but more gradually, a few feet here, a few more there. We will recognize the new area next spring as we open the gardens. “Did we really move out that far?”

I look out on my home gardens and wonder where is the soft snow cover? It must be November if I am yearning for snow. The gardens are waiting. As we order ephemerals for the new areas and plan how to beautify the areas between our gardens and the paths separating us from Lakewood Cemetery, I am aware of a sense of satisfaction that comes with working in these gardens: the sweetness of working alongside like-minded gardeners, the pleasure of talking with the many people who walk by when we are in the gardens, and the sense of gratitude to be able to be stewards of these spaces.

--Carol Schreier

Scholarship Committee M.T. Pulley, Chair

The MWGCM Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following awards for 2021.

The recipients of \$1,000 scholarships are:

William Stengel, a sophomore at Central Lakes College studying Horticulture and Greenhouse Management. His GPA is 3.37 and he expects to graduate in the spring of 2022. He won the Minnesota State FFA competition in floriculture CDE which applies knowledge of greenhouse management, landscape and floral design. (No easy task as over 500 students compete!)

Isaac Malone is a second year student at Central Lakes College studying Sustainable Landscaping. He is the vice president of the Horticulture Club at CLC. He is active in Petal it Forward and also volunteers at the arboretum in Brainerd.

Mary Autio is a second year student at Central Lakes College with a 4.0 GPA. Her area of study is Arboriculture, Sustainable Greenhouse Production and Local Foods. She also completed a Local Foods Certificate, earning a place on the President's List for Academic Honors.

Two \$500 Horticulture Education Grants were also awarded. These students were awarded scholarships in 2020 and applied again this year.

Taylor Lee is a junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities studying Plant Science and Horticulture Production. Her GPA is 3.2 and she expects to graduate in December of 2022. This summer she taught gardening to elementary students at The Children's Farm in Stillwater. At the U of M she studies organic farming methods, integrated pest management and the biological and chemical components of plants and weed plant identification.

Quinn Mathisen is in his second year at Central Lakes College studying Sustainable Landscaping. His classes include plant science, arboriculture, deck, pond and patio construction and integrated pest management. He is also an active member of the CLC Horticulture Club.

The committee thanks all of our members for their continued support of this important community service project.

Chair: M.T. Pulley, Chair

Members: Kent Petterson, Kate Ladner, Tami Hagen and support from Mollie Dean

Deane Fund Grant Update



Minnesota Veterans' Home, Adult Day Center Courtyard

This year a total of 11 club members volunteered at eight different sessions with groups of two to seven per session. The total number of volunteer hours was 81.

During these sessions, club members raked, weeded, mulched, watered and swept. We also pruned three pagoda dogwoods,

conifer shrubs, hydrangeas, viburnums and honeysuckles outside of the complete perimeter fence of the courtyard.

Due to dry hot weather, we didn't plant any new shrubs this year. However, we planted annuals and strawberry plants in the raised beds, and we also planted perennials donated by club members.

The courtyard and garden look wonderful and the veterans able to enjoy them again.

The photo above shows the 'Twist and Shout' hydrangeas blooming in October.

--Steve Shubick

Annual Plant Sale Gary Geister, Chair

Date and location for 2022 Plant Sale are set

Set-up Monday, May 9
Sale, Tuesday, May 10
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

I have reserved the Great Hall at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church for the plant sale and set-up the day before. I have already placed orders with North Carolina Farms, Walters Garden, Four Star Nursery and Ball Horticulture, and I will be placing orders shortly with Bluebird Nursery and with Rush Creek Growers.

At the club meeting, I asked for feedback on plants you purchased last year. Many of the plants are also new to me, and it is valuable to get feedback positive or negative. You are the trial jury for these plants. It is very important that you let me know. [Send your feedback to Gary Geister.](#)

Website Committee Kate Ladner, Chair

Join our website committee

Now that the garden has gone to sleep (and Gary and Mary have said absolutely no more online plant sales!) we're ready to tackle some improvements and additions to the MWGCM website. We would love to have more members on our committee.

Topics we'll discuss include:
Critiques/suggestions for for the current website
New pages

If you'd like to join the website committee or want more information, contact [Kate Ladner](#).

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

This year hasn't exactly been normal, but I would certainly rank it above 2020. It was wonderful to see old friends and new faces at the plant sale, garden tours and the FFF Show. Personally, working with the Mixed Border and Native/Shade Garden Committees at Lyndale Park were the best activities of my summer. As membership secretary, it was a difficult year to connect to newer members. I hope to meet you all in person at dinner meetings next year.

Our membership numbers have continued to rise with 17 members joining this year. Our current membership is 145.

Remember, if you joined during 2021, you are included in the 2022 membership, and you do not need to renew.

As of November 27, we still are waiting to hear from more than 1/3 of the current members. Please have your renewal completed by December 7, so we have time to put all the information together in time to print the directory for our January meeting.

[Renewal Form](#)

Board Meeting Highlights

Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

The board continues to recruit for either a vice president or president for 2022. We are especially interested in recruiting an experienced member to step into the position of president for 2022. Please connect with any board member to discuss this opportunity to help our club move forward into 2022.

[Read complete minutes from November 11 Board Meeting.](#)

[Read complete minutes from November 18 Board Meeting.](#)

Treasurer's Snapshot

Bill Clark, Treasurer

U.S. Bank Balance:	\$ 42,644.56
Royal Credit Deane Fund:	\$ 71,379.83
Total Club Funds:	\$114,024.39

2021-2022 Meetings & Events

December 14

Annual Holiday Party
Embassy Suites

May 10

2022 Plant Sale
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

2021 Club Officers & Directors

Club Officers

President

Linda Wilkins
Richfield

Vice President

Open

Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Sue Clark
Minnetonka

Treasurer

Bill Clark
Minnetonka

Past President

Anne Spenningsby
Minneapolis

Directors

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Suzanne Holt
Minneapolis

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

