

Annual Plant Sale Gary Geister, Chair

The MWGCM Annual Public Plant Sale May 10th

Tuesday, May 10, Noon – 6:30 p.m.
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis 55408

Our annual plant sale is just days away and we're excited to be back "live" at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church. Following is some basic info regarding the sale:

- MWGCM members will receive 20% off discount for plants purchased at the sale
- Refer to our [club's website](#) for plant listings and some photos of plant offerings/descriptions.
- Click here to access a copy of the [Plant Sale flyer](#).

Feel free to forward on to family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.

Additionally, if you take part in NextDoor, Facebook, etc., please feel free to post it there also.

- Parking for those working at/attending the sale at the church:
Please park on the street or in the far reaches of the large parking lot south of the church. Please leave the smaller parking lot for customers.

Kalanchoe Luciae



Crazytunia Cosmic Pink Petunia



Veranda Compact Double Lavender





Diamond Frost Euphorbia



Thousands of annuals and perennials under cover waiting for it to warm up and for you to take them home.

From the President Mary Barsness

Happy May!

I was traveling out of the country for almost the first three weeks of April. On my flight home I was looking forward to seeing signs of spring in my garden. Much to my disappointment, I found very few signs. Normally by this time of year, my daffodils would be up with visible buds. This year they are just starting to poke up through the soil.

It made me start to wonder how we determine if spring is early, late, or right on track. Phenology is the study of recurring events in the life cycle of plants and animals. Two indicators that phenologists observe for determine the progress of spring are the 1st Leaf Index and the 1st Bloom Index. The 1st Leaf Index is based on the leaf out of Lilacs and Honeysuckles. The 1st Bloom Index is based on the flowering of Lilacs and Honeysuckles. According to the 1st Leaf Index, this year, we are days to weeks behind in Minnesota. I examined my lilacs and they are just starting to form buds.

Here are some other averages that occur in the Twin Cities in the spring.

1st Canada Goose sighting - March 15th
1st Dandelion - May 1st

Flowering Apple Trees - May 5th
Flowering White Trout Lily - April 20th
Flowering Prairie Smoke - May 7th
Flowering Lilac - May 12th
Flowering Snow Trillium - April 7th
Flowering Quaking Aspen - April 10th
Flowering Jack in the Pulpit - May 24th
Flowering White Lady Slipper - May 30th

This year the frost left the ground on April 6th, which is about average. Currently we are experiencing a late spring but it's Minnesota. Things could change drastically in the next few weeks and we could get right back on track.

Garden Tours

Robert Kean, Chair

The tour committee is planning two tours for this summer

June 2022 Club Member Progressive Garden Tours - Excelsior & St. Louis Park

Summer garden tours are back. Join us on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, to experience the private gardens of our fellow club members. This year, the tour will begin at the home of Marsha and Paul Theis in Excelsior at 6:00 PM. We will then progress on (and conclude) the evening's activities at the residence of Kathryn and David McKeen in Saint Louis Park.

All club members and their guests are welcome.

Attendees are requested to bring potluck offerings, with Marsha and Paul setting the stage for appetizers and Kathryn and David supporting desserts.

Please let us know if you plan to bring an appetizer or dessert by emailing Tour Committee member [Alex Stanley](#) at least 3 days in advance.

We will be doing registration for the tour through [EventBrite](#).

Please email [Alex](#) or call 401-323-3967 if you have any questions regarding registration (or are not able to use the on-line registration).

Many thanks to Marsha, Paul, Kathryn and David for generously inviting us into their beautiful and lovingly tended garden spaces.

GARDEN TOUR Stop #1:

6520 White Dove Circle, Excelsior, MN 55331
6:00 - 7:00 PM
Hosts: [Marsha and Paul Theis](#)
Refreshments: Appetizers

GARDEN TOUR Stop #2:

2834 Vernon Avenue South, Saint Louis Park, MN 55416

7:20 - 8:30 PM

Hosts: [Kathryn and David McKeen](#)

Refreshments: Desserts

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Rain date: Tuesday, June 28, 2022 (registered participants should monitor their email in the event of an inclement weather forecast on June 21).

Also, Club Summer Tour – Sunday, July 10, afternoon; details to come.

80th Anniversary Party Sandra Mangel, Chair

Mark your calendars and save the date and join us for MWGCM 80th Anniversary party celebration on Saturday Aug 13th at 5:00 PM.

It will be at Curt and Bette Fenton's gorgeous garden in Hopkins. Details and reservation info at a later date.

Website Committee Kate Ladner, Chair

There are two recent additions to the website.

- **Ever wondered what it takes to be a Master Gardener?**
- Follow our new blog, "Growing into a Master Gardener", written by one of our new members, Vicki Olson, who is a master gardener volunteer intern this year. Follow her journey through the application and orientation process, learning the content in fourteen curriculum areas and her volunteer experiences with kids, seniors and answering questions at information booths. You can find the master gardener blog on our website under "about us."
- **Ever wondered what went on in the past 80 years of the club?** All of the *Garden Spray* issues back to 1942 are now available on our website. For the fun of it, Mary Maynard dipped into the archive every 10 years. Here are some highlights:
 - **1942:** The Club is organized, and four meetings were held:
 - A tour of the Rose Garden on July 13
 - Tours of 7 member gardens on August 3
 - Tours of 5 more gardens on August 22
 - Official charter granted by the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

The first holiday party on December 7 (coinciding with the first issue of the Garden Spray).

- **1952:** The Club completes a civic project in recognition of the club's 10-year anniversary: planting flowering crab apple trees in Lyndale Park.
- **1962:** The Lehman Trophy (for best garden on tour) is established.
- **1972:** MGCM's Community Fragrance Garden receives a merit award from the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment in recognition of its contribution to the "visual quality of the city."
- **1982:** The Club plants more trees in Lyndale Park after tornado damage.
- **1992:** The first public tour is held, and the first horticultural scholarships are granted.
- **2002:** The Club votes to disaffiliate from MGCA/TGOA.
- **2012:** The Club votes to change its name to Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Food, Flower and Foto Show Mary Barness and Sue Clark, Co-chairs

2022 Floral Design Theme: "Movies"

Announcing the 2022 Floral Design Division Classes for the Flower, Food, and Foto Show on the weekend of August 20 and 21.

The design classes are as follows:

- **Frozen** – Floral design using white or cool-colored blooms.
- **Fried Green Tomatoes** – Floral design using green or neutral-colored blooms and foliage.
- **The Red Shoes** – Floral design using red or warm-colored blooms.
- **Purple Rain** – Floral design using purple or pastel-colored blooms.
- **Everest** – A tall floral design.
- **Little Women** – A miniature design measuring less than 6" x 6" x 6."

Materials used in the designs need to be "garden grown," but do not need to all come from your garden. The materials from a local farmers' market are often garden grown by local farmers.

There are two divisions for Floral Design:

- **Amateur** – open to all who are first-time exhibitors or those who have won five or fewer first place awards in the Design division of the flower show. The amateur Floral Design division historically has had few entries, so for newer members, this is a time to shine.
- **Advanced** – open to all.

Previous year entries:



Membership Corner
Tami Hagen, Chair

This month's meeting is our annual community Plant Sale. Such a terrific way for us to share our love of plants and gardening with others. You'll note one of the new members being introduced below said he discovered our club because of last year's online plant sale. Another said that she stumbled across the Plant Sale a few years ago and liked the community aspect of it. The Membership Committee is grateful for how many garden club members come together to make this event successful, including the fantastic work of our Marketing & Publicity Committee. I encourage everyone to stop by the Membership table during the sale to say, "Hello." I'd love to chat if even for a moment.

Thanks, and happy planting.

Cathy Borbas recalls her father's roses and tomatoes and the long New Jersey growing season of her childhood. Their backyard was home to numerous large holly trees that made the holidays extra special and helped support the Boy Scouts annual wreath sale. Over time, Cathy bought a home in Minneapolis on the Parkway with an overgrown but spectacular foundation of garden beds that she helped restore. Cathy is now living in Plymouth where her husband keeps over 100 hostas and Cathy adds flowers like hundreds of tulips and dahlias. Because the Parkway and Lyndale Rose Gardens became so much a part of Cathy's life, she's hoping to bring back some of that connection through garden club membership.

Cathy's committee interests are: flower & shade gardening, Plant Sale and Garden Tour.

Brian Daunheimer grew up in Illinois but will tell you he's a Hawkeye graduating from the University of Iowa. Brian recalls helping his mom as she fiddled with her roses. Presently, Brian finds himself setting up a new yard in the Lynnhurst neighborhood of Minneapolis. While Brian's wife Ann is an avid gardener, Brian maintains a few roses and has taken time to learn about aphid control and soil improvements for rose gardening. He learned about the MWGCM while checking out a book on gardening at Linden Hills Library and finding a stack of our garden club's book marks. Brian also has success coaxing orchids to bloom. He is currently working but sees retirement on the horizon.

Brian is interested in the Arbor Day Committee.

Ann Merrill started gardening five years ago after deciding to re-landscape the yard. She and her husband had a design done by Bachman's but did much of the planting themselves. She's been enjoying what they planted but still struggles in front of the house due to all the shade. Favorite plants right now are lilac and hydrangea which they added to the yard last year. Ann says she's interested in learning more about native and pollinator-friendly plants—and managing shade gardens. Ann works for the American Indian OIC, lives in Edina, close to SW Minneapolis, and has a four-year old Goldendoodle that sometimes digs... She stumbled across the Plant Sale a few years ago and liked the community aspect of the sale.

Ann would like to help out with the Plant Sale.

Jill Krieger uniquely found our garden club by doing a Google search for gardening clubs in zone 4. Jill has a large, visual, corner lot with lots of sun, in Arden Hills. Following in her dad's footsteps, she built four raised bed vegetable gardens after finding a design on Pinterest. She also purchased cattle panels and is using them as trellises to grow a variety of plants including grapevines. Jill starts her vegetables from seed including tomatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers and potatoes. Jill also planted a David Austin rose last year and said she could use some expert advice as it didn't do so well. Jill is mostly looking forward to meeting people with similar interests as her and learning more about backyard gardening.

Jill is still considering her committee interests.

Louie Wirtanen was born in Alaska living there until she was 10, when her family moved to New Mexico. Louie remembers her own favorite flowers from Alaska as forget-me-nots, wild lupines, and the moss she saw while playing in the forest. Louie shared one of her favorite things to do growing up was being at trade shows where they gave away free seed packets. More recently, Louie graduated from the U of MN with a degree in International Permaculture with Design Certification. She says permaculture is a conscious design that creates productive ecosystems. She's doing this in her own backyard by growing an edible food forest with "no dig" gardening and "key-hole" garden

practices. Louie believes that gardening is a lifelong practice and you can always learn more from others.

Louie is interested in the FFF and Lyndale Park Committees.

Jeffrey (Jeff) Gerhardson said he was always the kid who wanted to put a garden in the yard. Now, after living in his own home for 19 years, he has an established yard and garden. Living in a home that long he's experienced how gardens change over time as new trees grow larger and older trees come down. What once was sun is now shade and shady spots have suddenly become sunny. Jeff grew up in Brooklyn Park and would frequently travel to Sweden with his family. He was impressed by how the homes and gardens seem to blend so well. The Swedish yards looked so comfortable and hope-filled with life. After two years of Covid and living alone, Jeff is anxious to get out of the house. He discovered our garden club from last year's online plant sale and looking forward to meeting this great group of people.

Jeff would like to participate in the tour committee, Hospitality and Roving Reporter.

Every member bring a member

Marketing and Publicity Becky DeLaCruz, Chair



Per Becky DeLaCruz, “at the time of this writing, we believe it is best to err on caution and remove bird feeders and bird baths as the following article states. However please stay tuned to local updates for further direction.”

There has been a recommendation to stop feeding the birds this spring due to avian flu. MPR reported in mid-April that the head of the University of Minnesota Raptor

Center is urging people to hold off backyard bird feeding this spring to help stem the spread of avian flu.

The following contents have been copied from the on-line MPR News article by Lorna Benson, dated April 15, 2022.

Minnesotans should hold off on feeding their backyard birds for a while and should also take steps to sanitize their feeders to protect songbirds as avian flu circulates across the state, the head of the University of Minnesota Raptor Center tells MPR News.

Backyard bird feeding is a ritual of life for many in Minnesota but suspending the practice for a bit could aid birds more susceptible to the virus strain that's hitting poultry flocks, said Victoria Hall, the Raptor Center's executive director.

Backyard birds “should be able to find other food sources at this time of year, and it's important to remember that this is not going to last forever,” Hall said.

[Read more.](#)

Board Meeting Highlights Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

Highlights from the March 1, 2022, Board Meeting:

The Board discussed upcoming Club activities including the April membership meeting and summer garden tours. In addition, the Board approved the name change of the “Holiday Party” to the “Annual Awards Banquet.”

Future Board meetings will return to every other month schedule, with the next meeting scheduled for May 3 at 7:00 PM.

For a complete copy of the Board minutes, please see the [attached](#).

Treasurer's Snapshot Bill Clark, Treasurer

As of April 20, 2022

US Bank:	\$ 32,788.03
Royal Credit Deane Fund:	\$ 71,665.17
Total club funds:	\$104,453.20

2022 Meetings and Events

May 10
Annual Plant Sale
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

June 14
Rose Garden Tour
Andrew Gawboy

August 20 and 21
Flower, Food & Foto Show
U of M Landscape Arboretum

September 13
Placing Plants
Diane McGann

Lyndale Park Gardens

Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

June 21

Club Member Progressive Garden
Tour

October 11

Soil Action Summer to Fall
Bob Dahm
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

July 10

Club Summer Tour

November 8

Feng Shui in the Garden
Carole Hyder
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

August 13

80th Anniversary Party

December

TBD

2022 Club Officers and Directors

Club Officers

President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Vice President

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Membership Secretary

Tami Hagan
Minneapolis

Recording Secretary

Sue Clark
Minnetonka

Treasurer

Bill Clark
Minnetonka

Past President

Linda Wilkins
Richfield

Directors

Sandra Mangel
Minneapolis

Brenda Schultz
Minneapolis

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

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.

