

From the President Kathy Lenarz

It is May. Finally. The days are longer, the sun feels warmer, and our plant sale is coming. This is one of our best events of the year. It is our biggest fund-raiser and a wonderful way to get to know fellow club members. I hope everyone has a chance to volunteer and to shop.

Our April meeting was a good event also, with 59 attendees at the Hopkins VFW, a new location for us. Our June meeting will also be there. (Apologies to our east metro members who had a longer drive.) The program was noteworthy as three of our members, Peter Moe, Sandra Mangel and Pat Kessler shared stunning photos of recent trips to European gardens.

During the business meeting, we heard from JoEllen Haugo about a project to archive our historical records. Carol Schreier, co-chair of the club's Lyndale Park Native and Shade Garden committee, discovered at one of their committee meetings that JoEllen and Kim Poole had background and interest in archiving/library science. Carol connected JoEllen and Kim to Andy Marlow, our club historian. They are working to get some of our old written records donated to a library (probably Hennepin County Library Special Collections) so they can be cataloged, protected and available for use to those interested in regional history. I love this story because it gives an example of the diversity of talents and skills that our members bring to the MWGCM.

At our June meeting, we will see a short video about the Lyndale Park Rose Garden from one of our members, Linda Johnson. Linda was awarded a Deane Fund Grant from the club to work with the Minneapolis Parks staff to create the video. It will be distributed to high schools to introduce young people to the Rose Garden and opportunities for volunteering. If you are not familiar with the Deane Fund, check out the information on our [website](#).

If you or your community have a horticultural project that needs support, consider applying for a grant.

See you at the Plant Sale.

2023 Plant Sale

Gary Geister, Chair

MWGCM Plant Sale
Tuesday, May 9, Noon to 6:30 PM
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis 55408

Many club members have been organizing, planning, plotting and working for your upcoming plant sale. We will have many past favorites plus many plants new to our sale —give them a try!

Here is a partial listing of new plants:

Annuals:

Agastache
Alternanthera Snowball
A variety of bacopa
Brugmansia
Bracteantha
A variety of cordylines
Hummingbird plant
Canary Island Foxglove
Petunia Dark Saturn
Salvia Hummingbird Falls
2 varieties of climbing sweet potato vine

Perennials:

Allium Lavender Bubbles
A variety of Echinaceas
Delphinium, a red one
A variety of Martagon lilies
Ligularia Tractor Seat
Pulmonaria Raspberry Frost
Large number of new hostas

Herbs:

Basil
Lemon
Thai Siam

Vegetables:

Climbing Malabar Spinach
Tomato Caspian Pink

20% discount for all current club members plant purchases.

Check our club [website](#) for plant listings and forward this on to family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and feel free to post on Nextdoor, Facebook, etc. With this long, cold and snowy winter behind us, what better way to welcome spring and see what we have for you at our annual plant sale.

SEE YOU AT THE SALE.

Flower, Food and Foto Show Mary Barsness and Sue Clark, Co-Chairs

The 2023 Photo Contests: Rules and Suggestions

The requirements and rules for entering the MWGCM Foto contests can be found by [clicking here](#).

The club hosts two separate photo competitions. The digital contest is open to anyone, while the people's choice contest is for members only. For both contests, all entries are due by July 31. Prints are voted through a ballot box at the site of the FFF show and perhaps again at the State Fair. Digital entries are judged by some of the photo committee members in early August. Winning entries in the digital contest are displayed during that August 12-13 show at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Complete information on how to enter is explicitly stated in the rules, thanks to photo committee member Andy Marlow.

So, get out and photograph your gardens, other people's gardens, woods, and landscapes. Any place on earth will do, but you must be the photographer and the image must feature horticultural content as the main subject. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Cucumbers

The 2023 FFF Show featured vegetable will be ***Cucumbers!***

Cucumbers are one of Minnesota gardeners' favorite, easy vegetables to grow. However, cucumbers grow best in warm weather, so we will need to wait for it to warm up before planting.

Direct seeding in the garden is the best method for growing cucumbers. Wait to plant until the soil temperature is at least 70 degrees at the 1" depth. (Cucumber seeds won't germinate in cold soil.) Even in a typical year in Minnesota, that will be in late May. Sow seeds ½" deep. Cucumbers are typically grown in "hills," and a raised "hill" also helps the soil warm up. If you prefer to purchase cucumber plants to transplant in your garden, make sure that the root ball is not disturbed while transplanting.

A trellis or other support can be used for long vining plants. There are also bush varieties of cucumbers that will help save room in small gardens. There are even

varieties of cucumbers that can be grown in a pot on your deck.

Cucumbers, like most vine crops in the cucurbits family, need lots of water. They will need about 1" of water each week during the growing season.

Cucumbers need pollinators. Cucumber plants have both male and female flowers (except for some seedless varieties) and need pollination. In fact, if your cucumber fruits are growing curved rather than straight, this is a sign of poor pollination, rather than lack of water.

For exhibiting at the FFF Show, there will be three classes of cucumbers: 1) Slicing Cucumbers, 2) Pickling Cucumbers, and 3) Other, for the more exotic or unusual varieties. An entry in the Slicing Cucumber class should have three cucumbers of uniform size, shape, and color. The Pickling Class will have seven cucumbers, and three in the Other Class.

-- Sue Clark



-- photo Mary Maynard



2022 FFF Show. George Clark with his blue ribbon for slicing cucumbers.

-- photo Sue Clark

Treasurer's Snapshot Peter Moe, Treasurer

As of April 27, 2023

US Bank:

\$19,372.92

Royal Credit totals:

\$72,235.00

Total club funds:

\$91,607.92

2023 Meetings and Events

May 9

Plant Sale

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

June 13

Gardening for MN's Future: Easy
Steps for Sustainability

Gail Hudson

Hopkins VFW

June 27

Progressive Garden Tour

June 29

Flower Power Workshop: Magic of
Growing and Arranging Cut Flowers

[Club link](#)

Mary Barsness & Julie Burgart

Bachman's on Lyndale Avenue

July 22

Public Garden Tour

[Club link](#)

August 12 - 13

Flower, Food and Foto Show

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

August 30 - 31

Minnesota State Fair

Flower Room – Ag Hort Building

September 12

Novel Tactics in Pest Management
and Frontiers in Biorational

Insecticides

Vera Krischik

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

October 10

Rock Gardening

Rick Rodich

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

November 14

Growing Fruits in Minnesota

Faith Appelquist

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

December 12

Annual Awards Banquet

2023 Club Officers and Directors

Club Officers

President

Kathy Lenarz

Richfield

Vice President

Brenda Schultz

Minneapolis

Directors

Sandra Mangel

Minneapolis

Martha Joy

Richfield

Nancy Felice

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Membership Secretary

Vicki Olson
Minneapolis

Linda Wilkins
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Sue Clark
Minnetonka

Treasurer

Peter Moe
Chaska

Past President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

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.

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis | 4052 Bryant Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN
55409

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