

October Meeting Preview

An Introduction to Rock Gardens by Rick Rodich, North American Rock Garden Society

Rocks don't make a rock garden, so what makes a rock garden different from other gardens? Does it have to have rocks? Are there different types of rock gardens? What kinds of plants grow in rock gardens? What about trough gardens? Rick Rodich will answer these questions and more. Rock gardening is wide ranging, but there are some basic principles that are common to all.

Rick is a 30-year member of the North American Rock Garden Society and belongs to the Scottish Rock Garden Club as well as other plant societies. His degree in horticulture and forestry from the University of Minnesota forms the basis for his continued learning in the natural world. Rick's eclectic gardens host unusual, but not always glamorous, plants from around the world. Favorite plants include those from the alpine regions.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN

6:00 PM Social Gathering/Dinner
6:30 PM Business Meeting
7:00 PM Presentation

If you intend to have dinner, provided by Heather's for \$16.50, please RSVP by [emailing Jenny Bodner](#) by 5 PM Friday, October 6. You may pre-pay for dinner by clicking [here](#). You may also pay for dinner at our meetings with a credit card instead of cash or check.

Please note, our October and November meetings will be at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South. This is the same location where our annual plant sale is held.

From the President Kathy Lenarz

It is hard to believe that another month has passed already, but the leaves lying on my lawn outside give credence to the notion that autumn has arrived. Indeed, our fall lineup of dinner meetings and speakers began last month.

I want to reflect a bit on our September business meeting. The board-approved increase in dues to \$30 annually was on the agenda. However, since we did not have a quorum, we did not take a membership vote on the question. With membership renewal for 2024 starting this month, we will be keeping our dues set at \$20. However, from my perspective, we accomplished a great deal at the meeting with many thoughtful comments and suggestions from the members present. Thank you to all those who spoke out at the meeting or emailed later.

Some of the ideas that came forth included:

- Look at dues charged by other garden clubs, as well as the activities they support; we want to remain fiscally competitive, but be confident that we are comparing appropriately.
- We should at least consider a household or couple membership rate.
- We should continue to market to younger generations and utilize social media more fully.
- We have had great success with our public fund-raising events, (plant sale, tours, etc.) and should continue them, and perhaps consider an annual public tour.
- Membership would welcome more detailed reports on income and expenses; ongoing expenses such as support for service committees, speaker fees, room rentals, storage area, Zoom, and other items are not well-known.
- Monies set aside for special purposes, such as the Deane Fund, are also not well-known.

While not an exhaustive list, I believe it covers the main ideas. The conclusion was that the board will be gathering data, and putting together information for presentation to the membership. It will be done early in 2024, so that there is ample time for further debate and decisions before the next renewal and dues collection time.

Do not hesitate to email, call, or sit down for a chat with officers or board members to express your opinions.

Annual Awards Banquet Sandra Mangel, Chair

Mark your calendars for a special evening at the annual awards banquet and silent auction. It will be held:

6:00 – 9:00 PM Tuesday, December 12, 2023

Embassy Suites, 2800 American Boulevard, Bloomington, MN

On the agenda:

1. A silent auction of member-donated items and gifts during the social hour and dinner
2. Social hour with punch and hors d'oeuvres buffet (cash bar in lobby)
3. A "Through the Years" slideshow
4. Full plated dinner
5. Announcing the various club award winners, as well as club hall of fame winners

Reservation information and event details [here](#).

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

Scholarship Committee

M. T. Pulley, Chair

Our club has awarded over \$87,000 in scholarships to horticulture students since our scholarship program debuted in 1992. We continue this important community service program and plan to award four more scholarships to full-time horticulture students by November. Kate Ladner of the scholarship committee has updated the Scholarship Page on our website. Read about last year's scholarship awards [here](#). The six higher education schools in Minnesota with horticulture and related studies have been notified of our current scholarship opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support, and especially to the public tours committee members who help raise funds for our scholarship program. With 88 scholarships awarded so far, and more on the way, our club is the leader for awarding scholarships to Minnesota horticulture students.

Website Committee

Kate Ladner, Chair

Jerry and Lee Shannon just sold their house with their fabulous garden, which they opened to the club for tours many times. But if you never got a chance to visit it, there's still a chance to get a glimpse of their garden by way of our educational video. Check out **Gardening in the Twin Cities #4** [here](#).

We are still looking for help with our website. No experience necessary. (If I can do it,

anybody can!) Let [Kate Ladner](#) if you're interested in getting involved.

-- Mary Maynard

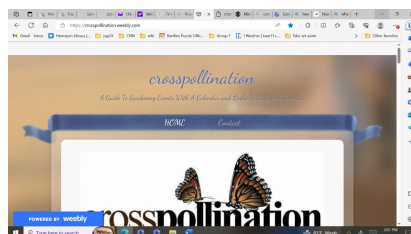
From the Editor

Still more gardening!

If you are already a member of our club, and take time to read *The Spray*, but you have the itch to do more and learn more about gardening, then you might be interested in this Crosspollination [website](#) that gives you a plethora of choices of gardening clubs and events.

It is a no-charge listing of dozens of local garden clubs, their activities, and a calendar of events. (Yes, our club is listed there.) So, if you are interested in hostas, rock gardens, lilies, seeds, etc., this site might give you more. Can there be too much garden info?

-- Susan Kennedy



Membership Vicki Olson and Linda Wilkins, Co-Chairs

Member Spotlight: Dan Moore

Like so many of this club's members, Dan Moore started gardening as a child in his grandmother's huge garden. His first two jobs were in the gardening trade, at the wonderful Tonkadale Nursery, and during college working part-time at the Arboretum on the grounds crew.

He's been seriously gardening at his current location for 30 years, starting small trees and perennials from Rice Creek, Ambergate, Kelley and Kelley, and many of the other long-time local horticultural businesses.

When he began working from home during the Covid pandemic, he realized what a

marvelous micro-environment he'd created in his front yard for birds and other wildlife, and what a joy it is to be at home to experience that during the day. Retired now, he has joined our club, of which he's been aware for perhaps 25 years. He was delighted with Dr. Krischik's presentation at the September meeting, since he intends to install lawn in his back yard and wanted information on dealing with grubs.

Welcome to the club, Dan!

Member Spotlight: Svita Pagel

Svita's first memories of gardening are from when she was about 5, when she helped her father in his gardens in the southern part of Ukraine. He grew potatoes, onions, and other vegetables. Her mother had an orchard with apples, apricots, and cherries which Svita admired greatly, so she was sad that even though the apricot tree she planted was a zone 4 plant, it did not survive the winter.

Svita is from a family of farmers, with her maternal grandfather growing grapes in a vineyard of an acre in size. He made a living growing many crops, but she especially remembers the beauty of his grapes, perfectly trained and trimmed.

She's lived in the U.S for 23 years now and has learned a great deal about gardening in Minnesota. Her parents are in this country as well, but she has other family members who live all over the world.

She joined our club to learn from like-minded people, and hopes to learn more about organic gardening, since she wants her six-year-old child to have healthful food to eat.

Welcome to the club, Svita!

-- Kirky Otto

Membership Renewal for 2024

What a year our club has achieved: the bountiful plant sale, two wonderful tours, FFF, State Fair hosting, flourishing gardens at Lake Harriet, interesting speakers at meetings, informative monthly *Sprays*, a hard-working board, sharing of gardening information with friends old and new. And we still have scholarship award announcements and the Awards Banquet on the horizon. Show your pride in belonging to our vibrant club by renewing your membership for 2024.

The renewal fee is \$20. Honorary members and new members who joined after July 1 this year do not need to pay dues but we ask that you complete the form, so we have accurate information for the directory.

In order to renew online, please click [here](#). The form contains all the directions you need to complete it and to pay.

In order to renew manually, please click on [printable renewal form](#). You will see an

icon of a printer in the upper right-hand corner. Click on that in order to print the form. You can bring the completed form to the October 10 or November 14 club meeting. We will also have printed forms available for you to use at both club meetings.

There will be a table at both the October and November meetings where you can renew. We will have computers available for your use and can help you if you wish. You can also bring your printed form and \$20 check or cash to the meeting.

Our goal is to have everyone renew by November 14. If you have not paid by November 14, you will receive a final reminder. You need to complete your renewal by December 13 for your information to be included in the 2024 directory.

The membership committee thanks all the people who get their forms and dues in on time. You save us a lot of extra volunteer hours trying to contact you.

In prior years, we had a place on the renewal form to make an extra contribution to the club. This year we will offer that opportunity separately. Look for information in the November *Spray* for how to do this.

-- *Mollie Dean*

Sunshine Committee

Within any family there is always so much going on - big changes, some good, some bad and some sad. Whatever it is we want you to know that your friends at MWGCM care and want to be there for you during those times of grief or joy.

If you know of someone within our membership in need of a paper hug (card) or a flower hug (plant) please let us know: [Mollie Dean](#) or [Linda Wilkins](#).

-- *Linda Wilkins*

Minnesota Veterans' Home Day Center



The club volunteers from left to right are Cece Keefe, Steve Shubick, Dan DuRose, Robert Kean, and Kathy Lenarz.



Veterans' Day Center Courtyard Garden

In August, six club members volunteered to complete the annual spring garden clean up at the Veterans' Center courtyard garden. They weeded, pruned, repaired the door on the garden shed, and cleaned the walkways and patio. After finishing, the group went inside to surprise the veterans with a carved wood eagle for the garden. The volunteers were introduced to the veterans by one of the staff members.

Dan DuRose talked about the eagle and walked around the room with it so the veterans could have a closer look. The eagle was carved by Ben Semier of Chainsaw Carvings of Hayward, Wisconsin. It was purchased by the garden club for the veterans' courtyard garden. The veterans have decided they would like to have the eagle inside the

day center so they would be able to view it daily.

-- Steve Shubick

2023 Minnesota State Fair Committee Deanna Lane and Brenda Schultz, Co-Chairs

“Minnesota Garden Treasures” at the 2023 State Fair

Our club was again given the opportunity to host the small flower room in the Horticultural Building at the State Fair. Our vision was to create a beautiful, educational, and participative room showcasing our “Minnesota Garden Treasures” theme that included our club, gardens and societies throughout Minnesota, and fun games with prizes.

We packed the room with plants, flower arrangements (thanks to Mary Barsness), garden art, photographs, experts, information, and games. New club display tables included “Spotlight on Begonias” by Bev Galles and “Vegetables” with winter gardening tips and recipes by Kim Poole. New posters highlighting club activities were created by Bev Galles, Carol Schreier, and Andy Marlow for our club information table. Lloyd Wittstock presented “Gardening Tips” on the DIRT stage.

Garden and society “Treasures” we invited included the Minnesota and National Hosta Societies hosted by Steve Shubick; Wild Ones Native Plants; Minneapolis Park and Recreation; Daylily Society of Minnesota; Glensheen Mansion Gardens, Duluth; Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden and Bird Sanctuary; U of MN, Morris; Noerenberg Memorial Gardens, Wayzata; and the Minnesota Gladiolus Society.

Mary Barsness swept the photo competition winning first, second and third place.

At the Garden Wheel, we gave away candy and prizes donated by the Nancy Schultz family. The 15 Gnomes scavenger hunt was again a huge hit.

Thank you to our 38 club volunteers who put in over 200 hours to prepare plants, load/unload/drive the truck, set up/take down displays, host the club information and games tables, and make the room a beautiful and fun experience for Fair attendees. Thank you to the 47 treasures volunteers who took time to set up/take down their display tables and share their expertise.

And thank you to our State Fair committee including Judy Berglund, Bev Galles, Gary Geister, Kris Knowles, Carol Schreier, and Wini Wu.

The club had a net profit of \$959, it was a lot of work, a lot of fun, and a great success! Phyllis Andrews, Flowers Superintendent, gave us quite a compliment saying, “Your room this year was spectacular, very interactive....”. So yes, we are invited to host again next year.



Lloyd Wittstock



Linda Minch and Lynn Messman

Board Meeting Highlights Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

Highlights from the September 5, 2023, Board Meeting:

The board heard reports from the chairs of 2023 events and activities, and also discussed planning for 2024. Changes in club documents due to the change in our club name are underway.

Action on an increase in dues has been postponed until 2024.

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

Treasurer's Snapshot Peter Moe, Treasurer

As of September 15, 2023:

US Bank:	\$ 34,524.49
Royal Credit totals:	\$ 72,235.00
Total club funds:	\$106,759.49

2023 Meetings and Events

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

Membership Secretary

Vicki Olson
Minneapolis

Linda Wilkins
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Sue Clark
Minnetonka

Treasurer

Peter Moe
Chaska

Past President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Directors

Sandra Mangel
Minneapolis

Martha Joy
Richfield

Nancy Felice
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.

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis

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