

November Meeting Preview



Growing Fruits in Minnesota by Faith Appelquist

Tuesday, November 14, 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

Faith Appelquist is owner of [Tree Quality](#) in St Paul. She specializes in tree evaluation and management, problem diagnosis, risk assessment and landscape design. She earned her B.S. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Landscape Design degree from Dakota County Technical College.

Faith is a board-certified Master Arborist and Registered Consulting Arborist. She volunteers for the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association board of directors and is a frequent contributor of articles in *The Scoop* magazine.

If you intend to have dinner, provided by Heather's for \$16.50, please RSVP by [emailing Linda Wilkins](#) by 5 PM Friday, November 10. Make this RSVP no matter how you pay for the dinner. You may pre-pay for dinner by clicking [here](#). You may also pay for dinner at our meetings with a credit card, cash or check.

Dinner menu:

- Autumn bowl of wild rice pilaf, roasted sweet potatoes, almonds, raisins, grilled chicken breast, roasted brussels sprouts, sautéed mushrooms
- Bread and butter
- Simple green salad with carrots, radishes, sunflower seeds and ranch dressing

Please note, our November meeting 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

“How sad would be November if we had no knowledge of the spring.”

Edwin Way Teale (1899 – 1980), American naturalist, photographer and writer

I have always rather liked November. It is late enough in the year that I have usually completed mourning my lost annuals, but still have a bit of outdoor work left – weather permitting. I like the moodiness of the gray skies and the smell of cold, damp leaves. And as I walk past each garden bed, I mentally see what changes I will make next year to cover all the mistakes of this past year. And of course, the month closes out with Thanksgiving. It is always heartening to be grateful and reflect on the joys of our lives, including the wonderful friendships with our fellow gardeners.

For the Men’s and Women’s Garden Club of Minneapolis, soon to be known to all as the Garden Club of Minneapolis, it is an important time of year also.

Our November club meeting is designated by our bylaws as our annual meeting, where we elect officers. This year we will also look at proposed changes to our bylaws. The business meeting will start at 6:30. We hope to have a great attendance.

November is also an important month for **membership renewal**. (See the following article.) The membership committee works hard to gather all the information and get it to the printer in order to have the membership directory available at our January meeting. It is extremely helpful to have members complete their renewal in a timely manner to avoid additional time and effort by the committee. It is easy to do on-line. You can pay your dues there also or bring your credit card, check or cash to the November meeting. Carefully look at the committees list also as you fill out your form. Belonging to a committee is a great way to get to know other members, as well as supporting the organization. We have several committees that do not require a major time commitment but do need additional hands. Sign up for at least one!

See you at the November meeting.

Membership Renewal for 2024

Please renew your club membership. It is easy to do; 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 renewal form so we have accurate information for the directory.

To **renew online**, please click on [online renewal form](#). This contains all the directions you need to complete it and to pay. This is the easiest way for you to renew and for the membership committee to process.

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 to print the form. The form tells you where to mail your form and check. Or you can bring the completed form to the November 14 club meeting. We will also have printed forms available for you to use at the meeting.

There will be a table at the November club meeting where you can renew. We will have computers available for your use and can help you if you would like that. You can also bring your printed out 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 in order that information be included in the 2024 directory.

We thank all the people who get their form and dues in on time. If you have any questions on how to renew, please contact [Mollie](#) We are trying to make this task easy for you.

-- Mollie Dean

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 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

Ask a Master Gardener

Minnesota gardeners navigate a wide range of climate conditions including drought, temperature and humidity swings, April snowstorms and September frosts. Further, Minnesota wildlife are hard pressed to find enough food and shelter to make it through a long, cold Midwest winter. Since snow cover is hard to predict, the savvy gardener is wise to plan to protect their landscape.

When snow cover is deep, food and shelter are even less accessible. Animals will likely target eating the stems and/or an entire shrub to the ground for sustenance. Animals like rabbits and mice can chew through the bark layer into a young plant's tender tissue, effectively girdling the tree or shrub. Girdling is an issue because it means the plant can likely not pass water and nutrients from the leaves to the roots.

In addition to reducing the habitat (options include removing vegetation within 2' of young trees, fencing around decks, reducing brush piles), the gardener might take a few steps in fall to reduce risk to valued trees and shrubs.

Setting up a physical barrier is often the most effective method to protect trees and shrubs.

Place ¼" mesh hardware cloth around the shrub (about 6" away from a tree trunk) and ideally, bury it several inches to prevent burrowing. Secure the hardware cloth using landscape staples. Most years, 24-36" tall hardware cloth will be sufficient protection but depending on snow fall, a barrier up to 48" tall is needed. During winters with higher snow fall, rabbits may sit on the top of the snow, much higher off the ground, eating the stems and trunk.

Another option is to encircle younger trees with a six-foot-tall white corrugated tube to prevent browsing and antler rubbing on the bark. The gardener can monitor the height of the snow compared to the height of the protective barrier and knock snow away as needed. Know that the corrugated tube needs to be removed in spring.

See these articles for more information on winterizing plants and protected trees and shrubs:

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden-news/winterizing-plants-animal-damage>

<https://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/protecting-trees-and-shrubs-winter>

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/how-protect-trees-and-shrubs-animal-damage-over-winter>

-- Amy Jay

What's new on the website?

- Information and online sign-up for our [Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction](#)
- A new [Lazy Gardener Blog](#) from Mary Maynard on fall cleanup
- The updated photo directory on our [Members Only page](#)

If you don't remember the password for the Members Only page, it will be announced at the November meeting, and if you can't wait until then, [email us](#).

Membership

Vicki Olson and Linda Wilkins, Co-Chairs

Membership Update

We currently have 158 members including 39 new members who have joined this year.

Calling all new 2023 members! We know how important it is to connect new members to committees and events so that you can engage with other members and feel an integral part of the club. To this end, we are holding a new member orientation meeting prior to our dinner/meeting on November 14. For all of you who have joined in 2023, please join us for an informal gathering from 5:15-6:00 PM to hear from each committee/event chair and see what you might be interested in joining or participating in 2024. There will be an opportunity to get your questions answered. Stay for our optional dinner (see sign-up information earlier) as well as our business meeting and speaker presentation. We are excited to share all the fun activities that your membership brings to you.

-- Vicki Olson

Member Spotlight: Srikala Narayanan

New club member Srikala Narayanan and her husband are both physicians. They have two young children. Like many other club members, she gardened a bit as a child, but she didn't get into it seriously until 2020. During the pandemic, she found gardening to be very peaceful and found it nurturing to have things growing on their large patio. Their son found that he enjoyed it, too, and his younger sister discovered the joy of eating fresh snap peas, right from the garden.

They grow a myriad of vegetables including tomatoes, okra, eggplant, peppers and beans, along with herbs, baby watermelons and strawberries, some perennial flowers, and a few annuals so they can have small bouquets around their home.

Her daughter has become quite enamored of petunias, counting the blossoms daily to see how they are flourishing! Even at the age of nine their son is gentle with the plants and does a fine job of transplanting -- not many youngsters of that age can make such a claim.

Srikala herself enjoys nurturing plants so they can grow strongly, along with the learning curve of finding out about soil, fertilizer, and being as organic as possible as they try new things. She learns from watching videos and reading, and we will hope from the fine speakers who present their specialties to our club.

She has a request as winter arrives: do any club members know of learning or volunteer activities for young children, especially having to do with indoor gardening in winters? If you do, please [email her](#). She'll appreciate it, and it will be a fine way to welcome her to this club.

Welcome, Srikala!

-- Kirky Otto



-- photo Srikala Narayanan

**Lyndale Park Native and Shade Gardens
Mary Helebrant and Carol Schreier, Co-Chairs**

Just when the native and shade garden volunteers were ready to hang up their trowels for the winter, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board received an unexpected donation of plants from Minnesota Native Landscapes which were offered to our committee. We received 41 plants including little blue stem, rough blazing star, whorled milkweed and wild bergamot, and scheduled the planting for what was forecast to be a very rainy, very stormy Tuesday. Fortunately, the garden gods smiled on our six intrepid volunteers and withheld the rain long enough for our group to get all the plants settled into their new homes.

-- Kim Poole



Volunteers at the planting session: Carol Schreier, Peggy Halvorson Kasak, Mary Helebrant, Kim Poole, and Kathy Lenarz (kneeling).

-- Photo Ginny Halloran

Marketing and Publicity
Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

EcoFair

Susan Tapp coordinated our club's participation in the EcoFair at St. John's Episcopal Church in Linden Hills on Saturday, October 7. Hosting our club's table were Susan Tapp, Kirky Otto, and Carol Schreier. Ruth and Brenda Schultz also stopped by to chat with folks. The EcoFair was well-attended and had many displays including the Minnesota Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and Blue Thumb. There was also Sebastian Joe's ice cream, bakery goods, and coffee.

-- Brenda Schultz



Board Meeting Highlights Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

Highlights from the October 3, 2023, Board Meeting:

The board heartily endorsed the new member orientation proposed by the membership committee to be held immediately preceding the November membership meeting.

The board also heard reports from the Deane Fund Committee and the nominating committee. They determined awards for the annual awards banquet.

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

Treasurer's Snapshot

Peter Moe, Treasurer

As of October 29, 2023:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| US Bank: | \$ 36,004.53 |
| Royal Credit totals: | \$ 73,006.30 * |
| Total club funds: | \$109,010.83 |

* includes \$52,210 in Deane Fund

Deane funds should be devoted to a wide range of horticultural projects which reflect and support the missions of MWGCM.

Projects approved for 2024 will be announced in January.

See the club website for information on applying for 2025 projects between July 1 and October 15, 2024.

New Financial Contributions Process

We have a separate process this year for financial contributions to our club, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

You can find the link to the form [here](#).

The form will walk you through the options for designating an area for your contribution (general fund, scholarship, Lyndale Park mixed border garden, Lyndale Park native and shade garden, and Arbor Day). You can also highlight which contributions, if any, are a memorial and for whom. Payment by credit card or check is acceptable. By separating the contributions process from membership renewals, our accounting will be more efficient and exact.

2023 Meetings and Events

November 14

Growing Fruits in Minnesota

Faith Appelquist

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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