



April Meeting and Special Plant Sale Preview

Tuesday, April 13

6:45 p.m. Business meeting

7:00 p.m. Program

A Year in the Life of an Urban Dahlia Grower

presented by Del Hampton

“Dahlia Del” shares his story of installing a dahlia garden at the Minnesota State Fair and the process and supplies used to grow dahlias. Hampton grows dahlias in the Prospect Park neighborhood garden and in Twin Cities community gardens.



Tuesday, April 20

7:00 p.m.

Plant Sale Preview with Gary Geister

Links will be emailed for these Zoom meetings.

From the President Linda Wilkins

The Vernal Equinox arrived at 5:28 a.m. on March 20 (I have heard that this is the only day you can stand an egg on its end,) so we have officially made it to spring! The days will soon be longer and warmer. Let the gardening begin.

Can you imagine what's already begun beneath our gardens? The plant seeds are sensing longer days and warmer temperatures, thus releasing the hormones from their dormancy. They've been kept alive and healthy by autumn's organic matter.

It won't be long until we can get busy doing what we have been missing for the last year. And hopefully, we'll be able to meet in person.

Getting together is why we gardeners join clubs. We love to create our beautiful gardens. Sharing ideas with others who have similar interests helps us gain inspiration and develop our idea. It's also wonderful to have others who take an interest and applaud our creations—without just seeing them on Zoom. We need to feel this enthusiasm and support, and it's equally fun to give it back to others.

Remember, our next meeting via Zoom will be on Tuesday, April 13. This time we will learn more than you could imagine about dahlias from Del Hampton, better known as "Dahlia Del." This is a good time in the garden calendar to hear about growing dahlias. You can also see some of his beautiful dahlias on his web page delsdahlias.com.

But wait, there's more! We'll also have a sneak peek of some of the items on the plant sale presented by Gary Geister on Tuesday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please join us for both presentations.

Planting a seed is to have hope in the future.

THE 2021 MWGCM ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Our Plant Sale will be an "online virtual sale" again this year due to COVID-19. For easy ordering, we will use this [Online Plant Sale Site](#), which allows you to combine both non-native and native plants on the same order. No payments will be processed on the sale site! You will pay by check or credit card when you pick up the plants.

[Use this flyer to pass the word! This sale is open to the public.](#)

Plants for Sale

- High-quality new and unusual annuals and perennial plants not typically found at local nurseries
- 37 native plants
- 10 varieties of hosta
- Great variety of succulents, annuals and perennials
- Tomatoes, peppers, pumpkins, squash and cucumbers
- 12 varieties of herbs (the Vegetable of the Year for our August FFF Show)
- 4-packs of bedding plants, including disease-resistant impatiens
- Many container plants, including a large selection of colorful foliage
- Competitive prices
- Over 400 varieties for sale. [Find the list here.](#)

Important Dates

Browse now through Tuesday, April 8

- The online site is currently open for browsing, so you can get an idea of what you may want to order. However, items placed in your cart during this time will not be saved.

Shop April 9 - 30

- These are the actual online virtual sale shopping dates. Shop by putting items in your shopping cart and “check-out.” (See **How to Shop for Plants at the Online Plant Sale** below)

Pickup Wednesday, May 12

- Plant order pickup at these locations:
 - Non-natives will be picked up at Gary Geister’s home: **3615 Wescott Hills, Eagan, MN 55123**
 - Natives will be picked up at Kirky Otto’s home (follow the signs): **1404 West 61st St., Minneapolis, MN 55419**

[Click for complete information on how to shop the online Plant Sale and payment details.](#)

**Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens
Kirky Otto & Carol Shreier, Co-chairs**

**Check Out These Additions to the
Native Plant Sale**

New England Aster

Aromatic Aster

Although these asters may look alike, their overall impression is very different. New England asters (top photo) tend to be nearly 4 ft. tall, with 1-1/2 in. blossoms, and an airy feel. Aromatic asters (which have no fragrance!) are shorter and bushier with lots of 1 in. blossoms in the late fall. Poor, dry soil is fine for aromatic asters.



Sand coreopsis

Sand coreopsis plants get about 2 ft. tall, with 2 in. bright yellow daisy-type flowers from May thru July. Deadhead for more blooms. Good cut flowers. Dry to medium poor soil is just fine. Attracts butterflies.



Zizia aurea **Golden Alexander**

Blooms from April to June in sun to part shade. It's 1-3 ft. tall, with the shorter heights in part shade. It likes medium to moist soil and does well in a partially shaded rain garden.



Royal Catchfly

Enjoy brilliant true-red flowers in July and August on 3 ft. plants, attracting hummingbirds. Dry to medium soil makes it happy.



Hoary Vervain

Purple blossoms bloom up the stem from June to September. The 2-3 ft. tall plants look good in combination with native yarrow and coneflowers. Once established, it prefers sunny, dry soil.



FYI

The mayapple and ginger will be dug from Gary Geister's yard, the soil washed from the roots, and will be potted in professionally prepared potting soil. All other plants are from Glacial Ridge Growers except the Hepatica, which is from another grower.

Ordering begins Friday, April 9 -- last year many natives sold out the first day!

-- Kirky Otto

Plant Sale Committee
Gary Geister, Chair

More Additions for Your Plant Sale List

Annuals

Rudbeckia 'Sahara'
Rudbeckia 'Green Eyes'



These annuals will sometimes surprise you by surviving the winter. 'Sahara' has a variety of coppery autumn colors and 'Green Eyes' is bright yellow with a green center. Both are great as cut flowers, or deadhead them in the garden for constant blooms through fall. Needs full sun and reaches 1-1/2 to 2 ft tall.

Pumpkin on a Stick Easter Egg Plant

Both are in the eggplant family but are not edible. They grow up to 2 ft. tall in full sun.

Pumpkin on a Stick fruit looks like miniature pumpkins along the stem. It can also have sharp thorns on the leaves. Easter Egg Plant has cream-colored, egg-shaped fruit.

Put these cousins together in the garden or floral arrangements and you will sure to spark a conversation. Both mature late in the season but are worth the wait. Pick the stems just before the first frost for long-lasting arrangements

Salvia
Grandstand™ Candy Apple 12 to 18 in.
Rockin'® Fuchsia 24 to 36 in.
Rockin'® Deep Purple 30 to 40 in.
'Black and Blue' 36 to 48 in.

As you can see, salvias come in a wide range of heights. They are great for attracting bees, butterflies and



hummingbirds. Some of the Grandstand Candy Apple are already blooming and like all salvia, should continue through fall. Best planted in full sun but can be planted in partial shade.



Wandering Jew

Only a few inches tall and best in full to partial shade, this plant has great variegated leaves of silver-grey and purple. Plant at the edge of your containers to spill over trailing up to 2 ft. or use as an annual ground cover. A native of tropical rain forests, it loves heat and humidity.



Perennials

Belamcanda 'Hello Yellow'

For a number of years I have tried to get this plant but it was always sold out. This year: success. Although sometimes called blackberry lily, this plant has bright yellow flowers with long-lasting clusters of shiny black seeds in the fall. The sword-like leaves resemble iris. Grows up to 2 ft tall.



Phlox paniculata 'Jeana'

This phlox, recommended by Kate Ladner, reaches 4 to 5 ft. tall producing large masses of small lavender-pink flowers from July through October. It has greater resistance to powdery mildew than any other phlox developed through breeding programs. Although a native of Tennessee, it is a zone 4 perennial. It's very popular with butterflies and, unfortunately, also with deer.

Hostas for the 2021 Plant Sale

Steve Shubick

This year's selection from Naylor Creek Hosta is a great mix of mini, small, medium and large hostas.

One of each size is featured here. [See the complete list for details on all the plants available.](#)



2020 Hosta of the Year

H. 'Dance Queen'

Large 24" H x 30" W, \$16.00

Features an exceptional pie-crust edge. Starts out bright yellow and turns very pale yellow late in the season. Topped with pale lavender flowers in midsummer.



H. 'Desert Mouse,

Mini 3" - 6" H x 5" W, \$15.00

Another great "mouse." Creamy-centered leaves turn white with a blue-green border. 'Desert Mouse' might be the same as 'Pure Heart' but we think it grows better. Its flower is lavender.



H. 'Bashful'

Small 6" H x 12" W, \$14.00

Open pollinated seedling from 'Blue Cadet.' Leaves come up in spring a creamy color mottled with green. The green slowly becomes more prominent but newer flushes will be lighter and misted. Small clump with white flowers.

H. 'Rainforest Sunrise'

Medium 12" H x 25" W, \$14.00



Great sport from 'Maui Buttercups.' Bright gold leaves are framed with a dark green border and show lots of corrugation. Vigorous grower topped with lavender flowers in early summer.

[See the complete selection of hostas.](#)

Marketing & Publicity Committee
Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

[Find Ways to Welcome Spring with the April List of Things to Do.](#)

Flower, Food & Foto Show
Judy Berglund, Chair



Featured Vegetable for 2021: Herbs

At this year's Plant Sale, you'll find a collection of wonderful herbs to use in your culinary delights through the spring, summer and fall. I often bring a few of my favorites into a sunny windowsill to enjoy all winter.

Herbs are easy to grow. Annual and biennial herbs like basil, coriander, parsley, dill and chervil are fast growing and best sown at intervals throughout the spring and summer so you're guaranteed a continuous fresh supply. Perennial herbs like oregano, mint, thyme, sage, rosemary and chives are slower growing and need a more permanent home. Ideally herbs like a sunny, sheltered location with well-drained soil.

Growing herbs in pots and containers is a great way to grow fresh produce in a small space. Choose relatively deep pots which can be positioned right outside your



kitchen door, on your patio or even on your balcony.

Make sure your containers have adequate drainage holes and are raised on bricks or “pot feet” to prevent water logging. Herbs are relatively low maintenance unless grown in containers, in which case they require routine watering and feeding. Trimming herbs in the spring encourages a flush of new healthy grow, and it is also best to deadhead your herbs as the flowers start to fade.

Herbs may be exhibited as follows:

3 stems of one variety in one bottle

5 different named varieties, each in a separate bottle

1 or more herbs growing in a container

So here is to healthy eating. Try using herbs to replace salt in order to enhance the flavor of your favorite culinary creations.

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

Welcome New Members

Join me in welcoming the four new members who joined us on-line this month: Sarah Anderson, Katie Bayliss, Christine Bedor and Grace Olson-Bridgeford. We look forward to learning more about them and meeting them all in person.

Every member bring a member.

Board Meeting Highlights

Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

Highlights from the March 2, 2021 board meeting

The Board previewed the upcoming online Plant Sale on the website. The Board was especially impressed with the addition of photographs of each of the plant selections to the order form.

The Board also discussed the timeline for planning for the 2022 Program.

[Read the complete minutes.](#)

Treasurer's Snapshot

Bill Clark, Treasurer

U.S. Bank Balance: \$40,938.57

Royal Credit
Deane Fund: \$70,702.19

Total Club Funds: \$111,640.76

2021 Meetings & Events

April 9-30
Online Annual Plant Sale

April 13
A Year in the Life of an Urban Dahlia
Grower
Del Hampton
Zoom meeting

April 20
Plant Sale Preview
Gary Geister
Zoom meeting

May 12
Plant Sale pickup

June 8
U of MN Conservatory Virtual Tour
Lisa Philander
Zoom Meeting

August 15 & 16
Flower, Food & Foto Show
MN Landscape Arboretum

September 14
Apples
Peter Moe
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum
(tentative)

October 12
Container Decorating
Lynn Messman
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum
(tentative)

November 9
Ask the Experts
MWGCM Member Panel
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum
(tentative)

July
Garden Tour TBA

December 14
Annual Holiday Party
TBA

2021 Club Officers & Directors

Club Officers

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Richfield

Vice President

David Voss
Arden Hills

Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Sue Clark
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Minneapolis

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Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis