

The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

2014, Volume 72, Number 1

January

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Jan. 14	LHC	Rock Gardens & Troughs
Feb. 11	LHC	Gardens of Scotland
Mar. 11	LWC	Lakewood Cemetery Greenhouse Tour
Apr. TBD	Macy's	Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show
May 13	SMC	Plant Sale

More info on Page 11

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S., Mpls. (Lower level)

LWC = Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$12.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Jan. 10 – **no later!** Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

For last minute cancellations, call Nancy Bjerke at 612-353-5220. If she can sell it, you won't be billed.

Dinner Menu

Champagne Chicken
Rice Pilaf Green Beans
Tossed Salad Dinner Rolls
Dessert

January Program Shirley Friberg Rock Gardens and Troughs



We are very fortunate to have Shirley Friberg with us to discuss rock gardens and troughs. We visited Shirley's (and her husband Dick's) splendid garden on tour in 2011. Shirley is very active in the North American Rock Garden Society, and Shirley and Dick's garden has been featured in the Star Tribune. We are going to learn a lot! *2011 Photo by Denise Rust*

Schedule for January 14

6:00 p.m. Social Time
6:15 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Business meeting
7:30 Program

Looking Ahead

February Program: Peter Olin Gardens of Scotland

Well-traveled 25-year member and former Arboretum Director Peter Olin will take us on a tour of Scotland's gardens.

Notes from the Prez:

-- *Randi Larson*

A new year is beginning and I'm not sure what I have let myself in for. Sandra left some big shoes to fill as president. She has always been helpful and unflustered and detail orientated, so I hope to emulate those qualities.

The coming year promises to be full of interesting programs. I'm looking forward to many of them and I hope that you are too! I'm so grateful there is now a Program Committee. It is one of the biggest challenges to find new programs for our club.

I encourage members to make suggestions as to topics or presenters for programs for 2015. I'm sure that most of you know at least one person who would be a good presenter. This may be your local garden store (not Home Depot!), an old college friend who has gone into horticulture, or a cousin who worked in horticulture or something similar.

Suggestions for tour gardens are also appreciated. Members shouldn't feel reluctant to share their gardens with the club. Not all of us have showpiece gardens, but I bet most of you have something to offer our club, whether it be a special plant or specialized garden. Remember, we have a lot of really good gardeners who would tour your garden and who you could ask for some advice for that tricky plant that just doesn't do well, wherever you plant it.

If anyone knows of a public garden that could be included in one of tours, please notify the tour committee. Many of us tour public gardens all summer, so if you do, think about the club and if all of us might be interested in seeing the garden you're seeing.

I hope many of our members will invite their friends or neighbors to attend some meetings. The membership committee has found that the most effective way to recruit new members is bring them along to a meeting that has an interesting program.

I feel very honored to have been chosen to be president of a club so venerable and well respected as this one is. We are serious gardeners but we also should have fun while we learn from each other.

Randi

From the Editor

-- *Mary Maynard*

Happy New Year, everyone! I need to finish 2013 with an apology to our Past President Sandra Abraham. Last month, I was sure that Sandra had spelled Mary Lerman's name wrong in her column, so I changed it. But I was the one who was wrong. Why on earth did I doubt Sandra?

I'm reviewing my Permanent List of New Year's Resolutions, and I realize that I can remove "Eradicate Creeping Charlie from the lawn" from the list. My gosh! That had been on my list from the year I bought the house! I think I will replace it with "Restore grass where I killed it with Creeping Charlie herbicide." And there's still "Eradicate Creeping Charlie from gardens" to keep me busy. I have a Creeping Charlie exchange program going on with one of my neighbors. Right now I'm on the receiving end, but the tables could turn at any time!

We have a great schedule of events and programs this year. I look forward to seeing you in 2014.

Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 12-19-2013

Checking balance	\$16,784
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,517
Scholarship	<u>\$4,215</u>
Working Balance	\$11,052
CD	\$5,234

Membership Corner

Welcome to new members

Len Brenny
 Carol Crane
 Shayne Karsov
 Nancy Rys

(See below)

Welcome New Members!

Judy Brooke

Len Brenny was a previous member who rejoined the club in November. He lives in Ramsey with wife Jan. We toured their impressive garden this summer. Len's specialties are over-all landscape design and conifers. He is interested in great gardening experiences with old and new friends. Shayne Karasov lives in St Louis Park and joined the club because of shared interests and the high standards in MWGCM.

Nancy Rys is from Minneapolis. She says gardening is a hobby she really enjoys!

Carol Crane also lives in Minneapolis. She'd like to get involved with the Lyndale Park Garden. Please welcome them warmly!

2014 Budget in the Works

Our treasurers are still working on the 2014 budget, so it is not going to be published in this issue. Instead, we will be sending the budget to you in a separate message. Members will vote on the proposed 2014 budget at the January club meeting.

Scholarship Challenge Extended to March 31

Jan Johnson has once again challenged us to contribute to the scholarship fund. Jan will match contributions **made by the end of March, 2014** up to \$500.

Jan reminds us that those of us who must take Required Minimum Distributions from their 401k's and IRA's can donate to charity without paying taxes on withdrawals. (Please check with your accountant or tax adviser if you have questions.)

Margaret Hibberd Receives Bachman Award for Outstanding Service



Here is Carole Ann Brekke's introduction of this year's winner. Carole Ann was the 2012 winner of the Bachman Award. (Photo by Lloyd Wittstock)

It is my honor and great joy to tell you a little about the member who will be receiving the Bachman award for outstanding service to the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis!

This member is a friend of mine. Actually--everyone's friend.

Our friend is always cheerful, always helpful. In small tasks or a big project, our friend wouldn't let you down. Our friend is the person who offers a ride to a member in order

for them to attend meetings. Our friend always follows through with any task, request, or promise made...our friend is really a rose in our club.

Many new members of our club have been mentored by our friend when they joined. How blessed you all are to have had such a genuine helper and friend by your side as you got to know more about our club...

Our friend has helped with public and club garden tours, the TV & video committee and has served on the board of directors a number of times. Three of those years I was also on the board and witnessed the difference our friend made at the meetings.

Our friend has been very active for many years by serving on a variety of committees. The Flower, Food and Foto show has been a favorite with our friend who has played a very active role for more than 10 years on that committee! The beautiful specimens that comes from our friend's garden have received many ribbons and awards at the FFF show and the State Fair Flower Show!

Our friend has a colorful show-stopping boulevard garden with tall annuals and tropicals, such as castor beans, bananas, cannas, dahlias, and vines on trellises. People actually stop and ring the doorbell to ask questions. If our friend is not at home, look for the laminated list of plants that hangs from the mailbox!

Our friend is very knowledgeable about plant materials and horticulture in general, a scientist, who approaches everything, including her garden, with that perspective.

If you ever have a horticulture question...just ask our friend! If our friend doesn't know the answer she will get it for you...not in a while, or a couple of weeks or months....right away when you need an answer or help. Something you may not know about our friend... she loves to play mahjongg!

2013 MWGCM President's Cup goes to Andy Marlow

--Sandra Abraham

At the end of the year of serving as president one of the most difficult things to do is to choose just one person to receive this award. So many people were so helpful in so many ways, and you will have to believe me when I say, I asked quite a few members for lots of advice throughout the year and I am grateful for all of the help I got from everyone.

However, there was one person who really stepped up and seemed to know all the answers and that was Andy Marlow.



Besides that, he is very knowledgeable about Robert's Rules of Order and it is always good to have a parliamentarian around when you need one, too.

It was always reassuring to me to know that if I called on Andy to either assist with a task or clarify an issue he would do so.

The President's Cup is awarded to a non-officer, non-director who provided outstanding assistance to the president. I have the honor of presenting this year's award to Andy for his contribution in helping me preside over this club for the year. Thanks, Andy, it was a lot easier with your assistance!



Have fun with the trophy, Andy! You may need to invest in some silver polish. Photos by Lloyd Wittstock.

2013 Rookie of the Year: Alan Gallaher

Sandra Abraham



Our recipient this year was introduced to our club by Audrey Grote and Mary Oelke in 2012. He is a retired professor from the U of Wisconsin Eau Claire and, according to Audrey Grote he has, in the spirit of gardening beautification, singlehandedly helped transform the landscaping around the Londonderry townhouse complex in Edina where they met. He created their hillside gardens from the rocks to the planting of trees and other plant selections. She says he is out there every day dead heading and keeping the gardens going and growing. Since joining our club he has worked with the Marketing and Publicity committee specifically taking on our Facebook Page promoting our meetings

and events. In November, he was elected as a director on our board and has already attended his first board meeting (even before the January installation of officers).

He has been seen at many of our club meetings and events with that terrific smile and is a welcome addition to our club.

Please join me in congratulating Alan Gallaher as the 2013 MWGCM Rookie of the Year.

Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

Lehman Trophy Goes to Tami Hagen



This year's winner of the Lehman Trophy for Best Garden on Tour goes to Tami Hagen, who opened her South Minneapolis garden to us in June. Tami's immaculate and varied garden gave us another example of how to create a lovely space on a standard City lot. Thank you and congratulations, Tami!



Garden photo by Denise Rust. Tami's photo by Lloyd Wittstock.

Scholarship Winners Announced

We were once again able to offer three \$1,000 scholarships this year. Here is a little information about them from the Scholarship Committee.

Rebecca Gross, University of Minnesota. Senior, College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Science; working on a Degree in Horticulture with a goal of 'outreach at a public garden' in a program such as City Fresh at the MLA.

Amber May, Hennepin Technical College, second year student graduating in May 2015; Studying Landscape Design and Construction, Horticulture, Greenhouse Mgmt./Technician; Amber would like to own a greenhouse business.

Alexander Susko, University Of Minnesota, Masters Graduate student in woody plant breeding expected graduation fall 2015. Alexander is studying Azalea and Rhododendron species sampling for DNA sequencing to identify genetic markers of pH tolerance. This would be of great interest to gardeners in more alkaline soils such as Minnesota.

All of the above are excellent candidates, committed to educational goals consistent with the gardening interests of our members.



Jan Johnson introducing Alex Susko at the Holiday Party. Photo by Lloyd Wittstock.

FFF Trophies Awarded



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

The **Blackbourn Trophy** is awarded to the member who accumulates the most points in the flower competition and the annual Flower, Food and Foto Show.

The **Foley Trophy** is awarded to the member who accumulates the most points in the vegetable competition.

This year, Judy Berglund takes home both trophies. She is pictured here exhorting members to participate in next year's FFF Show while Chuck Carlson and Mary Maynard cheer her on.

The **Robert L. Smith Trophy** was created by MWGCM as a memorial to its namesake, a member and director in the 1980's. It is awarded to the first-time competitor who accumulates the most points in the horticulture competitions. This year's winner is Alan Gallaher, seen here getting his traveling trophy from Mary Maynard.

This year, Alan has won the only two club awards where it is impossible to repeat as champion. Savor the moment, Alan!



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock



The **Photo Award** is presented to the competitor who accumulates the most points in the photography competition at the annual FFF show. This year's winner is Dave McKeen. How embarrassing that we don't have a photo of the Photo Award winner. But we do have his Best in Show photo.

Holiday Party Recap

Larry Larson and Elaine Spiegel (Photos by Lloyd Wittstock)

I received lots of compliments about moving the holiday party to the Embassy Suites, so I hope everybody had a good time. I thought the hotel staff did a wonderful job setting up the room exactly the way we wanted it. The hors d'oeuvres were excellent as was the meal.



Our club raised \$648 in the silent auction, so a big thank you to everyone who brought items for the sale. I also want to express my thanks to the holiday committee. They did an excellent job putting the poinsettias on the tables, and especially, putting the auction items on the tables. My sincere thanks to Elaine Spiegel, who did such a wonderful job of getting the bid sheets ready and spreading them out on the bid tables.

Since everything went so well, there is a real good chance that we will return to Embassy Suites again next year. If that occurs, please let me know if there are any changes or additions you would like to see happen. Thanks to everyone who came; it was a wonderful party!

Larry Larson
Chairman



A special thank you to those who helped with Silent Auction. Many of you come every year and you make it look so easy. To those of you who jumped in on short notice, I can't thank you enough.

Don & Geri Trocke, Jane Sheedy, Carol Schreir, Mollie Dean, Nona Johnson, Sandra Abraham, Carol Ann Brekke, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Berglund, Les Spiegel, Randi Larson, Larry Larson.
If I have forgotten anyone, I truly apologize.



Elaine Spiegel
Silent Auction Chair 2013



The 'Other' Awards – And New Year's Resolutions

Andy Marlow and Bob Olson

In a few minutes we'll introduce Chuck Carlson who'll be presenting some kinda minor MWGCM awards. But first, we get to present the REAL meaningful awards.



To Jerry Shannon, we present this leaf removal permit from the St. Paul Parks Department. If that doesn't allow you to collect all the leaves you need from the parks, here's a "get out of jail free card" signed by Sandra Abraham

To Sandra Abraham, we present absolutely nothing. She already got her award at the November meeting when she became PAST President.

To Jan Johnson, we present the Incendiary Award for the next time Prairie Restorations comes to burn her front yard



To Nancy Bjerke, we present the Elisha Otis Award, for having the good sense to install an elevator in her house to allow us to move the MWGCM history files to her basement without injury to the Historians

To Lynda Carlson, the award for Best Video Producer for Heirloom Tomatoes in Paradise, an MWGCM production yet to be released. This is the only known copy!



To Margaret Hibberd, a Traffic Citation for creating distracted drivers who slow down on a busy street to get a closer look at her boulevard garden.

New Year's Resolutions on next page.

New Year's Resolutions

Bob Olson and Andy Marlow

Since this is a "holiday" party, we thought we should cover all the holidays. So, thinking ahead, here are a few suggested New Year's resolutions:

Roger Koopmans: I resolve to not buy any yellow shirts in 2014

Mary Maynard: I resolve to pay my nephews a living wage for working in my garden and conform to all state child labor laws.

Gary Geister: I resolve to set up a Distance Early Warning system so I won't have to call people in the middle of the night when my night blooming cereus comes into flower

Chuck Carlson: I resolve to give up rock gardening in favor of prairie grasses and chickens. That way I'll never have to paint the house again, since no one will be able to see it, and I'll have an unlimited supply of chicken manure

Kay Wolfe: I resolve to spend our wedding anniversary at Gary's tennis club next year instead of dragging him along to the Jane Austen Society meeting

Steve Shubick: I resolve to stop bringing the same potted hostas to flower shows and let someone else win the blue ribbon

Judy Berglund: I resolve to enter the "professionals" category at the 2014 Flower, Food and Foto Show, where I will compete only with Mary Maynard (unless the legendary Bob Smith returns from self-imposed exile in Florida).

December 2013 Board Meeting

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Highlights of the December 2013 board meeting included:

- introductions of incoming board members, who will begin their terms of office in January
- a decision to make a modest reduction in the number of yearly board meetings, to 6, with the belief that the board will be able to take care of all Club business during those meetings
- announcement that the spring plant sale will be held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis, close to Lakewood Cemetery
- confirmation that our finances remain strong and that the budget is projected to balance at the end of the fiscal year
- a continuing emphasis on getting individuals to renew their memberships
- a final update regarding the plans for the Holiday party

Calendar of Events for 2014

January 14

"Rock Gardens and Troughs"
Shirley Friberg
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

February 11

"Gardens of Scotland"
Peter Olin
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

March 11

"Tour of Lakewood Cemetery Greenhouses"
Paul Aarestad
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

April 1

Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show
Macy's

May 13

Plant Sale and Auction
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

June 10

"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape"
Tim Malooly
Lakewood?

July TBD

Garden Tours?

August 16-17

Flower, Food and Foto Show
U of M Landscape Arboretum

August TBD

Garden Tours?

September 9

"Houseplants"
Renee Lynch, Wagner's Greenhouse
Lakewood?

October 14

"Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle"
Hennepin County Master Gardeners
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

November 11

Hostas
Bob Olson
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

December 9

Holiday Party

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Nancy Bjerke, Carole Ann Brekke, Judy Brooke, Margaret Hibberd, Larry Larson, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Bob Olson, Kent Petterson, Elaine Spiegel

Photography: Dave McKeen, Denise Rust, Lloyd Wittstock

**MEN'S and WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB OF
MINNEAPOLIS, INC.**



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Club Officers:

President: Randi Larson

Minnetonka

Vice President: Tom McKusick

Minneapolis

Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin

Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Judy Brooke

Minnetonka

Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd

Minneapolis

Falcon Heights

Past President: Sandra Abraham

Eagan

Directors:

Raymond Bauch

Plymouth

Alan Gallaher

Edina

(Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd)

The Spray

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Return To:

The Garden Spray

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Mpls., Inc.

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First Class Mail

January
2014