

The Garden Spray

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

2014, Volume 72, Number 3

March

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Mar. 11	LWC	Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border
Apr. 1	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

SMC = St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$13.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, March 7 – **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

Apricot turkey Tossed salad
California blend vegetables
Rolls Dessert.

March Program

Garden Gems of Minneapolis: Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border

Plus Lakewood Greenhouse Open House!

Our meeting on March 11 will take place in an exciting new venue; the Reception Room at the Garden Mausoleum in Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis



Greenhouse Manager and friend of MWGCM Paul Aarestad invites you to an open house at his greenhouses before the meeting. See Page 4 for all the details. *Photo from Lakewood's website.*

Schedule for March 11

5:00 p.m. Greenhouse Open House
6:15 p.m. Dinner at Reception Room
7:00 p.m. Business meeting
7:30 Program

Looking Ahead

April Program Macy's Bachman's Flower Show and Dinner April 1, 2013

Reservations are due by March 24.

Details and reservation form on Pages 6-7.

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<http://www.mwgcm.org>

Notes from the Prez:

-- Randi Larson

New Perennials

Every year new varieties of plants are introduced. I would like to use this month's column to discuss some of the new perennials I found exciting. Hostas are always a plant that has new varieties from miniatures to giants, but Bob Olson is giving a program on Hostas in November so I'm going to let Bob talk about them.

Echinacea is another plant that has many new varieties each year. But so many revert back to the original cultivar that I have a taken a 'wait and see' attitude about them. Many times the new ones look good for a year or so, then revert back and seem to be less exciting.

But I do like the following new perennials for 2014. 'Forever Pink' Phlox is compact and long blooming. The grower claims this is an entirely new type of Phlox, blooming after the Spring Phlox in June with repeat blooms into October. This is completely free of powdery mildew.



Another new Phlox I liked is called 'Glamour Girl.' The flowers are hot purple pink on dark purple stems, up to 32" tall. This flower is also powdery mildew free.

'Sun Sparkler Blue Pearl' Sedum has blue foliage that will not fade and has dark pink flowers in late summer. It grows 20" tall. I think this would be striking with Festuca 'Beyond Blue' which has a steely blue color. It has excellent form with perfect tufts that reach 12" tall.



Two new Delphiniums from the New Millennium series look interesting. The first is

Cobalt Dreams, beautiful dark blue flowers that grow 4-6 feet tall. Lilac Ladies claims to be a blooming machine with clear lilac purple flowers with white stripes. This one grows 3-4 feet tall. These two delphiniums are supposed to be more tolerant of heat and humidity than any other delphinium with thick stems that won't fall over in foul weather. That would be a nice improvement!

I also liked the Helenium 'Short and Sassy' which has a compact habit at 12 to 18" tall. It's early to flower and long blooming. It looks like would be a good border plant.

A favorite of mine is Heuchera. 'Ginger Snap' has rosy and tan brown with white vein foliage. This is a shade plant. 'Sugar Berry' would also be good for Fairy Gardens or miniature gardens (if your fairies are hiding) because it has flowers on ten inch stalks. The color is berry- violet with dark veins. This plant is sun or shade. 'Sweet Tart' has green foliage with hot pink flower clusters that bloom from Spring to Fall that is only 5" tall. Part shade or full shade. These plants can be used as accents in pots in the summer and transplanted to the garden in the fall.



'Dragonfly Sakura' Bergenia has pink semi double flowers reminiscent of cherry blossoms. 'Sakura' is compact with double to semi-double pink flowers. Will grow best in partial shade.

All these plants are zone 4. There were some interesting plants for zone 5 but I'm not going to touch that after the winter we're having.

Randi

-- Photos provided by Larry Larson

Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 02-18-2014

Checking balance	\$16,343
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,357
Scholarship	<u>\$7,560</u>
Working Balance	\$ 7,746
 CD	 \$5,234

Membership Corner

The new directories are out and there are a few people who were missed by the time it went to the printer. Please check your 2013 directory and add the information for John Dahl, Andrea Greene and Pat Kessler.

Every Member Bring a Member

Welcome New Member

Judy Brooke, Membership Secretary

Kirky Otto lives in South Minneapolis. She learned about MWGCM through signs in the Lyndale Park Garden, the Star Tribune and Northern Gardener. She attended the January program and found the members to be a welcoming group. She subsequently joined the club in February. Kirky is a Master Gardener and a member of Kenny Neighborhood Garden Club. Her gardening interests include perennials, natives, landscape design and sustainable gardening. She plans to help the MWGCM crew on the Lyndale Park Garden.



Photo by Chuck Carlson

Benefits of Membership

Judy Brooke, Membership Secretary

When recruiting new members here are some reasons for them to join the club:

1. Expert gardening information available from the many knowledgeable members in the club.
2. Educational, free monthly programs by local experts during the fall, winter and spring.
3. Catered dinner meetings with a chance to share gardening tips and info.
4. Plant sale in May.
5. Summer garden tours
6. Award winning monthly newsletter - The Garden Spray
7. The MWGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show in August at the MN Landscape Arboretum. Members gain garden show experience in the presentation of exhibits and receive recognition for gardening and photographic achievements.
8. An excellent opportunity to learn about plants and design while working with other club members in the Lyndale Park Trial Gardens. The gardens are planted and maintained in conjunction with the Minneapolis Park Board and the University of Minnesota.
9. A MWGCM website with an addition of a gardening blog by written by Dr. Bob Olson.
10. A December holiday banquet and party with an awards ceremony.

REMINDER: Invite a guest who is a gardener, or would like to be a gardener, to a dinner meeting and program and the club will pay for the guest's dinner.

March Program: “Garden Gems of Minneapolis: Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border”

Tom McKusick

Our meeting on March 11 will take place in an exciting new venue; the Reception Room at the Garden Mausoleum in Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. At 5PM, prior to the dinner and meeting, the Lakewood Cemetery greenhouses will be open to club members, and Greenhouse Manager Paul Aarestad will be on hand to provide a “behind-the-scenes” look at their greenhouse operation. Space inside the greenhouses is limited, so not everyone who comes for the Open House may be able to go inside at once.



At 6:15, dinner will be served in the Garden Mausoleum Reception Room, and after dinner and the conclusion of the business meeting at 7:30 we will enjoy a two-part program. First up is Paul Aarestad, who will talk about the activities in the greenhouse at this time of year, and will present a video and slide show that highlight some of the unique garden features they have created for Lakewood. Following Paul’s presentation, our own Kay Wolfe and the Lyndale Park Garden Committee will present a program on the MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden. Here’s a preview of their program:

The MWGCM “Mixed Perennial Border” garden is a 300-foot long border which is designed, donated and maintained by the Lyndale Park Garden Committee, and by our club. The committee will share the highlights and hazards they’ve experienced over the past 12 years while creating a large garden in a public park. Emphasis will be on the design of the garden—the use of trees and shrubs to provide form and color through three seasons. Plant lists of our favorite tried and true varieties will be provided. This garden in Lyndale Park, which is home to the Rose Garden and Peace Garden, is a wonderful venue to demonstrate the gardening talents of MWGCM members, and our efforts are much appreciated by both the public and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. Join us to see what is new!



Lakewood photo from Lakewood’s website. Park Garden Photo by Kay Wolfe

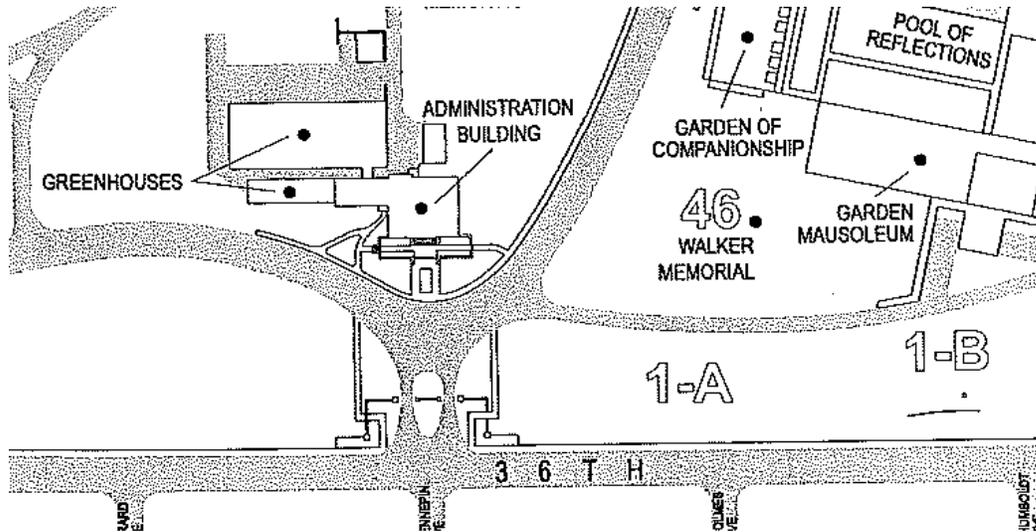
Schedule for March 11

5:00 PM: Lakewood Cemetery greenhouses “Open House” with Paul Aarestad
6:15: Dinner in the Garden Mausoleum Reception Room
7:00: MWGCM business meeting
7:30: Program

See the map on the next page for location details. Signs directing us to the greenhouses and mausoleum will be posted. Parking is on the perimeter road in front of the Garden Mausoleum.

Map to Lakewood Cemetery Buildings

Note that the greenhouses will be on your left as you enter from 36th Street. The Garden Mausoleum will be on your right.



Photos from February's Meeting

Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock



Macy's Bachman's Flower Show and Dinner **April 1, 2013**

Our annual trip to Macy's flower show will take place on **April 1**. Macy's 8th floor auditorium will be transformed into a 'Secret Garden', with individual gardens creating the impression of being in different countries. Dale Bachman will speak to us about the plants following a dinner at Oak Grill on Macy's 12th floor.

Timetable (we will need to follow this schedule closely):

- 5:00 - Gather, be seated, order beverages
- 5:30 - Dinner is served
- 6:30 - Dale Bachman will speak
- 6:50 - Proceed to 8th floor to view flower show
- 8:00 - Macy's store closes (must exit store by 8:20)

Cost is \$23 per person (tax & tip included). Reservations are required, and **must be received** no later than Monday, March 24. Seating for dinner is limited to 48.

Menu selections (select one on the reservation form on the next page):

- . **Mrs. Hering's 1890 Original Chicken Pot Pie** - served with salad of mixed greens
- . **Grilled Flank Steak Sandwich** - Grilled naan bread, seasoned steak grilled to medium, with baby arugula, grilled onions, horseradish aioli, white balsamic vinaigrette and a side of seasoned fries
- . **Mandarin Salad** - Marinated chicken breast, red peppers, mandarin oranges, pea pods, applewood smoked bacon, almonds, water chestnuts, green onions, mixed greens and crispy wontons with toasted sesame dressing
- . **Traditional Oven-Baked Meatloaf** - Meatloaf mixed with pine nuts and spinach, served over whipped potatoes with a side of fresh vegetables and topped with red pepper gravy.

Each entrée is served with signature popover, white chocolate bread pudding topped with caramel sauce and whipped cream, beverage (coffee, tea, lemonade, fountain drink).

Free parking vouchers for the Macy's ramp (good after 4PM) are available at the Oak Grill. Any questions please call Tom McKusick 612-308-1123

Please fill out the reservation form on the next page and send with payment to Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306. **Reservations must be received by Monday, March 24**

Bachman's/Macy's Reservation Form

MWGCM April 1, 2014 Macy's-Bachman Flower Show-dinner at the Oak Grill

Please reserve ___ dinners at \$23.00 each. Include check payable to MWGCM.

Dinner choice(s): ___ Meatloaf ___ Mandarin Salad ___ Pot Pie ___ Steak Sandwich (Mandarin Salad can be made gluten-free. Please indicate on form)

Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Send reservation form with check to:

Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306

Reservations must be received by Monday, March 24, 2013. No exceptions, out of respect for the committee and our arrangement with the Oak Grill Staff. Thanks.

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Does Bob Have Pocket Gophers?

By Chuck Carlson

Reading Bob's Blog in the club's website I was really surprised with a picture I observed. I didn't know Bob was so tolerant of pocket gophers. Yes, those mounds are interesting when covered with snow but aren't those little creatures hard on your garden? Then I read the full blog and found out that the mounds are plastic bags filled with leaves to protect his plants.



I would suggest that those of you who never read his blog become an ardent reader. He has some fun and excellent advice on gardening. Of course he does indicate much of his advice comes through the trial and error method. Maybe Bob should listen to his fellow gardeners for advice or at least search the internet and eliminate the trial and error process. I guess we all do the trial and error method of gardening or we wouldn't be changing, digging and replanting all the time. It is so fun to experiment and that to me is what gardening is all about. That is, unless you are a farmer trying to make a living.

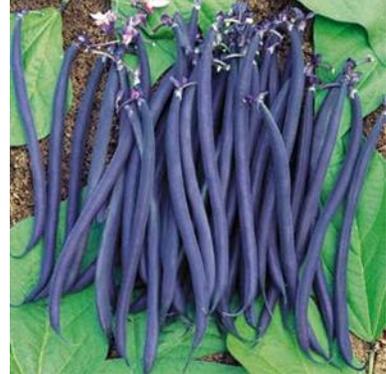
There are shadows in this picture and there is a saying, "Never fear shadows. They simply mean there's a light shining somewhere nearby." This also goes for nearly every "happening" in life.

Don't miss Bob's Blog at http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Bobs_Blog/Bobs_Blog.html

FFF Show Featured Vegetable for 2014 is Beans

Judy Berglund

Often called green beans or string beans, the common garden bean can be both stringless and colors other than green. But it's the green bean that most of us recognize as one of the most frequently prepared vegetables. Green bean plants are either pole varieties or bush. Most varieties are green, but you will also find purple, red, yellow, and streaked varieties. Green beans are several inches long and either round or flattened in shape. They are picked young and tender, before the seeds inside have fully developed. Most popular varieties have been bred to have stringless pods, but many gardeners prefer the flavor of the old-fashioned "string" types.



You will get highest yields if planted in full sun. Beans tend to stop flowering in the extreme heat of summer, but keeping them watered should be enough relief for them. They will resume flowering soon. Full sun also helps keep plants dry and less likely to be affected by disease. **I keep my beans covered with netting at all times. They are like candy to deer and groundhogs.** The size of plants will vary with variety. Bush beans generally get about 2 ft. tall and 1ft. wide. Pole beans can grow upward or across a trellis for a good 10 feet. Days to harvest are usually 50 to 55 days for bush beans and 50 to 60 days for pole beans.



Harvesting beans is an ongoing process and the more you pick the more beans the plants will set. For exhibiting, wax and green beans should be harvested before the constrictions appear between the seeds, when seeds are about half grown. The ends of the pods should not be broken off in picking. **Do not trim the stem of the pods.** Leave the entire stem attached from the node or abscission layer on the plant to the pod. The pods should be uniform in size, color, and quality. The pods may be wiped clean but should not be washed. Avoid showing blemished or wilted specimens. Lima beans should be harvested when the seeds are full grown but still tender and before they have changed in color from green to white. Prepare like snap beans with stem attached.

Pole beans may be grown in planters on your deck with a teepee of long stick for support and nothing tastes better than fresh beans from the garden.

We hope to see your best Beans at the FFF Show in August!!!

Photos courtesy of Park Seed



Plant Sale Pre-Order Form Coming Soon

We will have the opportunity to pre-order annuals and vegetables from Gardenview Greenhouse again this year. The order form will be coming your way very soon. Watch your inbox!

Editor's Note

Mary Maynard

First, I'd like to send get-well wishes to both President Randi and her secretary Larry Larson. As you probably know, Randi fell on the ice and broke her wrist, so she had to dictate the president's column to Larry. And Larry is dealing with serious back problems and has a lot of trouble getting around. We wish you both a speedy recovery.

In the next three months, we'll be meeting in three different locations. I am looking forward to seeing the new space at Lakewood Cemetery in March. Then we travel downtown to Macy's on April 1. And our Plant Sale and Auction is in a new location this year as well. I've been to a wedding at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, and the setting is stunning.

Finally - the Lazy Gardener comes out of the Archives just in time to remind us to have fun starting seeds. See you at Lakewood!

Scholarship Challenge has been Met!

Jan Johnson's \$500 scholarship matching challenge has been exceeded.
Thanks to everyone who contributed.

From the Archives: The Lazy Gardener Starts Seeds

Mary Maynard

Well, it's time to order seeds already, and even the Lazy Gardeners among us are tempted to grow our own. While it's much easier to buy plants at the garden stores or the MGCMM Plant Auction, there are advantages to starting some things from seed: (1) Variety. You can find things in seed catalogs that might not show up at your local garden center. The peppers that my husband Phil grows come to mind. When was the last time you saw a pack of "Bulgarian Carrot" or "Hot Lemon" peppers around town? (2) Cost. This might be deceptive. It might not be all that much cheaper to start seeds, once you count the cost of the seeds, the starting mix, the electricity to run the heat and lights, etc. But it SEEMS cheaper. (3) The opportunity to get started a little early. Let's face it. By mid-March, we're ready to see some green stuff, even if it's down in the basement and not outdoors.

Continued on next page.

The Lazy Gardener Starts Seeds – *Continued*

So, here are a few things that I've learned -- mostly the hard way -- about starting seeds.

1. Start with easy things. If something is listed as challenging to germinate in the seed catalog, I don't even bother! It's frustrating to spend \$3 for a packet of seeds and then have 0% germination -- or one sickly thing that might be a weed. And I know I won't go through a long series of complicated steps. So I stick to things like peppers, snapdragons, petunias, marigolds, ageratum, etc.
2. Start with clean containers. I just wash them in warm soapy water with a little bleach. It seems silly to wash something just to put dirt in it again, but it makes a noticeable difference in the damp-off prevention game.
3. Use sterilized starting mix or potting soil. I buy this. There are a few people (and you know who you are) who sterilize their own mix by heating it in their ovens, but I know I would never get it done. Plus, I've heard that there's a definite aroma when baking soil mixes. So I settle for one of the popular soilless seed starting mixes. I like the mixes that are not too coarse, especially for starting smaller seeds. My current favorite is a mix from Wagner's.
4. Pay some attention to the temperature that seeds should be started at. But don't get too worked up about it for the easy seeds. Snapdragons, for instance, are supposed to prefer temperatures around 55-60 degrees for germination, but I have found that they start up just fine at 70-75. Remember -- we're talking about the seeds that germinate easily. If they were that picky about temperature, they would be in the "easy" category to start with.
5. Think about how many seedlings you might have if you get a good germination rate. Are you prepared to have 200 *nicotiana sylvestris* if all those tiny dust-like seeds come up? (And they will. Like grass.) If not, think about trying a few seeds and seeing how it goes. Or plan to bring a LOT of something to the MGCM Plant Auction. Or plan to compost some of the extras if you can stand to. I can't stand to do that, which is why I have about 20 *filipendula vulgaris* in my border. (Anybody need any? Free to a good home.)
6. Easy on the fertilizer. I don't use much fertilizer on my seedlings. Since I'm not sure what I'm doing, I tend to burn the plants when I fertilize, and most of the easy stuff seems to do fine without it.
7. Keep the lights close. Most of these things need a LOT of light, so keep the shop lights right on top of them. I am too lazy to put the lights on a timer, so they are on 24 hours/day. Some people say seedlings do better on a timed cycle, but full-time lights seem fine for my purposes. The basement glows eerily in the pre-dawn hours.
8. Don't over-water. It's amazing what kind of drought seedlings can recover from, although I don't recommend putting them to the test. But careful watering will again reduce the risk of damp-off, which can wipe out a lot of stuff in a hurry. I think it's better to run slightly on the dry side, although I expect I could get an argument on that.
9. Water from the bottom. Unless you're very good, it's hard to pour water on the top of a tray of small seedlings without flooding them out. I keep the seedling containers in larger 10x20 trays without holes in the bottom, and then just pour water in the larger tray. You need to watch to make sure the seedling packs don't end up standing in water too long, of course.
10. Don't cave in to damping off. Fungicides can help. I can't ever remember the ones that the good gardeners use -- but I sprayed some Funginex around my germination table when I had a damp-off problem, and the damp-off did not spread further.
11. Use plastic covers to conserve moisture. It is possible -- but not necessarily recommended -- to leave your seedlings under plastic covers for 10 days while you go to Honolulu and bask on the beaches. You'll probably have pepper plants crowding up against the top of the covers when you get back, but you'll have an excellent tan.

Happy Gardening! Winter is almost over!

Calendar of Events for 2014

March 11

"Garden Gems of Minneapolis: Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border"

Plus Greenhouse Open House
Paul Aarestad and Kay Wolfe
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 Cemetery, Minneapolis

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
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

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: Sharla Aaseng, Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Chuck Carlson, Lakewood Cemetery, Larry Larson, Park Seed, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe

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



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Golden Valley

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The Spray

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.

Return To:

The Garden Spray

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

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First Class Mail

March
2014