

1942-2017



MEN'S & WOMEN'S

**GARDEN CLUB**

OF MINNEAPOLIS

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March 2017

**The Garden Spray**

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## Coming Up: March meeting preview

Mary Barsness, Program Committee Chair

### MARCH 14 MEETING:

### "BEST PRACTICES FOR GARDEN PEST MANAGEMENT"

### WITH DEAN HERZFELD

You won't want to miss this interactive presentation on garden pest management. Dr. Dean Herzfeld has led the Pesticide Safety & Environmental Educational Program (PSEE) with the University of Minnesota Extension for nearly 30 years. He grew up on a small family dairy and crops farm east of St. Paul. Dr. Herzfeld has a BS in Integrated Pest Management, MS in Plant Pathology and Ph.D. in Work, Community and Family education where his research focused on the public health, educational, and bio ethics. Dr. Herzfeld's presentation promises to be both informative and fun.

### Meeting changes:

- **The March meeting will be held at Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum.**
- **Our reservation process has changed. Sandra Aasang will now be taking dinner reservations at [resmwgcm@juno.com](mailto:resmwgcm@juno.com).**

### Menu

6:00 Social Time  
6:15 Dinner  
7:00 Business Meeting  
7:30 Program

Apricot Turkey  
Roasted Potatoes  
California Blend Vegetables  
Salad  
Artisan Bread  
Lemon Bars

- Permanent reservations are in effect.
- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, March 10.
- Email Sharla Aasang at [resmwgcm@juno.com](mailto:resmwgcm@juno.com), or call (612) 623-9341 and

leave a clear message.

- For last-minute cancellations, call Alan Gallaher at (952) 933-1713. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

## PICK UP YOUR 2017 MWGCM DIRECTORY

The MWGCM 2017 Directory is now available. If you haven't picked up yours, they'll be available at the March meeting.

## MWGCM PHOTO DIRECTORY IS ONLINE

The electronic photo directory is now on the MWGCM website. To get the username and password required to access this password-protected area, contact [webmaster@mwgcm.org](mailto:webmaster@mwgcm.org). Then use the [Photo Directory](#) link on the website.

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## From the President

Sandra Abraham



Ever wonder where the phrase "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb" originated? This bit of folklore traces back to ancient times and those who watched the stars. You see March begins as the constellation Leo (the lion) crosses the meridian. As Leo marches away, the constellation Aries begins to rise. Aries is the ram--what many lambs will become someday. So, based on the stars, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, even though the weather doesn't always cooperate.

At our February meeting we heard a very good presentation by Kathy Zuzek on how to prune our shrubs. We were reminded that March is a good time to prune shrubs that bloom on new wood. At the March meeting we will be learning best practices for managing garden pests. On Saturday, April 8 we will tour the production greenhouses at Gertens and on Tuesday, May 9 we will hold our annual plant sale. With all of this preparation we should be more than ready to don our gardening regalia and start working outside.

Recently I read that gardeners dedicate more time to our "sport" than walkers or bikers. The article went on to warn that in order to avoid aches and pains we should condition the muscles we'll be using and use good form. For planting and weeding, keep your back straight (not hunched) to minimize back strain, and take a break every 15 minutes. When lifting bags of soil, bend at your knees, not your waist. While pruning, always pull branches to your level and avoid twisting and reaching overhead.

Please keep our plant sale in mind as you start those seeds for your vegetable and flower gardens. If you are successful you may be able to share them at the plant sale in May. The weather is whacky everywhere, but Daylight Savings Time begins March 12 and the first day of spring is March 20. It won't be long now, I believe I even saw some green poking up in my garden during our recent warm spell.



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## From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

The *Garden Spray* is also celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and we'll be taking a look through the archives to share some of the club's history. To set the stage, here's a sampling of what was happening in 1942:

Of course, entry of the U.S. into World War II dominated the headlines, and as a result the draft age was lowered from 21 to 18, gas rationing began and war bonds were introduced.

Gas cost 15 cents a gallon and a new car \$920--that is, until car production was retooled to support the war effort. It was also the year that saw the introduction of Duck Tape, instant coffee and the first nuclear reactor. Movie-goers enjoyed the premiers of "Casablanca," "Holiday Inn" and "Bambi."

In Minnesota, Harold Stassen was elected to the last of his three terms as governor; the Sister Kenny Institute opened giving new hope to polio patients, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) came to a close after years of providing much-needed employment and enhancing our state and national parks.

In the midst of this challenging and eventful time, the seeds of the MWGCM and *Garden Spray* were sown.

-- *Nancy Felice*

Sources: [thepeoplehistory.com](http://thepeoplehistory.com), the Minnesota Historical Society

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## Coming Up: Gertens Greenhouse Tour & Pizza Lunch

**GREENHOUSE TOUR AND PIZZA LUNCH, SATURDAY, APRIL 8**

## Enjoy a rare behind-the-scenes look

We will tour Gertens extensive greenhouses on Saturday, April 8. (This event replaces our annual trip to Macy's flower show.)

Our club did this tour back in 2007, and many of you will remember how interesting it was. We will tour the greenhouse in back of the main store where up to ten acres of annuals and perennials will be growing. These areas are never seen by the public except on a special tour like this one.



*The Gerten family, circa 1934.*

According to owner Lew Gerten, we can expect to see more than 300,000 plants-- more than one-half million square feet of flowers--many of them blooming. Lew will also take us through the production facilities where the flowers are planted and sorted into large flats. (At our 2007 tour, it was especially interesting to me to see how they handle planting flowers on such a large scale.)

After the tour, you're invited to take a look at Gertens large greenhouse located adjacent to the main store where there will certainly be thousands of Easter lilies and other spring flowers for sale.

There will be no buses for this event, so plan to meet at 11:00 a.m. near the customer service desk at Gertens greenhouse, 5500 Blaine Ave. E., Inver Grove Heights.

## Lunch at Old World Pizza

Following the tour everyone is invited to have lunch at Old World Pizza, located about a block from Gertens. I have reserved a private room for us to enjoy our meal. Old World Pizza is at 5660 Bishop Avenue, Inver Grove Heights. If you have any questions about this event, please contact Larry Larson at (952) 949-9668.

## Make your reservation by April 5

We need to know how many expect, especially to tell the restaurant how many to plan for. If you plan to attend, please contact Sharla Aaseng at [resmwgcm@juno.com](mailto:resmwgcm@juno.com) or call (612) 623-9341 and leave a message with your name and how many are attending. Please let Sharla know by Wednesday April 5.

-- Larry Larson

## ORDER YOUR ANNUALS BY MARCH 31 FOR PICKUP IN MAY

MWGCM members have the opportunity again this year to order high-quality annual plants, hanging baskets and other containers from a local wholesaler. [The order form is available here](#) or on our website.

Prices are competitive. Full annual flats (48 plants) are available for \$25.50, or half flats (24 plants) for \$13.00. Most specialty annuals in 4-inch pots are \$4.90 each. Caladiums (\$9.00) are outstanding. A wide variety of hanging baskets and other larger containers are also available.

### All plants are neonicotinoid free.

Your order will be available for pickup at the MWGCM plant sale after 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9. The sale is held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in South Minneapolis.

Here's how it works:

1. Print the [order form](#), and decide what you want.
2. Fill out the form and total your order on Page 8. Make sure your name is on the form.
3. Send the form, along with a check payable to "MWGCM" to Mary Maynard at the address on the form. **Mary must receive your form by Friday, March 31.**
4. If you have any questions about the ordering process, [email Mary](#) or call (952) 926-7506.
5. If you want to know more about specific items available for sale, Google or another search engine is probably your best bet.

These are a few of things that I'm planning to order this year:

- 'Bounce' Impatiens series (specialty annual, \$4.90). Resistant to downy mildew. Worth a try.
- 'Whopper' begonias (specialty annual, \$4.90). Very vigorous, tall fibrous begonia. One plant fills up an 18-inch container and makes a bold statement in sun or part shade.
- 'Megawatt' begonias (specialty annual, \$4.90). New to us this year. Big and vigorous, similar to 'Big' and 'Whopper'. I'm going to order a couple to see how they compare to 'Whopper'.
- Ageratum 'Blue Horizon'. Tall blue ageratum that is a standard in my garden.
- Salvia 'Coral Nymph'. Another standard in my garden, good for pollinators.
- Browalia (annual flats, hanging baskets or specialty annuals). Grows well in shade, and rabbits left it alone last year.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks in advance for supporting our club.

-- Mary Maynard

## Plant Sale Update

Gary Geister, Chair

### FOURTH ANNUAL MWGCM PLANT SALE

Tuesday, May 9

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis

Open to members and the general public from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Club dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Plant auction immediately follows dinner

Our annual plant sale will again be in the Great Hall at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church located above the east shore of Lake Calhoun. Please tell your friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors about it. We'll have many past favorites as well as many new plants. There will be more focus on native and pollinator plants including 6-packs of a variety of plants for bees, butterfly and monarch butterflies.

Here are a few of the plants new to the sale:

#### Maidenhair Fern

A native, hardy, shade fern. Clumps rather than spreading like some ferns. One of my favorite plants in the garden that we have had for over 25 years.



#### Dicentra 'Fire Island' (Bleeding Heart)

A Bleeding Heart with magenta red blossoms with white tips with blue-green, fern-leaved foliage

### Begonia T Rex™ 'St. Nick'

A begonia you could grow just for the leaves. A red center surrounded by emerald green with white polka dots.



### Cassia Didymobotrya--Popcorn Cassia

Yellow flowers that bloom all summer. Plant this where you can touch it. Running your hand through the leaves your hand will smell exactly like buttered popcorn.

### Megawatt™ Bronze Leaf Begonia

A very large-leafed, bronze-colored begonia with rose-colored flowers. Earlier flowering and more upright habit with a height of 20 to 28 inches.



## Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair

### THE MIXED BORDER GARDEN: MANY GARDENS IN ONE

The MWGCM Mixed Border Garden at Lyndale Park is 280 feet long, and varies from 10 to

20 feet in depth. The committee divides the garden into seven parts. Some of the areas are designed and managed by individual committee members; some are designed by the group.

The far western edge of the border was devoted to growing the Perennial Trial plants until 2013, when the trial project ended leaving lots of empty space. The following year, committee member Rodger Sefelt offered to manage the redesign of this area. Rog has nicknamed the area the "Desert Southwest" for numerous reasons: the park irrigation sprinklers do not reach; it is on a slight incline; and it gets plenty of hot midday sun. Rog has planted the area with drought-tolerant, Minnesota-hardy plants that echo the feel of the desert. He is trying to capture the look, color and texture of plants from the Southwest.



The centerpiece is a small black locust tree, *Robinia pseudoacacia* 'Lace Lady' or 'Twisty Baby'. The true Acacia are trees or large shrubs that grow in desert areas. Three blue upright 'Skyrocket' junipers stand close to the border edge. Low-growing junipers blue 'Grey Owl' and gold 'Pfitzeriana Aurea' anchor the ends. Variegated Yucca 'Color Guard,' echinops blue globe thistle, and purple iris punctuate the design. Numerous colorful varieties of sedum line the edges and a ribbon of *Perovskia* 'Peek-a-Blue' grows through the bed. Ajuga and other ground covers are plentiful.

Thanks to Rog, this bed has become a main attraction in the border garden. Visit and see this drought tolerant garden of soft textures and colors. The committee works on Tuesday and Saturday mornings during the season and is happy to answer questions. Contact us at [mgcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mgcmgarden@q.com) for a schedule.

## 2016 MEMORIAL PLANTINGS

The Lyndale Park Garden/Mixed Border Committee thanks everyone who donated to the Lyndale Park Garden Fund in 2016. The complete list of memorial donations is in the [February Garden Spray](#).

In memory of Alice Wolfe, mother of Kay Wolfe; Yvonne Wolfe, aunt of Kay Wolfe; and Melba Hunter, mother of Kay's childhood friend, we planted large *Viburnum* 'Mohican' shrubs at the back of the garden. They have thick dark green leaves and mature at 6 to 8 feet in both height and width, making a wonderful backdrop shrub. They are standing in the background--just like mothers watching over the garden. They grow in sun or part-shade.

In memory of former club members, Archie Caple, Stan Christ, and Don Morganweck, we planted three serviceberry, *Amelanchier alnifolia* 'Obelisk' or trade name of

"Standing Ovation." This is a new variety, narrow and perfectly oval, that grows 12 to 15 feet in height and stays about 3 to 4 feet wide. These three new trees are holding court at the back boundary of the garden.

The Lyndale Park Garden Committee is happy to plant shrubs or small trees in memory of your loved one. Contact us at [mgcmgarden@g.com](mailto:mgcmgarden@g.com).

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## Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens

Kirky Otto & Carol Schreier, Co-chairs

### VISIT THE NATIVE PLANT TABLE AT THE ANNUAL SALE

The Native & Shade Garden Committee will have a table of Minnesota native plants at the club's May plant sale. It's pretty exciting for those who are encouraging the use of plants which have been successful in this part of the country for centuries. Natives have developed alongside the bees, butterflies, and other insects that pollinate them and thrive on their nectar. Many of these plants are extremely hardy and have very long roots which control erosion. Our goal is to offer a selection of plants that bloom from early spring through late fall.

Gary Geister got the ball rolling by ordering six-packs of native plants for people who would like to start with an assortment that covers all bloom times. In addition, our committee is ordering ornamental native grasses, ferns, and forbs (herbaceous wildflowers), one to bloom in each of the growing seasons. Also, committee members are growing out a few other forbs and grasses and may be able to provide a few additional natives from a local grower.



Would you like to add a few very-early, spring-blooming plants to the edges of your garden? Check out the *Geum triflorum*, prairie smoke--low-growing and charming with evergreen leaves that emerge from the snow. The flowers are a pretty pink and when the seedheads develop they indeed look like smoke blowing across the prairie.

How about hot orange summer-blooming *Asclepias tuberosa*, a.k.a. butterfly weed, to attract monarchs and other butterflies and support the adults with nectar and the caterpillars which eat the leaves. Far smaller than common milkweed, and not invasive, this plant does its work in the summer. *Geranium maculatum* forms tidy mounds and blooms heavily in the summer as well.

We all know asters for fall bloom, and *Aster novi-angliae*, New England aster, is no exception. Growing tall and blooming as other plants are past their productive times, it's

charming at the back of the garden and supplies the fall needs of pollinating insects as they prepare for winter.

Committee members will attend the table and offer information on the plants. Stop by to see what might interest you whether you're an old hand at native plants or if you're new to these beauties!

-- Kirky Otto

## Metro Blooms Award

For the third straight year the club has received the Metro Blooms Award. All in the club who support the Lyndale Park projects should be proud of the work they do.



Excerpts from the *Garden Spray*, Vol. 1, No. 1, November 1942:



With "THE GARDEN SPRAY" your newly formed Editorial Committee greets the membership of the M.G.C.M. and presents the first number of our new bulletin. This committee consists of F.A. Upsher Smith (Chairman), W.S. Block, C.E. Doell, H.E. Kahlert and George E. Luxton. The chief objects of the bulletin are to keep members informed of coming events, remind them ahead of time of seasonal garden operations and record worthwhile information not otherwise obtainable.

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**THE COMING DINNER:** At this holiday season, December 7th to be exact, we have arranged a dinner for members and their ladies in the main dining room of the Minneapolis Athletic Club, at 6 P.M. This will be a festive affair with surprises. You will enjoy seeing the colored pictures of yourself and friends taken by Dr. F.A.Olson and Herb Kahlert during the garden tours we made in the past summer...We dine in the main dining room where each may order according to his or her own fancy, at prices ranging from 85¢ and up.

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**FERTILIZER:** It is not too late to get a load of manure from South St. Paul, and spread it over your flower beds. Failing that, spread raw bone meal liberally among the ruins of last summer's glories.

**COVER PERENNIALS:** Now is the time to spread marsh hay over flower beds. It is sold locally by the bale. Don't leave your rosebushes without cover. First hill them around with dirt to the height of 8 in., then pack around with leaves, manure or hay.

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**THE PROGRAM** for the next few months is as follows, subject only to such changes as may be made necessary by war conditions.

To view the complete first issue, visit the [MWGCM Garden Spray Archive](#).

## Need a Ride/Give a Ride

We're still interested in hearing from seniors and others who need a ride to club meetings and members who would be willing to provide an occasional ride to a meeting. If you're one of these people, please email [Sandra Abraham](#) or call her at (651) 452-0858.



## Membership Corner

Judy Brooke, Chair

### EVERY MEMBER BRING A MEMBER



*Judy Brooke introduced new members  
Lynn Messman and Linda Thompson  
at our February meeting.*

## Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

**AS OF FEBRUARY 27**

**Checking Balance**

**\$22,148**

**Designated Funds**

Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 2,356
Scholarship	\$ 2,916
Deane Fund at RCU	\$65,030
<b>Working Balance</b>	<b>\$16,876</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>
<b>MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank</b>	<b>\$ 5,282</b>

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## Meeting & Event Calendar

**March 14**

Best Practices for Garden Pest Management  
Dean Herzfeld  
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

**April 8**

Gertens greenhouse tour  
5500 Blaine Ave. E.  
Inver Grove Heights

**May 9**

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

**June 13**

Pollinator Friendly Gardening  
Rhonda Fleming Hayes  
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

**June 24**

75th Anniversary Celebration  
Details to come

**July & August**

Garden Tours  
Dates & Times TBD

**August 19 & 20**

Flower, Food and Foto Show U of M  
Landscape Arboretum

**September 12**

Ask the Experts: Answers to All Your Gardening Questions  
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

**October 10**

Using Dwarf and Miniature Conifers in the Garden  
Jeremy Moore  
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

**November 14**

Behind the Scenes at the Friends School  
Plant Sale  
Henry Fieldseth  
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

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## 2017 Officers & Directors

### Club Officers

**President**  
Sandra Abraham  
Eagan

**Vice President**  
Mary Barsness  
Prior Lake

**Membership Secretary**  
Judy Brooke  
St. Louis Park

**Recording Secretary**  
Laurie Levin  
Golden Valley

**Treasurer**  
Alan Gallaher  
Edina

**Past President**  
Judy Brooke

### Directors

Judy Berglund  
Minnetonka

Bonnie Haehn  
Minneapolis

Dave McKeen  
St. Louis Park

Steve Shubick  
St. Paul

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