



MEN'S & WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS

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The Garden Spray

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TUESDAY, MAY 10 IS THE ANNUAL MWGCM PLANT SALE

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue, Minneapolis

SOME OF THE NEW PLANTS YOU WANT TO SEE (AND BUY!)

New coleus:

Tapestry
Sangria
Red Ruffles
Silk Sunset
Roaring Fire
Marrakech
Terra Nova
Electric Slide
Solar Sunrise



Blue Salvia



Electric Slide Coleus

Salvia Black and Blue

Calynopsis Two varieties: red with yellow and dark red. A conversation plant in containers or in the border. Pouch-shaped flowers. Plant in full sun.

Gaura 'Little Janie' Blooms all summer with pink flowers tipped in white that resemble butterflies.



Gaura 'Little Janie'

Variegated sweet potato vine Green and lime green foliage with small blue-white flowers.

Camouflage sweet potato vine As its name implies, it has green and bronze foliage and looks like camouflage.

Pentas 'Graffiti Lipstick' Pink in color attracting butterflies and hummingbirds all summer. Works in containers or in the border. Deer resistant

Plus many more new annuals and perennials. Look for more to come in next month's *Spray*.

Gary Geister

REMEMBER, THE DEADLINE FOR PRE-ORDER PLANTS: FRIDAY, MARCH 31

The order form is available on the MWGCM website. Order forms must be received by Mary Maynard on or before March 31.

Price correction

On page 6 of the order form, the price for the plants in the first column should be \$4.90. [Here's a link to the corrected order form.](#)

No neonicotinoid pesticides

In answer to questions about the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on the plants available to pre-order, according to the grower, they are using no neonicotinoids this year.

Mary Maynard

Plant Sale Specialty Hostas

Steve Shubick

This year we have five each of fourteen different hostas for sale: two large, five medium, and seven mini to small. We selected three more different hostas from the mouse ears group, which has thirty named species. We again have the American Hosta Growers Association "Hosta of the Year." Specialty hostas will be priced from \$8.00 to \$12.00.



2016 Hosta of the Year H.'Curly Fries'

Mini 5" H x 16" W, (Solberg 2008) Color - Gold,

habit - mounding, bloom - lavender. Parent - 'Pineapple Upsidedown Cake' x unknown. Highly ruffled narrow leaves emerge yellow and then fade to near white. Vigorous. The scape is deep purple, topped with lavender flowers in mid to late summer.



H. 'Fire Island' Medium 15" H x 24" W (Brincka) Stunning red petioles hold bright yellow to greenish-yellow wavy leaves with lavender flowers. Bill Brinka registered this cross of *Hosta longipes* forma *hypoglauca* x H. 'Crested Surf' in 1998. The medium-sized mound has slightly wavy, slightly corrugated leaves with deep maroon-red petioles. It forms lavender flowers in August.



H. 'Mighty Mouse' Mini 6" H x 19" W, Another very good sport from H. 'Blue Mouse Ears.' Starts out blue-green with a yellow border and turns to grey-green with a white border. Great substance. Lavender flowers.

H. 'Church Mouse' Mini 6" H x 19" W. Blue-

green leaves have lots of puckers, crinkles and ripples. Good grower and a very interesting plant that will stop traffic. Lavender flowers.



H. 'Snow Mouse' Mini 3-6" H x 8" W, H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' sport with very thick white-centered leaves surrounded by a blue-green border. Leaf center stays white all season but shows green flecks later. Clump is topped with lavender flowers.

H. 'Little Treasure' Mini 6" H x 16" W. Sport from H. 'Little Jay' with a very wide blue-green border that gives the plant a totally different look. Good substance and excellent vigor. Lavender flowers.

H. 'Sizzle' Mini 3-6" H x 24" W. Very long, narrow yellow leaves with tight ripples \ from the base of the petioles to the tip have a striking green border that accentuates the rippling. A striking little hosta that will grab your attention. Topped with lavender flowers.

H. 'Mini Skirt' Mini 6" H x 14" W. This sport is a H. 'Mighty Mouse' sport with a showy, wide ruffled border. Thick leaves make a dense mound that stands. Lavender flowers.

H. 'El Niño' Medium 14" H x 39" W. A blue-green hosta with a cream margin and lavender flowers. It is an introduction from a Dutch nursery and registered by Piet Warmerdam in 2003, as a hybrid of H. 'Halcyon'.

H. 'Band of Gold' Large 21" H x 31" W. Good grower and great substance on large heart-shaped dark green leaves with a wide yellow border that later fades to white. Beautiful white flowers appear in midsummer.

H. 'Paradise Island' Medium 15" H x 25" W. Stunning variegated sport from H. 'Fire Island.' Beautiful yellow leaves framed by a striking green border and held on red petioles with the red going up into the leaf. Lavender flowers.

H. 'Minnesota Wild' Medium/large 20" H x 45" W. Introduction from Monty Carlson in 2013. Large heart-shaped green leaves of great substance are framed with a wide creamy-white border with lots of ruffles. Monty says it does not burn and looks great through the end of the season. Vigorous grower and we have nice plants with lavender flower.

H. 'Golden Meadows' Medium/large 20" H x 43" W. Outstanding color combination. Leaves

are light green with dark green margins and medium green streaks between the two colors. Super substance and white flowers in summer.



H. 'Allegan Fog' Medium 12" H x 24" W. Unique, shiny green leaves have leaf centers of a misty green and white variegation. Topped with lavender flowers. Vigorous grower that makes a dense clump with good substance.

Photos courtesy of Naylor Creek, Plants Galore and AHGA member Green Hill Farm.

Coming Up: Annual Dinner and Flower Show at Macy's

MACY'S FLOWER SHOW WITH GARDENS BY BACHMAN'S ANNUAL DINNER AND SHOW, TUESDAY, MARCH 29

A reminder, our annual trip to Macy's Flower Show with Gardens by Bachman's is coming up. This year Macy's 8th floor auditorium will be transformed into "America the Beautiful." Dale Bachman will speak to us about the plants following 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)

Free parking vouchers for the Macy's ramp (good after 4:00 p.m.) are available at the Oak Grill.

Questions? Please call Judy Berglund (952) 975-1960.



Coming Up

SPRING KICK-OFF MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.
Bryant Square Park Rec Center
3101 Bryant Ave. S., Minneapolis

The MWGCM Committees that support the public gardens in Lyndale Park will have a joint spring meeting. This includes the Arbor Day and Lyndale Park/Mixed Border and Native Garden Committees. All MWGCM members are invited to join us and learn about the MWGCM public garden projects.

For more information contact, [Kay Wolfe](#), [Kirky Otto](#), [Carol Schreier](#) or [Robert Kean](#).



From the President

Judy Brooke

IT'S SPRING!

Out my kitchen window I can watch the progress of crocus, daffodils and tulips. It's an exciting time. But also a time of mixed emotions as my husband and I prepare to sell our townhome in Minnetonka and downsize to a one-level condo. Our Minnetonka lot is perfect for gardeners. No restrictions on what you grow and lots of room for gardens. (This could be the perfect home for you if you're interested in western suburban living.)

Spring means new growth and we certainly have that with our membership. I have two messages for the new members:

- 1) If you have gardening questions, ask.
- 2) Join a committee.

There are so many knowledgeable gardeners in our club ready and willing to help with solutions to your gardening problems. Bring your questions to the May Plant Sale. Club members with gardening knowledge will be all over the place, ready to answer questions. Or check page 8 in your club directory. It lists mentor gardeners and their specialties. Give them a call.

Join a committee; it's the best way to get to know other members and a great way to contribute to the health of the club. There are at least 16 committees each with a different focus and surely one or two that would be of interest to you. As a new member you will receive an information sheet that lists the committees and what each does as well as how often they meet. To be a thriving club, everyone needs to pitch in. There is a niche for you! Contact that committee chair today and say you'll help.

Last but not least, congratulations to our three new Honorary Members: Dave Johnson,

From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

For many gardeners the first day of spring is the best day of the year, and I am always happy to note it. But for me, the best day of the year is the day I begin my annual seed-starting project. The hopeful anticipation of the coming gardening season, combined with a purposeful task-the seed planting itself-is something that never fails to excite me. And the fact that it comes near end of winter when not a lot is going on in the garden makes it even better.

Getting ready for the best day of the year takes some time. I start all of my seeds at my workplace, but when I'm not using the seed starting equipment I store it in my garage at home. So a couple of weeks ago I began transporting the two disassembled plastic shelving units, sixteen shop light fixtures, and 32 fluorescent tubes to my office. Then I gathered my planting trays, seed starting mix, transplant pots, plant tags and other supplies. After that it was time to go through the hundreds of packs of seeds I've collected and decide what varieties I want to start indoors.

Though many people know I grow a lot of tomato varieties-85 different ones last year-I also grow other vegetables, herbs and flowers. When I'm considering something I've never grown before I often look it up online. Seed catalogs and the packets themselves are usually great sources of information, but I've been able to find out all sorts of useful things about varieties I'm considering by reading blogs, plant community message boards, and other websites. The trick is not spending so much time looking at the Internet that you don't leave enough time to start seeds.

When I finally sit down in the kitchen at my office with my seed packets and trays filled with planting mix, the last thing I do is open a brand new notebook-that year's gardening journal. There I'll record which varieties of seeds I've started and the date. Later I'll note which plants I've given to people so I can follow up with them later to see how they did. After that the notebook is where I'll draw a planting map for my two community garden plots, and record the dates that I plant either seedlings or seeds in the garden, and then my observations about how things are going over the course of the summer. This is my ninth year of starting seeds at my office, and if I can't recall details about any particular year I can always consult my garden journals to refresh my memory. Not only that, each journal can tell me precisely what was the best day of that year!

Tom

The March board meeting was a lively one, reflecting lots of activities occurring in the club as the growing season approaches. Our finances continue to be secure, and membership continues to grow. Planning is well under way for two major events: the Macy's/Bachman's Flower Show and our annual plant sale.

There has been discussion about possibly changing our membership policy regarding individual or family memberships, but after researching this change the board decided that our current policy should remain in effect, and a motion was approved that the club continue its current membership policy.

In addition, a motion was made, seconded and approved to name Dave Johnson, Bob Olson and Kay Wolfe as honorary members.

FFF: 2016 Floral Design Division

Judy Berglund

THIS YEAR'S DESIGN THEME:
"TRAVELING THE WORLD"

Announcing the 2016 Floral Design Division Classes for the
Flower, Food and Photo Show
Saturday and Sunday, August 20 and 21

The design classes are as follows:

Lichtenstein (miniature design not to exceed 6" x 6" x 6")

USA

Mexico

Scandinavia

China

Antarctica

The materials used in the design need to be "garden grown," but do not need to all come from your own garden. The materials used may come from a friend's garden or materials you might find at a farmers' market.

This year the FFF Show committee has elected to allow members' design creativity to really shine. All design classes are open to members' interpretations, though the miniature classes have a size constraint. Judy Berglund would be happy to help with ideas for newer members looking for guidance.



A sample of 2013 miniature design entries.

This division historically has had very few entries, but last year's response was wonderful. So get your creative juices flowing and keep up the great work with floral arrangements in this year's FFF Show.

(Editor's note: The presentation at our regular June 14 meeting will be on "Tips for Competing at Plant Shows.")

New Fundraiser for MWGCM

Andy Marlow

CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB EVERY TIME YOU SHOP ON AMAZON

Do you ever shop online? Now you can make a donation to MWGCM whenever you buy something on Amazon!

Amazon has established the AmazonSmile Foundation which donates .5% (one-half of one percent) of most sales to their charitable partners, one of which is now MWGCM. So if you buy \$100 of eligible merchandise, \$.50 of the amount goes to MWGCM. Each purchase will not create a huge donation for MWGCM, but many purchases by many people over time can generate a lot of money.

It's easy to participate. Just point your favorite browser at smile.amazon.com. If you already have an Amazon account, sign in as you normally do. If you don't have an Amazon account, you can create one at this page. You will need to provide some personal information, including a credit card number, as you will be buying things from them.

Once you sign in, you'll be asked to choose the charity you want to support. Use the search function and type in Mens and Womens Garden Club of Minneapolis (they don't use 's in the charities names). You'll probably only get part way through typing when the name will pop up. Choose it and click "OK."

From then on when you go to shop on Amazon make sure to go to smile.amazon.com (instead of just amazon.com). It's the same Amazon you know: same products, same prices, same Amazon Prime benefits. Anything you buy with this line in the item description will generate a donation for MWGCM:

Eligible for  donation.

A couple of things to remember:

- You'll pay exactly the same price for an item whether you purchase it on amazon.com or smile.amazon.com.
- Your contribution is not tax deductible since the money technically comes from the AmazonSmile Foundation.

This is very easy to do. If you have problems signing up, ask a young person to help! Or you can even ask me, not such a young person any more.

MWGCM Public Garden History

Kay Wolfe

SUPPORTING LYNDALE PARK SINCE 1952

Part 3 of 3

MWGCM has a long history of community service in public gardens. To celebrate their 10th anniversary in 1952, the MGCM planted 50 crabapple trees in Lyndale Park. In 1982, after a severe tornado damage, the club donated and planted trees and helped with a new design for the park's arboretum.

In 1971, the MGCM started a Community Fragrance Garden located near the Minnesota Society for the Blind (MSB). The club leveled land, built raised beds, planted and maintained the garden. The MSB used the garden in their programs, and the public enjoyed it as well. The club also helped with spring planting at the Stevens House in Minnehaha Park.

In 1996, the MGCM partnered with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) and the University of Minnesota Horticulture Department to start a perennial test garden at Lyndale Park. This garden covered 500 linear feet and included the current Mixed Border Garden and Native Gardens, plus an additional 150 feet.

The original plan was to grow perennials from 24 species at two sites: the U of M and at Lyndale Park. A series of U of M professors headed the project, and finally settled under the direction of Neil Anderson. The U of M evaluated perennials for growers for three years at five sites around Minnesota. The club designed the Lyndale Park site, planted and maintained the garden, and took data. The MGCM Arbor Day Committee donated shrubs and conifers for the backdrop of the trial border gardens.

2002 was a crisis year. It was very dry, the garden did not get adequate water, and many plants died. The club had many meetings, wrote letters to the MPRB staff, and determined

a new direction for the garden. We downsized the garden to 300 feet east of the huge white pines. The committee reorganized; contacts with the MPRB were changed; I became committee chair. Our biggest change creating work crews with crew leaders-one Saturday and one a week day evening. The trial plants took up the first six feet of garden, and we developed the backdrop with shrubs, large perennials, and grasses.

In 2014, the U of M terminated the Perennial Trial Project, which left a lot of garden space to fill. Currently the MPRB buys plants in the spring, the Lakewood Cemetery gardeners donate annuals, and the whole club donates funds for continued purchase of perennials, shrubs and small trees. In 2015 the club added a Native Garden, extending west into the original space agreed upon in 1996.

As Bill Jepson said in the January 1997 Spray: "Just think, a 500-foot garden.... It will be at Lake Harriet near the Rose Garden and Rock Garden.... Being by the lake and situated near those other marvelous gardens, it will receive plenty of attention. In the next millennium when we host the national convention, it will be our exhilarating and inspiring centerpiece." It has taken time and hard work, but his vision has been realized!

Lyndale Park/Native Garden

Kirky Otto, Chair

NATIVE GARDEN FUNDRAISER IN MAY

With the permission of the MWGCM board and Gary Geister, head honcho of the plant sale, the Native Garden Committee will add a small fundraising effort to the club's annual plant sale on May 10. It's an exciting chance for the group to add to the established budget for hardscape to be used in the Native Garden at Lyndale Park. The Park Board buys the plant material, but this will enable the committee to buy items such as bamboo stakes which should last several seasons and be more attractive than the one-inch lathe we were provided with last year.

The committee is gathering items such as seed starting kits, books, a garden cloche, pots and other garden items for this small side-sale. (Think of Kent Peterson's book display, only much smaller!) The tables will be staffed by Native Garden Committee members who will be happy to answer questions about the use of native plants. The items on those tables will not go through the club cashiers, but will be sold at the tables, and the cash turned in separately to the club treasurer. No native plants will be sold there.

So once you've loaded up on all the plants you need (or want!), please stop by our sale tables, and see if there's a book, tool or something else you need for your garden. You'll be helping the native garden look better in its second year!

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

LORETTA MITCHELL

Loretta moved back to Minneapolis 3-1/2 years ago after living in Rochester, N.Y. She is a transplant social worker at HCMC where several of her co-workers are members of our club and encouraged her to join. Loretta believes "Connecting with nature is important for us to instill in our children. They love and appreciate the beauty of flowers." Loretta and her family enjoy cooking together, growing herbs and veggies, and shopping for new plants.

SARAH SCHUH

Sarah is another new member who works at HCMC's Kidney Transplant Program. She's married with children ages 10 and 12, and in addition to her full-time job as a social worker, she also teaches a social work course with club member Carol Schreier. Her busy life requires a low maintenance garden. Carol has provided plants from her own garden as well as encouragement. Sarah looks forward to planting a perennial flower garden this spring and having fresh-cut flowers in her home this summer.

Also please welcome new member Andra Hall. More about Andra in the *May Garden Spray*.

EVERY MEMBER BRING A MEMBER.

Honorary Members Announced

Mary Maynard

"Honorary members shall be selected from long-standing, active members who have made outstanding contributions to the Club." MWGCM By-laws

At the March club meeting, members ratified the nominations for three Honorary Members:

Dave Johnson

Nominated for solid service, Dave was especially recognized for his work to get the club's 501(c)(3) status reestablished. Because of his efforts, we have been able to build up funds for scholarships, the park gardens and operating expenses by soliciting tax-deductible donations. In addition Dave has served as club treasurer, chaired the Tour Committee, and is one of the club's auditors.

Bob Olson

Bob was nominated for general leadership in the organization and especially for his knowledge of the Genus Hosta. He is recognized nationally for his hosta expertise and leadership in host organizations. Bob served as president in 1987. He has also been a judge at the Flower, Food and Foto Show and has been instrumental in bringing back bus garden tours.

Kay Wolfe

Nominated for extraordinary service and leadership for the Lyndale Park Gardens. Thanks to Kay's artistic vision, careful research and her ability to put together a dedicated team, the club has an exceptional, award-winning garden that serves as an outstanding "face" of MWGCM. Kay also served on the board in the 1990s and as president in 2011.

Congratulations Dave, Bob and Kay.

Membership Perks

Alan Gallaher

MWGCM PERKS AT THE MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM: EZ PASS ADMITS UP TO 8 ADULTS FREE

Entertaining out-of-town guests? Planning a group outing? The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is a great choice, and belonging to the MWGCM makes it easy.

As a sustaining member at the Arboretum, the club receives two EZ Passes each year. Each EZ Pass admits up to 8 adults, free. These passes are available for club members to use throughout the year. There are two ways to check out an EZ Pass:



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

Reservation

A member may reserve one EZ Pass (admitting up to 8 people) for a specific day one time each year. Passes are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

Standby

EZ Passes are also available on a standby basis. If no one has reserved a pass for a specific date, you can use it. No limits are placed on how many times you can use it on a standby basis during a year.

To check out an EZ Pass, contact Alan Gallaher at (952) 933-1713, or gallahaj@uwec.edu. You will need to get the pass from him the day before you plan to use it, and return it soon

so other members may use it. (Arrangements can be made for pick up and return when you reserve an EZ Pass. Alan lives in Edina only 1.5 blocks from highway 169 at the Bren/Londonderry exit.) If you have any questions, please contact Alan.

We're happy to offer this valuable option from the Arboretum and hope that you will take advantage of this MWGCM membership benefit.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF MARCH 21, 2016

Checking Balance	\$86,423
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$2,983
Scholarship	\$3,796
Deane Fund	\$65,033
Working Balance	\$14,611
Petty Cash	\$100
CD	\$5,282

Meeting & Event Calendar

March 29

Macy's Flower Show with
Gardens by Bachman's
Macy's Downtown

May 10

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

June 14

Tips for Competing in Plant Shows
Judy Berglund, Mary Maynard and Friends
Lakewood Cemetery

July & August

Garden Tours
Dates and time TBA

August 20 & 21

September 13

Grow Native: Bringing Natural Beauty to
your Garden
Lakewood Cemetery

October 11

Hydroponic Gardening
Larry Cipolla
Lakewood Cemetery

November 8

Low Maintenance Lawn Care
Sam Bauer
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

December 13

Holiday Party
Location TBD

2016 Officers & Directors

Club Officers

President

Judy Brooke
Minnetonka

Vice President

Board shares responsibilities

Membership Secretary

Judy Brooke

Recording Secretary

Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Treasurer

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Past President

Tom McKusick
Minneapolis

Directors

Judy Berglund
Minnetonka

Bonnie Haehn
Minneapolis

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Steve Shubick
St. Paul

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