



# The Garden Spray

May 2021 | Volume 79 Number 5

## Plant Sale Update Gary Geister, Chair



In case you haven't heard, the response to our online plant sale has been amazing.

Because there are so many orders, pickups at Gary Geister's in Eagan are scheduled for Wednesday *and* Thursday, May 12 and 13. In addition, some members may get a phone call on Monday or Tuesday if their orders are ready to pick up early.

You should have received a confirmation email with your pickup time and location. If you haven't, contact Mary Maynard at [plantsale@gardenclubmpls.org](mailto:plantsale@gardenclubmpls.org).

[See complete plant sale details and payment information on our website.](#)



*Thanks to Andy Marlow for the photos taken at Gary's.*



## From the President Linda Wilkins



### **Friendly reminders as you head into the garden**

I hope you're as excited as I am about getting into the garden. Now is the time to execute that garden plan that you've been planning in your head all winter.

There's so much to do in spring. But first, we need to exercise our mushy, pandemic, winter bodies so we can lift bags of garden material and pull weeds. And let's not forget to mention other actions like bending, raking and pruning. The activity of gardening can take quite a bit out of us which could lead to an injury that might last the entire summer or more.

To avoid day-after aches and pains, a short workout before you begin gardening will ease you safely through the day. Your muscles and joints will thank you and you won't even have to pay a gym fee. Take about ten minutes doing arm circles, torso rotations and toe touches before you begin. These movements can give you a a greater range of motion with less risk of injury .

Equally important, stay hydrated during your time in the garden. It's not just the plants that need water, but our muscles need water to keep flexible as well.

On another note, we're so extremely grateful for all the hard work Gary Geister put in again to make our plant sale a big success. Thanks to a great team. Mary Maynard, Jill Rulli, Kate Ladner and Kirky Otto did all the work on the slick ordering method through

Shopify. It was so slick that our sales are off the charts. Once again, you've outdone yourselves.

I hope you know the time and location where you can pick up your plants. If not, please email Mary at [plantsale@gardenclubmpls.org](mailto:plantsale@gardenclubmpls.org).

Our June meeting will again be on Zoom. We'll enjoy the tour the U of M conservatory with Dr. Lisa Philander beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8. However, in the morning of June 8, all those who would like to tour the Gardens of Rice Creek can meet at the Gardens at 10:00 a.m. and have a personal tour led by Betty Ann Addison. You'll receive details as the time approaches. Please save the date.

*Planting a seed is to have hope in the future.*

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

Aah, gardening again. We are busy with spring cleaning as well as preparing the gardens for the season and for the Self-Guided Walking Tour. We are hoping to launch during May but realistically are looking at June 1.

The tour will be accessible to club members and the general public on the club website via a link that you can open on your phone. The tour will run about 30 to 40 minutes, and you can plug in your earphones and follow the tour in the garden or listen to it at home.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Lyndale Park Gardens, there is a map and clear directions on how to reach the native/shade gardens. Once there the narrative will direct you in a figure 8 pattern around the two gardens. Although there are over 90 different plantings, we will highlight only a few. We will include a list of all the plantings. They are marked in the gardens.

Many people have contributed to this tour and I am grateful for their assistance. I could not have done it without the support of the Park Board, the garden club (a grant from the Deane Fund made it possible to hire a technical support person) and the native/shade committee. We hope you will take the tour and enjoy it.

-- *Carol Shreier*

## Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden Kay Wolfe, Chair

## What is your favorite conifer?

At our fall a club meeting, a member asked the speaker: "Where can we go to see garden-size conifers?" The best examples we know are in our very own public garden. The Mixed Border Garden Committee grows 35 varieties of garden-size conifers. Stop down on Tuesday mornings and we will be happy to give you a tour. All the conifers are up and looking great! For more information email Kay Wolfe at [mgcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mgcmgarden@q.com).

I asked my park garden volunteers: "What is your favorite garden conifer?" Here is their feedback:

"I have always loved blue-toned conifers, so my favorite is the dwarf blue spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Globosa'), with second place going to the Grey Owl Juniper (*Juniperus virginiana* 'Grey Owl')." --*Robert Kean*

"What I know about conifers could fit into a small pinecone. Right now, the spruce trees around our house look pretty good with the snow on them, so I'll put in a small vote for one of the spruce." --*Paul Waytz* (*Picea abies* 'Pumila' Dwarf Norway Spruce)

"I like things natural and un-sheared (in my yard ) - but I do love your shapes in the MBG and get to enjoy them there 😊 " --*Kris Olson*

[Read more favorites.](#)

[See the entire list of conifers in the Lyndale Park Mixed Border Garden.](#)

Marketing & Publicity Committee  
Becky DeLaCruz, Chair



### Club members receive a discount on the Arboretum's Summer 2021 Minnesota Plants Webinar Series

**Tuesdays, June 1 - August 24**  
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. (13 sessions)

Join local horticultural experts to virtually explore collections, backyards and gardens as you learn to appreciate plants in their peak season, tackle pests and problems with expertise, identify new plants on your hikes, and more. MWGCM is an Endorsing Organization, which entitles club members to a discounted price of \$30. Topics include:

- Foraging in Minnesota
- Minnesota-Grown Vegetables
- Edible Landscaping
- Intro to Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Invasive Species: What You Can Do
- Landscaping for Shade
- Diagnosing Your Plant Problems
- Native Shrubs
- Little Bluestem Native Grass
- Best Shade Trees to Replace Green Ash
- Plant Selection for a Changing Climate
- Extend the Growing Season with Fall Vegetables
- Asters and Goldenrod for the Late Summer

To find out more and register, go to: [Minnesota Plants Summer Webinar Series.](#)

Celebrate spring with our May list of [Things to Do.](#)

## Flower, Food & Foto Show Judy Berglund, Chair



### 2021 Floral Design Theme: "Birds of a Feather"

Announcing the 2021 Floral Design Division Classes for the Flower, Food, and Foto Show on the weekend of August 14 and 15.

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

The design classes are as follows:

- **Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Miniature design less than 6"x6"x6."
- **Snowy Egret:** Floral design using white or cool-colored blooms.
- **Macaw:** Floral design using red or warm-colored blooms.
- **Flamingo:** Floral design using pink and pastel blooms.
- **Goldfinches:** Floral design using gold, yellow/natural-colored blooms.
- **Ostrich:** A tall floral design.

Materials used in the designs need to be “garden grown,” but do not need to all come from your garden. The materials you might find at a farmer’s market are often garden grown by local farmers.

There are two classes for floral design:

- **Amateur** – open to all who have won five or fewer first place awards in the design division of the flower show.
- **Advanced** – open to all.

## Deane Grant Project Update

### Apa`halaka at Lake Harriet

Two years ago, through the generosity of the Deane Fund, a group of us gathered at Lake Harriet to convert an eyesore of rocks and weeds into a beautiful area of shrubs and perennials. Since then, it has garnered praise and thanks from passersby.

We call the site Apa`halaka, which is Dakota for “two small hills.” To further enhance the area, last summer we developed a complimentary area across the walking path with plantings supplied by the MPRB. Preparation of this site was challenging given the need to wear masks while digging through deeply rooted weeds and the ever-present stones found around the lake.

Springtime now reveals the health of both sites. But, we are not done yet. Last fall, three of us prepped a third bed across the bike path from Apa`halaka with plans to install a combination of shrubs and monarda. Closer to the lake, we hope to soon start digging a small garden of eupatorium, liatris, and asclepias as a gift and food service for pollinators and butterflies.

Once again, an enormous thank you to the Deane Family. What was provided initially has inspired further projects yielding further visual pleasure for all. None of this could have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of volunteers.

-- *Paul Waytz*

**Membership Corner**  
**Kathy Lenarz, Chair**

**Welcome New Members**

Join me in welcoming three new members who joined us online this month: **Gayle Huseeth, Anna McConville** and **Carin Peterson**. We look forward to getting to know them all in person.

### **Introducing Jill Rulli**

Jill joined MWGCM last December, but has already made a mark by sharing her expertise to build our online ordering system for this year's plant sale. She is also a newcomer to Minnesota, having moved here last September with her husband, a St. Paul native. They have a new home in Lake Elmo with a largely blank landscape that Jill is enthusiastic about nurturing. She had her cold frame built in March and has all the materials for her planned 80-square-foot raised bed. She is also excited about the 180 tulip bulbs that she planted last fall.

Originally from Atlanta, Jill's interest in growing things has come down through the family tree. Her great-grandfather immigrated from Germany, where the family had been vintners, and acquired 120 acres in southern Illinois. Jill and her cousins spent summers helping out on the family farm.

Jill and her husband lived in Manhattan for several years, a place not terribly conducive to learning to garden. She decided she wanted a fiddle leaf fig tree, but didn't want to invest in one if she didn't know how to care for it. She started small growing herbs on her kitchen counter, progressed to houseplants and then potted vegetables on the balcony. Jill reports that they had to rent a Suburban to drive her house plants to Minnesota, and the fiddle leaf is now about five feet tall.

*Every member bring a member.*

## **Board Meeting Highlights** **Sue Clark, Recording Secretary**

### **Highlights from the April 2021 board meeting**

The Board meeting focused on upcoming club meetings and events. In addition, the board awarded a complimentary Minnesota State Horticultural Society membership to Jill Rulli in recognition of her hard work in utilizing Shopify for the online Plant Sale.

[Read the complete minutes.](#)

## **Treasurer's Snapshot** **Bill Clark, Treasurer**

U.S. Bank Balance: \$38,188.73

Royal Credit

Deane Fund: \$70,852.77

Total Club Funds: \$109,041.50

## 2021 Meetings & Events

### May 12 & 13

Plant Sale pickup

### June 8

Gardens of Rice Creek Tour

### June 8

U of MN Conservatory Virtual Tour

Lisa Philander

Zoom Meeting

### July

Garden Tour TBA

### 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)

### December 14

Annual Holiday Party

TBA

## 2021 Club Officers & Directors

### Club Officers

#### President

Linda Wilkins

Richfield

#### Vice President

David Voss

### Directors

Mary Barsness

Prior Lake

Suzanne Holt

Minneapolis

Linda Thompson

Arden Hills

Minneapolis

**Membership Secretary**

Kathy Lenarz  
Richfield

**Recording Secretary**

Sue Clark  
Minnetonka

**Treasurer**

Bill Clark  
Minnetonka

**Past President**

Anne Spenningsby  
Minneapolis

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## Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis | 4453 Xerxes Ave South, Minneapolis, MN  
55410

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