



June 2016

The Garden Spray

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June Meeting Preview

TIPS FOR COMPETING AT FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOWS

Join us Tuesday, June 14 when Judy Berglund, Margaret Hibberd and Mary Maynard clue us in on what it takes to be a contender.

"Competing at Flower and Vegetables for Fun (and Profit?)"

Did you know that some flower shows pay cash prizes? (No, not our FFF Show but there are some!) Join Judy Berglund, Margaret Hibberd and Mary Maynard as they provide tips and demonstrate techniques that they have learned from years competing in FFF and shows at the Minnesota State Fair. Learn how to stage horticultural exhibits and vegetables, and how to prepare plants in containers. Discover what tools and resources are available to learn about floral design. Judy, Margaret and Mary will also discuss the mechanics of entering shows, and will give their insight into what judges look for.

Judy Berglund is the chair of our FFF Show and has excelled in floral design and vegetable exhibits. And she's no slouch in the flower department, either.

Margaret Hibberd, a past FFF co-chair, has won the FFF flower sweepstakes trophy the last two years. She's also is a frequent sweepstakes winner at the State Fair Flower Show.

Mary Maynard is also a past FFF co-chair and a past winner of the FFF flower sweepstakes trophy. The FFF Show is her favorite MWGCM event of the year. Mary also competes at the State Fair Flower Show, but is generally slightly less successful than Margaret!

Mary Maynard

6:00 Social time & photos
6:15 Dinner
7:00 Business meeting
7:30 Program

Menu
Club Sandwich
Chicken Tortilla Soup
Chips
Pineapple Upside Down Cake

- **Reminder: We're back at Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum for the June meeting.**
- Permanent reservations are in effect.
- Dinner is \$13.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, June 10.
- Email [Carole Ann Brekke](mailto:CaroleAnnBrekke@gmail.com) or call (952) 435-6029.
- For last-minute cancellations, call Alan Gallaher at (952) 933-1713. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

SMILE!

A reminder, Andy Marlow will be taking photos for the club directory at the June 14 meeting. If you haven't had a new picture taken, or if you're a new member, please look for the guy with the camera.

From the President

Judy Brooke

Did you know, this year at our plant sale and auction, Gary Geister had a small plant given to each of our exiting visitors? I really liked that gesture, and we had a sign-up sheet if visitors wanted to be notified of the date for next year's plant sale. What good marketing! A couple of my friends who attended, were delighted with the plants they purchased, and I think one will be joining the club in the near future.

Husband Bob and I are still working on getting our house sold. It went on the market April 1. We've had a lot of showings and a couple offers, but still waiting for the right buyer. It's a somewhat stressful process but also lessons learned, like keeping your house neat at all times. Whew!

Friend and fellow club member Lynda Carlson was a big help in selecting and helping me plant showy containers at the house entrance. They hold a bright pink dipladenia, purple petunias, an asparagus fern, a couple dusty millers and a 'Black Knight' cordyline. I love them. The hostas in both the front and back yards have never looked better. The peonies will be blossoming soon as the lilac bushes begin to fade.

Yesterday was planting day at church. On one of the patios I helped plant the three containers and a small border garden. This year we're trying one dragon wing 'Whopper' in each container. In the border garden where the boxwoods grow, we planted dark pink, light pink and white begonias. Just lovely.

Now, I'm really looking forward to our June 14 program on "Tips for Competing at Flower and Vegetable Shows." I know I'll learn so much from that panel of experts. Hope to see you there. In the meantime, Happy gardening!

From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

A gardening friend of mine has said on more than one occasion, "One person's weed is another person's flower." I was thinking about this last weekend as I was bent over trying to remove Virginia Waterleaf from my flowerbeds. Why do we view some plants that spread aggressively and adapt to a variety of conditions as good, and others with similar traits are bad? For example, every spring I welcome the arrival of Siberian Squill in bloom, which started as just a handful of plants in my garden, and now blankets a hillside. Its bloom is quickly followed by Virginia Bluebells, which began as one plant and today has formed

multiple clumps on the same hill. After that comes the wild geranium, which has spread the same way, but it is joined by a plant with very similar foliage, the waterleaf. I'm happy to see the geranium, but I consider the waterleaf a scourge, despite the fact that its flower is pretty, and bees love it. In fact, I've seen Virginia Waterleaf sold in garden centers, so somebody must think it's worth something.

So is the reason most of us hate it simply because it's too aggressive--and like Creeping Charlie or Creeping Bellflower--it's nearly impossible to control once it's in your garden? That's probably true, but I've come to think there's often another side to the story. Take two other plants that many people don't want in their garden: common Ostrich Ferns and Lily of the Valley. I can understand why they feel that way, but a stand of ferns in the right spot can be lovely, and I've got a soft spot for Lily of the Valley because my grandmother always picked some for the vase on her table. Plus the plant itself isn't bad looking.

I guess we just hate plants that we can't seem to control. That's why people spend fortunes to eradicate dandelions and clover even though both are top forage crops for bees. I do what I can, but I'm resigned to the fact that I'll never be completely rid of my weeds/flowers. And sometimes they present a side I never knew. My nextdoor neighbor cultivates a large stand of ancient Virginia creeper on the fence that separates our yards. She loves it, even though I've implored her to hack it down, and I'm constantly pulling out the runners that want to choke off my trees. Yet a few years ago when we were suffering through a horrendous plague of Japanese Beetles, and everyone was lamenting that their roses and birches and shrubs were being defoliated, I wondered why I was finding no beetles in my garden even though it contains some of their favorite plants. Then I noticed the creeper on the fence was covered with beetles, happily munching away. They preferred it so much they left my yard completely alone. Now when I see the creeper I still grimace a little, but my scowl is tempered by knowing that even it has a useful purpose.

Tom McKusick



*"Show me a rose or
leave me alone."*

I went to the club plant sale for the first time last year, so this was my first year working. When I arrived in the morning to help set up the Native Garden "Garage Sale," the first thing that struck me--in addition to the amazing array of plants--was the quiet. Oh, there were plenty of people around, but everyone was busy either doing their assigned job or helping someone else. Little time for chit-chat.

The action and the noise level picked up throughout the day, but the spirit of cooperation continued. Everywhere I looked club members were helping shoppers and each other, usually without being asked. Whenever a shopper asked me a question I couldn't answer (which is usually the case when it comes to gardening), there was always another club member within shouting distance who could help out.

It's a long, exhausting day, but for me it was also another opportunity to enjoy the knowledge, humor and generosity of club members.

Groucho Marx said he would never consider joining a club that would have him as a member. I'll bet he never belonged to a garden club.

Nancy Felice

2016 Club Tours Update

Robert Kean, Chair

The Tour Committee is pleased to announce two exceptional garden tours for this summer featuring many member gardens in the City of Minneapolis plus some tasty treats. Please fill out and return the reservation form below, along with your check, by July 8.

[For a printable version of the registration form, click here.](#)

Evening tour - Tuesday, July 12 - Cost \$5

This is a drive-yourself tour featuring two gardens just off 50th Street in South Minneapolis. The first garden is very near the Longfellow House public garden at 4800 South Minnehaha Parkway, which would make an interesting "warm-up" garden for your evening of touring.

The tour committee will supply treats at the gardens, but would like a few additional contributions. If you can help, check the appropriate box(es) on the reservation form below.



Garden #1 6:00 to 6:45 p.m.

4927 39th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Start out with garden viewing and appetizers at Ann Holleschau's, a relatively new member's garden. Enjoy her tranquil garden space surrounded by mature trees.

Garden #2 7:00 to 7:45 p.m.

4949 Thomas Avenue South

Carol Schreier has been an MWGCM member since 2004. We'll have dessert in her calming back garden with water feature and marvel at her steeply sloped front yard garden.

**Bus Tour - Saturday, August 6 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- cost \$25**



This motorcoach tour will take you to five South Minneapolis gardens and conclude with a picnic lunch at the Lyndale Park Mixed Border Garden, which is designed, planted, and maintained by MWGCM volunteers. You'll also have a chance to see the work being done by our members in the Native Garden and the Roberts Bird Sanctuary. Then sneak across Roseway Road for a peek at the Lake Harriet Rose Garden.

The bus will load at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Avenue South. There's ample parking in the church's two lots.

Then we'll tour five gardens of members, both veteran and newer members, and one non-member, all in close proximity. Details and photos of these gardens will appear in the July and August *Garden Spray*. They include:

Denis Grande, 4708 Washburn Avenue South
Robert Kean, 3136 James Avenue South
Meleah Maynard, 4453 Washburn Avenue South
Kirky Otto, 1404 West 61st Street
Katherine Schafer, 3225 Aldrich Avenue South

A picnic lunch will be served at the Lyndale Park Garden, with bad weather backup at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Bus space for this tour is limited to 58 people, so get your reservation in early.

2016 Tours Reservation Form

2016 MWGCM Tour Reservation Form

Member Name: _____

Evening Tour:

I will attend I am willing to bring appetizer dessert

Guest(s) names: _____

Bus Tour:

I will attend []

Guest(s) names: _____

Remittance:

Evening Tour: Number of people _____ X \$5.00 = _____

Bus Tour: Number of people _____ X \$25.00 = _____

TOTAL: _____

Please send this form along with your check for the amount calculated above to:

Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444
(763) 221-1466
dkkrust@hotmail.com

Reservations for the evening tour must be received no later than July 8, 2016.

A limited number of seats are available for the August 6 bus tour, so reserve early.

[For a printable version of this form, click here.](#)

2016 FFF Show

Judy Berglund, Chair

2016 FLOWER, FOOD AND PHOTO SHOW

Saturday & Sunday, August 20 & 21 at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

[2016 Flower and Vegetable Show Rules](#)

[2016 Photo Contest Rules](#)

We hope all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to the show this year. I found some great petunias and tomatoes, our featured flower and vegetable, at the May plant sale.

The general rules are all on the club website (use the link above) along with all of the entry classes. There is also an example of how to fill out your entry tags. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of the orange 2016 FFF Show booklets at our June club meeting. The June program will give everyone some great tips on exhibiting flowers and vegetables in order to build confidence in showing off all of the wonderful things we grow.



Judy Berglund

Photo Contest: Still Time to Take those Winning Photos!

It's a beautiful time of the year in the garden, so get out your camera and take some photos for this year's Photo Contest. The deadline for submission is July 31, and the rules for the two-part contest are at the link above.

If you're new to the Photo Contest, here are a few tips that might help.

1. Take a lot of photos. Isn't digital photography great? You can delete your bad photos almost as fast as you can take them. As the old saying goes, "Even a blind pig finds an acorn once in a while."
2. The best times of the day to take photos in the garden are early morning, late afternoon, or almost anytime on a cloudy day. The bright midday light washes out colors and creates high-contrast shadows.
3. Don't use a flash. Flash photography tends to flatten the subject. Judges don't like it.
4. Water droplets on your subject are dicey. Some judges (cough -- Andy Marlow -- cough) find rain or dew drops distracting. It depends. But if you really like your rose with water droplets on it, by all means submit it. You never know.
5. It's OK to crop your photos and to adjust the exposure. But save your Photoshop work for the "Miscellaneous" category.
6. When taking photos, pay attention to the background. Is there anything that will distract from your subject?

So, get your camera out and start shooting. You might be a winner!

Mary Maynard

The weather was not very promising for our plant sale and may have stopped some people from attending. At least it was not a wash out or pouring rain. But the income was better than in previous years. I think we dodged a bullet.

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church let us set up the day before which was especially important this year in dodging the rain. We were able to get the majority of plants to the Great Hall in the early afternoon on Monday between the rains.



A special thanks goes out to Mary Maynard, Margaret Hibberd, Dave McKeen and Carole Ann Brekke who helped out with labeling and transplanting weeks before the sale.

A big thank you to the plant sale committee and a lot of people who are not even on this committee who did their part in making this sale a success. The list of people involved goes on and on. I won't name them because I would certainly exclude someone. Thanks to the members transporting plants to and from the sale, picking up plants at the Arboretum and Bailey's Nursery, people who got donations of plants, did the advertising, set up signs, the cashiers, auctioneer, pre-order sales people, computer and credit card guru, all the volunteers who were out on the floor helping the public with their plant purchases, and at the end the clean up crew.

And finally thanks to all the members who purchased plants from the pre-order, the Country Store and the auction. All the hard work that went in to the sale makes it worth it.

We had many new plants this year at the sale and would like your input on whether these plants were a total flop or a raging success. Let me know.

Looking ahead I have reserved St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church for the plant sale next year on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Mark your calendars!

Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair



The committee teams have been very busy in the park garden. On Tuesday May 17, twelve club members planted 300 new plants--30 perennials and 270 annuals.

*Planting: Kay Harris, Tim Rosener,
James Empson, Rog Sefelt. Mollie
Dean and Kathy Lenarz*

On Tuesday May 24 more annuals were planted--the start of Tim Rosener's annual "plant painting." Tim creates the design and Paul Aarestad donates annuals left over from the plantings at Lakewood Cemetery. This year Tim was missing one "crayon" from his box, so the Park Board provided "blue." We are still trying to figure out what the picture will be this year; it is being slowly revealed. Visit the park near the end of May and see if you can figure it out.

There have been numerous spring workdays cleaning up, pruning crab apples, moving shrubs, and prepping the beds for planting. Now we can tend our new plants and watch them grow! (Just write to mgcmgarden@g.com for more information.)



Donut hole break: Tim Rosener, Marcia Hunter, Sharla Aaseng, Kathy Lenarz, Steve Shubick, Mollie Dean, Kay Harris, M.T. Pulley, and Rog Sefelt

Lyndale Park/Native Garden

Kirky Otto, Chair

MAY IN THE NATIVE GARDEN



May continued to feature early-blooming plants, highlighted by donations from the gardens of club members. Last fall Don Trocke donated a large handful of jack-in-the-pulpit pips, and to our delight they began emerging in the last quarter of May. It looks as though many pips made it through the winter and are proving healthy in their first spring.

Even later last fall, Judy Berglund dug and shared 14 different kinds of native plants, mostly spring ephemerals, from the garden she and her husband were leaving behind as they moved to a smaller lot. They have been appearing right on schedule and are a veritable classroom on early native flowers.

The mid-May garden project focused on mulching--with partially decomposed leaf litter provided by the Park Board--both in the established native areas by Jo Batty-George and Nancy Felice, and in a new area of hostas under one of the crab apple trees. Inveterate

pruner Carol Schreier took dead branches out of the tree. Then she, new gardener Mary Helebrant, last year's Rookie of the Year Kathy Lenarz, and Katherine Schafer dug and moved hostas from the transitional area between the mixed border garden and the native garden where they'd been heeled in. Those hostas came from the mixed border garden, where they needed thinning, and from donations by club members. They've made quite an elegant bed under the tree.

Native garden workers extend their thanks to those in the mixed border garden and all the other generous donors of plants that are developing both the native and transitional plantings. Stop any time to enjoy the generosity of Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis members.



*Mary Helebrant and
Kathy Lenarz*

Membership Corner

Judy Brooke, Chair

WELCOME KAY HARRIS

Kay Harris was in grade school when she first heard about our garden club from her grandfather, Harold Kaufmann. He was president of the club in 1947 and later was the first member to receive what is now our Bachman Award for Outstanding Service.

Fast forward five decades and Kay happened to walk by the Lyndale Park Gardens when some of our members were working there. Talking with them inspired her to join the club. She's now part of their team caring for the Lyndale Park Mixed Border Garden.

Kay's occupation since 1980, is an agent in commercial real estate. She finds the work challenging, stressful at times, but also rewarding. She and her husband Marty live a twin home in St. Louis Park. Kay enjoys container gardening outside their home during the spring and summer and enjoys indoor plants in their sunroom year round.

EVERY MEMBER BRING A MEMBER

In Memoriam

REMEMBERING ARCHIE CAPLE

Distinguished former member Archie Caple passed away on May 1 at the age of 96. Archie was a member of the first class of University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners

(1977), and he took his duties as a Master Gardener very seriously. He was always willing to share his gardening knowledge, and he opened his Richfield garden to many tours over the years. He joined the club in 1975, and attended MWGCM meetings faithfully as long as his health permitted. We were proud to have had Archie as a member of the club, and we extend our condolences to his family.



Board Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

MAY 2, 2016 BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The board discussed the benefits of moving the Deane Fund monies out of the club's general bank account and putting them into a separate account. This would make it easier to track the money and also allow the club to earn some interest on the funds.

A motion was moved, seconded and approved to deposit the Deane Fund monies into Certificates of Deposit and a money market account at the Royal Credit Union.

Committees have been meeting regularly, and information from them was shared with the board. The club's financial accounts are in order, summer tours are being finalized, and at the time of the May board meeting we were looking forward to another successful Plant Sale.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF MAY 23, 2016

Checking Balance	\$28,698
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$2,983
Scholarship	\$3,796

Deane Fund	<u>\$65,033</u>
Working Balance	\$21,919
Petty Cash	\$100
MWGCMCD	\$5,282

Meeting & Event Calendar

June 14

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

July 12

Evening Tour
South Minneapolis
Begins at 6:00 p.m.

August 6

Bus Tour
South Minneapolis
Begins at 9:00 a.m.

August 20 & 21

Flower, Food and Foto Show
U of M Landscape Arboretum

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

Directors

Judy Berglund
Minnetonka

Bonnie Haehn
Minneapolis

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Steve Shubick
St. Paul

Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Treasurer

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Past President

Tom McKusick
Minneapolis

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