

MEN'S & WOMEN'S



GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

December 2018

The Garden Spray

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From the President

Mary Barsness

Being out of town for the first two weeks of November, I had little time to protect my garden from winter weather. I'll hope for the best and if it doesn't work out, there is always next year. I hope your gardens fare well this winter.

I want to thank Sue Clark, Linda Wilkins, Bill Clark, and Suzanne Holt for volunteering to serve our club. I also want to thank outgoing board members and officers Laurie Levin, Sandra Abraham and Dave McKeen for their many contributions. Having a mixture of experienced and new members as officers and board members makes for a vibrant club.

The December birth flowers are holly and narcissus (paperwhite).



Ilex, or holly, is a genus of about 480 species of flowering plants in the family Aquifoliaceae, and the only living genus in that family. The species are evergreen or deciduous trees, shrubs, and climbers that exist from tropical to temperate zones worldwide.

Most are slow-growing with some species reaching more than 80 feet tall. The European holly *Ilex aquifolium* has simple, alternate glossy leaves, frequently with a spiny leaf margin. The inconspicuous flower is greenish white, with four petals.

The small fruits, often called berries, are technically drupes. They range in color from red to brown to black, and rarely green or yellow. The fruits ripen in winter and are widely used in Christmas decorations.

Although an important food source for birds and other animals, holly berries can cause vomiting and diarrhea and are especially toxic for children. Holly leaves, if eaten, might cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and stomach and intestinal problems, and holly plants might be toxic to pets and livestock.

Holly facts and folklore:

- Since medieval times holly has carried a Christian symbolism, as expressed in the well-known Christian Christmas carol "The Holly and the Ivy" in which holly represents Jesus and ivy represents the Virgin Mary.
- In heraldry, holly is used to symbolize truth.
- The Druids wore holly in their hair as protection against evil spirits.
- Harry Potter's wand was made of holly wood.

While there are many types of narcissus, the paperwhite is the winter-growing variety. It symbolizes good wishes, faithfulness and respect.



Native to the Mediterranean, the narcissus was brought to Asia and became widely cultivated in China. Colonists brought it to Europe and eventually North America.

Today, the narcissus is mainly cultivated in Great Britain, Holland, and the Channel Isles.

In Greek mythology, Narcissus was a young hunter obsessed with his own attractiveness. One day, when looking at his own reflection in pond, he leaned in to take a closer look only to fall in and drown. Therefore, the narcissus became a symbol of vanity in Western culture.

In other cultures narcissus carries different meanings:

- In the Victorian "Language of Flowers" giving someone a narcissus means that they are "the only one."
- In Kurdish culture, the narcissus symbolizes the new year.
- In Chinese culture, the narcissus symbolizes the Chinese New Year and also wealth and good fortune for the coming year.
- As a symbol of hope, the narcissus has become a worldwide emblem for cancer societies.

The narcissus has a trumpet-shaped corona surrounded by a ring of petals. They are poisonous and can be fatal if eaten so no parts of the flower should be ingested.

When comparing the daffodil, jonquil, and the narcissus, remember that both the daffodil and jonquil are a part of the Narcissus genus. And though the names "daffodil" and "narcissus" can be used interchangeably, a jonquil is a completely different plant down to the shape of the petals and leaves.

Holiday Party

Larry Larson, Sandra Mangel, Co-chairs

THE HOLIDAY PARTY IS ALMOST HERE

Reservations are due Monday, December 3

Tuesday, December 11

Embassy Suites, Bloomington
2800 American Blvd. West (Off Penn. Ave. & 494)

6:00 p.m. - Social Hour
6:00 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres table opens
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Silent Auction
6:00 p.m. - Hotel bar is open down the hall from the party room
7:00 p.m. - Dinner followed by awards



We are just days away from the MWGCM Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction. This year promises to be even better than last year! It will be a fun party for members and their guests featuring a social hour (with delicious appetizers, a Ring Toss game to win wine/beer, and electric piano music), a full turkey dinner, an entertaining program including annual MWGCM Awards, and amazing gifts up for bid in the Silent Auction

DINNER MENU

Turkey and dressing
Dinner salad
Mashed potatoes
Sweet carrots
Dessert

If you need a vegetarian meal or other meal considerations, please contact Larry Larson at (952) 949-9668 or indicate special dinner preference on your reservation form.

COST: \$25 PER PERSON

Remember, your [Reservation Form](#) (along with payment of \$25/person) should be received by Monday, December 3.

Please send your completed reservation form to:

Larry Larson
15225 Wild Wings
Minnetonka, MN 55345

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

[Print your Holiday Reservation Form,](#)

Silent Auction

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

GET READY FOR A SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA!

We have secured gift cards and products from generous Minneapolis/St. Paul businesses, and these Silent Auction proceeds will support our Scholarship Fund. Be prepared to take part in the fun of bidding on these remarkable items including nursery/garden center, restaurant, and grocery store gift cards valued between \$10 - \$100. There are also a number of lovely garden décor items, planters, tools, food and drink items, theater/movie/orchestra tickets, etc. The value of these items ranges between \$10 - \$200. All bidding begins at ½ the retail value.

New this year: A Silent Auction Catalog will be sent to members about a week prior to the Holiday Party/Silent Auction. This will give you the opportunity to peruse the gift cards and other business-donated items available.

Additionally, we encourage members to donate items on the day of the Holiday Party/Silent Auction. Proceeds from the member-donated items go into our General Fund. Suggestions for member-donated items include:

- Homemade baked goods, candies, cakes, jam/jellies, etc.
- Homemade or handcrafted items (quilting, note cards, crafts, etc.)
- Tickets to various events/movies
- Wine/beer for the Silent Auction or Ring Toss
- Gift certificates or gift cards to restaurants, garden centers, etc. (Note: If you plan to solicit a business, please let [Becky DeLaCruz](#) know so we don't double-dip our efforts.)
- Donations of time, talent or services (garden consultation, teaching a craft or skill, making a meal, etc.).
- New gardening items such as bird houses/feeders, plants, books, tools, pots, etc. Please keep in mind to bring things that you yourself would buy; no white elephant gifts please.

Winning bidders may pay with cash, check or credit card. Here's hoping everyone is planning to attend this entertaining and exciting Holiday Party and Silent Auction!

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

Arbor Day Committee

Robert Kean, Chair

In an encore of 2017, the Arbor Day committee again held its annual planting activity in the fall--Saturday, October 6. The project this year was to finish the one started last year: planting trees and shrubs along a 30-yard forest edge at Lyndale Park. The site directly abuts the club's other garden projects along Roseway Road, which is just west of Dupont/King's Highway. This small section of the park border had become an overgrown jungle of buckthorn and tree seedlings, and looked especially bad in contrast to our lovely gardens adjoining it.



With this year's finishing touches, it's looking pretty good. This area now goes by the name of "Winter Interest Garden," as a majority of the plants have been selected for features that can also be appreciated in the winter such as berries, stem color, stem form, evergreen foliage, etc.

While the garden is effectively fully planted now, there are several ash trees marked for removal at the back of the garden. Once those are gone, we will probably add a few more trees in 2019 or 2020 to fill in the gaps (is a garden ever really finished?). As per last year, this was a joint project with park staff with Andrew Gawboy as our contact and co-coordinator.



From left: Don Trocke, M.T. Pulley, Steve Walker, Andrew Gawboy, Steve Shubick, Mollie Dean, Don Doeksen. Absent from photo: Robert Kean, James Empson.

The photos show the work in progress with our Arbor Day Committee (plus a few extra volunteers). We thank the Park Board for project support and donating most of the cost of the planting materials. A special thanks goes out to all the planting volunteers, to Andrew for his skills and enthusiasm in helping make this project happen, and to Kay Wolfe and Steve Shubick for helpful input on plant selection and garden design.

Photos: Robert Kean

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018

The Lyndale Park Mixed Border Garden Committee had another great year. We added three trees, five garden-size conifers, three shrubs and 12 perennials to the garden. These plants were funded by the committee's designated Lyndale Park Garden Fund.



The trees were memorials: a Kentucky Coffee tree in memory of committee member Bob Redmond, because he always brought the coffee and the donut holes; a 'Royal Raindrops' crabapple in memory of committee member Ada Hegion; and a redbud in memory of Marion Carlson, wife of club member (and former committee member) Chuck Carlson. The garden-size conifers were two 'Pumila' Dwarf Norway Spruce, one Arborvitae 'Fire Chief,' one Arborvitae 'North Pole,' and one 'Capitata' yew. We added an 'Orange Rocket' barberry for color, and two variegated 'Rainbow Sensation' weigela for unique foliage.

The Park Board purchased annuals for the garden which our committee's design team ordered in January. We planted 300 annuals amongst the shrubs in the mixed border, and about 575 annuals in the carpet bed designed by member Tim Rosener. Tim is retiring from designing the carpet bed, and we thank him for all the wonderful designs he has created.

The committee donated 550 hours of labor in 2018, working in the park from April 4 until October 23. Garden tasks involve trimming shrubs and trees in early spring; planting new shrubs and annuals in May; weeding, mulching and watering all season; and protecting shrubs before winter with fencing and burlap.

The hours were donated by 16 committee members, most of whom work every week during the season. Many committee members take ownership of all of Lyndale Park and volunteer for extra projects. They have created new walking paths, removed buckthorn from the woodland, and helped tend the Rose Garden.

Over the past two years, Arbor Day Committee members (most are also members of the LPG/MB Committee) extended the border garden east to Dupont Avenue, removing invasive shrubs and planting a new Winter Interest Garden.

A big thank-you to the committee members: Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean, Don Doeksen, Judy Eiden, James Empson, Kay Harris, Robert Kean, Cece Keefe, Kathy Lenarz, Beate Lundstrom, Kris Olson, M.T. Pulley, Tim Rosener, Rodger Sefelt, Steve

Nominating Committee Update

Sandra Abraham, Chair

At the annual business meeting of the MWGCM held on November 13, 2018 at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, the following officers and directors were unanimously elected for 2019:

President - Anne Spenningsby

Vice President- Linda Wilkins

Recording Secretary - Sue Clark

Membership Secretary - Kathy Lenarz

Co-Treasurers - Alan Gallaher and Bill Clark

Directors - John Cooke, Linda Thompson, Suzanne Holt

Past President - Mary Barsness

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The days are getting really short, and so is your time to renew your membership, if you have not done so already. Please do so ASAP so we can include you in the 2019 Directory.

WELCOME BRENDA SCHULTZ

Brenda joined MWGCM in May. However, we didn't see too much of her initially, as she broke her foot shortly after! She was able to join club activities in time for the garden tours, and you may have met her and her mother at recent meetings. Originally from southern Minnesota, Brenda came to the Twin Cities area to attend college. After receiving a nursing degree from St. Catherine, she worked in hospitals, went on to earn an MBA, and did clinical research. She has worked in various places, from Tampa to Boston, and even Switzerland. She still does some consulting.

Brenda moved to her South Minneapolis home in 1990. She says she has the typical Linden Hills city lot, not too big, with part shade, part sun. She has transformed her front yard into a foursquare design, with boxwood hedges, hydrangeas, and other

perennials.

This summer she started the transformation in the back yard with a bluestone patio area, and now has the winter to plan her botanical enhancements.

Brenda learned about MWGCM from her neighbor Meleah Maynard.



Kathy Lenarz welcomes new members Brenda Schultz and Marsha Theis at the November meeting.

Welcome to **Kate Ladner**, who joined MWGCM in November. We will have a more complete introduction in a future issue of the *Garden Spray*.



Dr. Mary Meyer from the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum was November's guest speaker.

Photos: Lloyd Wittstock

Every member bring a member.

Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Discussions at the November 6 board meeting focused on:

- Confirming that we have a full slate of officers for the coming year.
- Confirming that the club now has a storage locker, located at the Meadowbrook Storage facility.
- Confirming our continued strong financial position.
- Announcing the three winners of this year's scholarships who will be introduced at the Holiday Party.
- Announcing the two winners of Deane Fund financial awards.

We continue to need members to help determine the future of the club's website. Members are encouraged to contact [Mary Barsness](#) to join the working group that is focused on this important task.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF NOVEMBER 27, 2018

Checking Balance	\$ 30,964
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 2,286
Scholarship	\$ 4,633
Deane Fund at RCU	\$ 62,665
Working Balance	\$ 24,045
Petty Cash	\$ 100
MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank	\$ 5,436

2018 Officers & Directors

Club Officers

President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Vice President

Anne Spenningsby
Minneapolis

Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Treasurer

Directors

John Cooke
St. Louis Park

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Past President
Sandra Abraham
Eagan

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