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MEN'S & WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS

January 2018

The Garden Spray

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IN THIS ISSUE

January Meeting Preview

From the President

Awards Wrap-up

Membership Corner

Board Meeting Highlights

Proposed 2018 Budget

Treasurer's Snapshot

Meeting & Event Calendar

2018 Officers & Directors

GARY GEISTER PREVIEWS THE 2018 PLANT SALE

Tuesday, January 9

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis

Our own Gary Geister, chair of the annual plant sale, is the featured speaker this month. Gary's presentation will explain some changes coming to this year's sale and also a preview of some of the new plants that will be available,



Ring Toss Redux

In addition, if you'd like to take another crack at the ring toss from the Holiday Party, you're in luck. It'll take place during the social hour before dinner. Buy a chance, take your best shot and you could walk away with a delightful beverage.

Menu

6:00 Social Time & Ring Toss

6:15 Dinner

7:00 Business Meeting

7:30 Program

Swedish Meatballs
with Noodles and Gravy

Dinner Rolls

Tossed Salad

Ambrosia Salad

7-layer Bar

- Permanent reservations are in effect.
- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, January 5.
- Email Sharla Aasang at resmwgcm@juno.com, or call (612) 623-9341 and leave a message.
- For last-minute cancellations, call Alan Gallaher at (952) 933-1713. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

From the President

Mary Barsness

Happy New Year to all members. I can only hope 2018 will be half as great as 2017 was for our club. Much of that success has to do with Sandra Abraham. She was a fantastic president and a great mentor to me. As your new president I would like all members to know that I am open to any and all suggestions and ideas for our club. The strength of any club is its members, and I feel we have a tremendous group.

[Please feel free to email me with any thoughts, ideas, or suggestions.](#)



The flower of the month for January is the snowdrop. The snowdrop, also known as *Galanthus nivalis*, can grow to be 15cm tall and traditionally first flowers in the very early spring.

The snowdrop is a white flower with three small petals in the middle surrounded by three larger petals on the outside. It is similar but should not be confused with the snowflake, which also has six petals but is much larger and all the petals are the same size.

There are two other types of snowdrops, the Crimean snowdrop also known as *Galanthus plicatus*, which stands 30cm tall flowering in January and March, and the giant snowdrop or *Galanthus elwesii*, which is 23cm tall, flowers in January and February, and normally has green blotches on the inner petals.

Fun and interesting fact: In 1983 it was suggested that the magical herb "moly" from Homer's *Odyssey* is really a snowdrop. One of the active substances in a snowdrop is galantamine which could have acted as an antidote to poison. Today galantamine can be used to help treat patients with Alzheimer's disease.

[Mary Barsness](#)

Annual Awards Wrap-up

These club members were recognized with awards at our Holiday Party, December 12:

Bachman Award: Gary Geister

The Bachman Award is presented to recognize

outstanding, sustained service to the club.

President's Cup: Nancy Felice

Presented to the member who provided outstanding assistance to the president during her/his term.

Lehman Trophy: Bette Fenton

The Tour Committee presents this award to the best member garden on a club tour.

Blackbourn Trophy: Gary Geister

For the member earning the most points in the Flower, Food & Foto Show.

Foley Trophy: Robert Kean

For the member earning the most point for vegetables in the FFF Show.



Kak Koopmans presents Lehman Trophy to Bette Fenton.

Smith Trophy: Lynn Messman (Runners up: Paul Theis, Linda Thompson)

For the first-time competitor earning the most points in the FFF Show.

Photo Award: Kathy Lenarz

For the member earning the most points in the photography competition in the FFF Show.

Rookies of the Year

Two first-year members were chosen by the Board of Directors:

Cece Keefe jumped in with both feet transplanting plants for the annual sale, attending almost every work day at the Lyndale Park Gardens (and many non-work days as well) and taking over the task of managing the club email communications.

Lynn Messman was a tireless worker at the plant sale from before the opening through closing time. She demonstrated her dedication and energy again at the FFF show working from set-up to take-down and serving as a clerk for the entire event.

Anniversaries

Certificates were also awarded to two long-time members: Jerry Shannon, 40 years and Margaret Hibberd, 20 years.



Gary Geister receiving Bachman Award from Dale Bachman.



Robert Kean receives Foley Trophy from outgoing president Sandra Abraham.

Check the MWGCM website for [more Holiday Party photos](#), coming soon.

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

MWGCM starts the new year with a total of 103 members. Thank you to the Membership Committee who helped collect renewal forms and information, and especially to Mollie Dean for maintaining our member database and putting together the annual directory.

The 2018 directory should be available at the January meeting.

As incoming membership secretary, I would also like to say a big thank you to Judy Brooke, my predecessor. She has done a marvelous job of organizing the process for new members and helping everyone feel welcome. I have a tough act to follow! Please let me know you have any reminders, suggestions or questions for me.

-- [Kathy Lenarz](#)

WELCOME JENNY BODNER

When she was busy with five young children, Jenny would find peace going to a garden like the Como Park Conservatory or the Arboretum. There she became interested in the many varieties of hostas. Jenny found various hostas did better than other shade plants in her shady Eden Prairie garden. She also tried raising veggies (peppers and tomatoes). Every day she would wheel them around in their pots to catch the sun. Whenever she and her husband traveled, she always chose a garden to visit. In England, it was the Poison Garden, located near the grounds of the castle where the Harry Potter movies were filmed. Jenny learned about us from work colleague Anne Spenningsby. Jenny is an RN in the kidney transplant unit at HCMC.

-- *Judy Brooke*

WELCOME DAVID VOSS

David lives in Arden Hills. His yard has a big hill which he rock terraced last fall. His goal is to plant perennials such as coneflowers, black-eyed Susans and other native flowering plants. On college field trips Dave became interested in ecology and preserving the natural beauty of the land. About that time he took a part time job with

a landscaper and learned how to sculpt trees and shrubs. His father-in-law, MWGCM member Dave Johnson, introduced Dave to the club. He met his wife, Wendy through a Christian dating service, and they have a blended family of five children. Dave is a retired Navy captain, currently working for the Federal Government in the Acquisitions for Defense Department.

-- *Judy Brooke*

Every member bring a member.

Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

December 6, 2017

The December board meeting is always one of transition, as we thank retiring members for their service and welcome new members. New members received information about the practical workings of the board, and we set the schedule for the year's monthly board meetings.

The club ended the fiscal year in excellent financial condition. Topics of discussion for the coming year include investigating how to improve our technology equipment, reviewing the condition of our trophies and awards, and revising the details of our very successful spring plant sale.

Proposed MWGCM 2018 Budget

[To see the proposed MWGCM Budget for 2018, click here.](#)

The budget will be presented for approval at the January 9 club meeting.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF DECEMBER

Checking Balance	\$ 26,215
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 2,576
Scholarship	\$ 6,254
Deane Fund at RCU	\$ 61,744
Working Balance	\$ 20,885
Petty Cash	\$ 100
MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank	\$ 5,363

Meeting & Event Calendar

January 9

Gary Geister: MWGCM Plant Sale
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

February 13

Julie Weisenhorn: Landscape Design
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

March 13

Arla Carmichael & Steve Kelley: Gems for the Shade
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

April 10

Leslie Letka: Rain Gardens
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

May 8

Annual Plant Sale
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

July

Garden Tours TBA

August

Flower, Food & Foto Show

September 11

Barba Ronningen: Overwintering Ornamental Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

October 9

Fiona Lennox: Native Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

November 13

Mary Meyer: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Grasses
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

December 11

June 12

Jan Welsh: Butterfly Bootcamp:
Gardening to Attract Butterflies
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

Holiday Party

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

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Past President

Sandra Abraham
Eagan

Directors

John Cooke
St. Louis Park

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

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