



MEN'S & WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS

January 2017

The Garden Spray

Vol. 75, No. 1

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January Meeting Preview

GROWING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN POTS

Mark Armstead is the Lawn and Garden Expert at [Beisswenger's Hardware](#) in New Brighton. He's a consummate plant geek and has worked in the horticultural industry for over 25 years. At our January program he will be showing us how a remarkable range of fruits and vegetables can be successfully grown in pots.



Please note: the January meeting will be held at Lake Harriet Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis.

6:00 Social Time
6:15 Dinner
7:00 Business Meeting
7:30 Program

Menu
Lasagna
Italian Salad
French Bread
Antipasti platter
Spice Cake

- Permanent reservations are in effect.
- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, January 6.
- Email [Carole Ann Brekke](#), 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.

From the President

Sandra Abraham

The MWGCM has a long and distinguished history, which has been dedicated to sharing the passion of gardening not only among club members but also with the community. Our membership includes a group of people with collective gardening knowledge from over 60 years. They share a common love of flowers, shrubs, and vegetables. This group of gardeners unites to trade information, swap stories and give each other a hand (and have lots of fun in the process).

In 2017 we will celebrate 75 years since the Men's Garden Clubs of America chartered the

club as the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis in October of 1942. In 2012, the name of the club was changed to reflect its evolution and now is known as The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

During this year we will remember our roots by looking back at our heritage as well as moving forward to the future of gardening. As with any gardening project we will use all the tools necessary to create beauty and enjoy a good yield. At our January 10 meeting we will hear Mark Armstead present "Growing Fruits and Vegetables in Pots." This program is the beginning of an exciting lineup of speakers on a variety of topics that will surely encourage us to be more informed gardeners.

As you check out all those gardening catalogues and make your plans for the coming growing season please remember to fit in some time to work with our club committees. There is a place for you on any committee that piques your special interest and talent. I look forward to an exciting year as your president as we enter a very bright future for this very special club.

From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

When the calendar turns over to the new year, my thoughts automatically turn to...tomatoes. Yes, tomatoes are on my mind right about now, as the seed catalogs start showing up in my mailbox. I hear that some people--for a variety of reasons--are calling 2016 "The Worst Year Ever," but those of you who know about my tomato obsession will not be surprised that for me 2016 was also "The Worst Tomato Year Ever." Why is that? Easy answer: too much rain. This year the Twin Cities saw 40.32 inches of precipitation, including nearly eight inches in August. It was the wettest year on record since they started keeping track back in 1871.

That much rainfall can have a negative effect on a number of things in the garden, but for tomatoes it's especially bad for several reasons. First of all, frequent heavy rainfalls cause the skins of nearly ripe fruit to split from taking in too much water too quickly. This is a particular problem with heirloom varieties, which are mostly what I grow. And once they split you have to eat them right away or they will usually begin to rot.

Second, and most important, heavy rain promotes blight, which defoliates the plants and kills their vines. I grow nearly all of my tomatoes in a community garden where blight is rampant. As we got into August with all that rain I watched everyone's plants begin to drop leaves, turn brown, and wither away. This happened even for those who grew blight-resistant varieties like 'Celebrity,' and who pruned their plants far up from the ground to discourage blight. In 2016 it didn't matter.

A third and lesser result of too much rain is that tomatoes taste more watery with less intense flavor, but I could live with that if I just had enough tomatoes to taste!

You may be saying, "Wait a minute, my tomatoes did great this year," and I don't doubt you. I saw tomato plants in late summer that showed no signs of blight whatsoever. Early in the season I gave six heirloom plants to a friend who had never grown tomatoes before, and he planted them in his backyard. In late September when most of my plants had been killed off the same varieties in his yard were blight free and still producing plenty of fruit. His soil evidently wasn't harboring the mold spores that had devastated my plants. And I found myself in the strange position of having to ask this novice gardener if he had a few tomatoes to spare.

So what's my solution? Apart from praying for less rain, I'm not sure. I can't move my garden, and I'm reluctant to start spraying fungicide (and it's doubtful that would have done any good in 2016). But whatever I do, the one thing that's certain is I'll be obsessing about it for the next eight months!

--Tom McKusick

Best Wishes for 2017!

Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden Kay Wolfe, Chair

The Lyndale Park Garden/Mixed Border Committee 2016 Quiz and Best Wishes for 2017

How many club members volunteered at the Mixed Border Garden this year?

And how many hours of labor did the volunteers donate to the Minneapolis Parks?

Pathways made of what material were created to access the water faucets?

Pruning which old trees was done this spring?

Yards of burlap, snow fence, and chicken wire were used this fall for what purpose?

Name the item depicted in Tim Rosener's annual floral painting for 2016.

Exact correct botanical pronunciation is demanded by which committee member?

Who is the newest club member recruited as she walked by the park garden?

Yucca of which variety were planted in Rog Sefelt's "Desert Southwest" garden bed?

Expanding the garden toward Lakewood Cemetery was accomplished how?

Annuals were planted in Gertrude Jekyll's legendary design style known as?

Rog's Radical Pruning is a technique used on which plants?

Answers: **H:** 16 **A:** 632 (Statistics tabulated by Sharla Aaseng.) **P:** Chilton stepper flagstone. **P:** Old crabapples, known as "the old crabs," probably planted by the MGCM in the 1980's. **Y:** Barriers to protect shrubs/trees from deer, rabbits, and winter burn. **N:** The flag of the USA plus fireworks. **E:** James Empson, classical linguist and buckthorn eradicator. **W:** Cece Keefe. **Y:** 'Color Guard.' **E:** Addition of a woodland native garden that will hopefully keep out invasives. **A:** Planting in drifts. **R:** Shrubs such as hydrangea, barberry, and ninebark in order to regenerate growth.

Scoring:

10 to 12 correct: If you are not already on the committee, you'd better join.

5 to 9: Drop by and visit us on a workday to catch up.

1 to 5: You definitely need to visit the garden. We'll entice you with donut hole treats.

Coordinate "treat time" with Steve Shubick--that's exactly when he arrives for work!

Many thanks to the 16 workers for a beautiful garden and lots of fun: Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean, Don Doeksen, James Empson, Kay Harris, Marcia Hunter, Nona Johnson, Robert Kean, Kathy Lenarz, M.T. Pulley, Tim Rosener, Rodger Sefelt, Steve Shubick, Cece Keefe, and non-club member Steve Walker. Kay Wolfe, chair. To join us email: mgcmgarden@q.com.

Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens

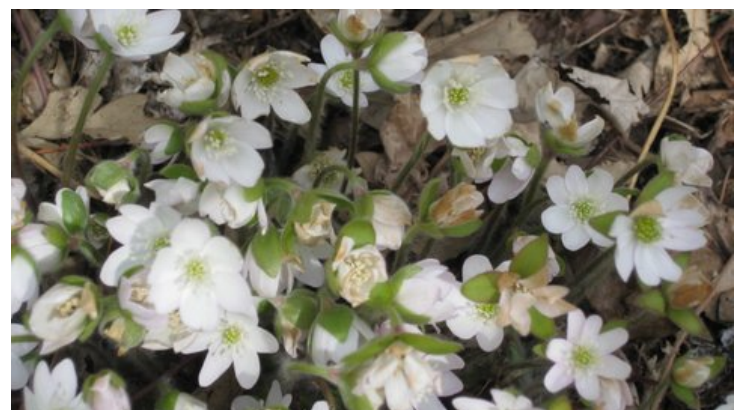
Kirky Otto & Carol Schreier, Co-chairs

WINTER MEANS IT'S TIME TO PLAN FOR SPRING

When our group met in December the topic was spring planning and it will continue to be the theme for our January get-together.

It was serious business in December, since we had a deadline for getting our plant requests to Andrew Gawboy, our supervisor from the Park Board, so he could order them.

You may be aware that the Park Board agreed at the outset to pay for plant materials



for the native garden, which expanded to the east to include what is now a shade garden. We also got a report from Steve Shubick, who has worked with Carol Schreier to select a blue hosta for another major planting in the shade garden.

New member Chase Davis researched shade-tolerant native plants we will use to fill in a newly cleared area toward the back (north) of the native garden this spring. Think of bloodroot, Virginia bluebells, bearberry, trout lily, and Dutchman's breeches to name a few. Most are early flowering, a few blooming later in the summer, and some have foliage that will last up to frost. Other members, both new and experienced, helped firm up the list.

Andrew plans to work on areas of the pollinator garden which we have not tackled, clearing invasive plants and installing areas of ornamental native grasses in the area between the redbud tree and the tulip tree to the west. If there's time and energy once we have the shade garden expanded and the native garden reorganized--under the direction of Mary Helebrant and Kathy Lenarz--we may also plant around a clump of native grasses adjacent to where we work now.



Although our winter meetings began as an opportunity to chat with pleasant and interesting people when weather doesn't allow gardening in the park, we usually have a topic to discuss. With luck one of the topics for the January meeting will be presented by Andrew, who will show us how to build willow structures we hope to use to support taller plants--something useful in our own

gardens, too.

The time and location for the Thursday, January 19 meeting will go out by email the Monday before, so if you'd like to be notified but aren't currently on the list, please send your email address to [Kirky Otto](mailto:Kirky.Otto). It's a fun group and all are welcome!

--Kirky Otto

Awards Wrap-Up

These club members were among those recognized with awards at our December 13 holiday party:

President's Cup: Sandra Mangel

The President's Cup is awarded to the member who provided outstanding assistance to the president during

his/her term.



Lehman Trophy: Ann Marie Holleschau

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



Bachman Award: Robert Kean

The Bachman Award is presented to recognize outstanding service to the club.



Certificates were also awarded to three long-time members: **Chuck Benson** for 30-year (1986) and **Judy Berglund** for 10-years (2006) anniversaries in 2016. A framed anniversary certificate was also presented to **Roger Koopmans** for his 60th year (1957) anniversary coming up in 2017.

Rookies of the Year

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

Becky DeLaCruz contributed in many ways during her rookie year: on the plant sale and FFF committees, and as a host at the FFF Show. She also put her professional experience to work as the new chairman of the marketing and publicity committee and headed up the silent auction at the Holiday Party.

Kay Harris is part of the creative, ambitious Lyndale Park Garden Committee, helping with spring painting and participated in weekly work sessions. She also contributed a dessert for the July garden tour. Kay is an ambitious worker and a

supportive friend to all in the garden group.

Anne Spenningsby is a regular at the dinner meetings and other events. She invited four colleagues from HCMC to club events and they all became members. Anne is also on the marketing and publicity committee and was happy to take on the job of Facebook Coordinator

Scholarship Committee

M.T. Pulley, Chair

MWGCM 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS - \$1,000 AWARDS

Two scholarship awards were given this year. Here are the winners with excerpts from their applications.

Elizabeth Conklin is a Horticulture Technology student at Rochester Community and Technical College.

"There has not been a time that I recall not being involved in gardening. I volunteer my time to help elderly neighbors and clients with their flowerbeds, weeding, planting and harvesting. I have built raised bed planters for neighbors that are no longer able to bend over and care for their plants. I grow flowers and herbs to cut and arrange in vases to cheer up clients and neighbors.

"I have been taught to leave things in a better condition than I found them, and that holds true to nature as well as a cabin or borrowed book. I attend workshops and enjoy readings on sustainability, renewable energy, wilderness and gardening - I believe they are interconnected on some level."

Elizabeth Stock is a first year Horticulture Technology student at Rochester Community and Technical College.

"The horticultural program I am in now is about learning various trees and plants. Being taught the science behind soil types and being introduced to horticulture itself. I am also taking a natural plant healing course so I can learn more about native plants.

"I worked during two summers at Whitewater Garden Farm. I got some experience of how a farm works and to see how the vegetables grow. I look at various plants identifying native plants and also trees. Mom and I have many gardens which include several raised beds with herbs, vegetables and flowers.

"I wish to pursue a career in horticulture because I would like to be a part of growing

local herbs and providing vegetables for the community."

Membership Corner

Judy Brooke, Chair

WELCOME DONNA RONNING

After accompanying her fiancée John Cooke to several club meetings, Donna decided to join, too. She lives in St. Louis Park and works as a case aide for Hennepin County Human Services. Donna lived in Chaska for many years where she enjoyed having a vegetable garden that included peas, beans, corn, zucchini and tomatoes. After moving to St. Louis Park, she took a break from gardening. However, after meeting neighbor John at a Christmas party, she became inspired by his flower garden and started her own garden with dahlias and lilies. Next summer she plans to add wildflowers.

WELCOME CECE KEEFE

CeCe has lived in her South Minneapolis home for 26 years, the first half spent nurturing five children, the second half, nurturing the yard and garden. After removing the kids' basketball court from the backyard, she and her husband began coaxing the poor tired soil to grow grass and plants. Cece was at Gerten's one day and bought three containers of beautiful green Irish moss. Ten years later, it covers a good portion of the backyard along with a perennial garden of coneflowers, hosta, asters and monarda. In the front she grows poppies and iris. Cece found out about the club when she was walking by the Lyndale Park Garden and encountered Kay Wolfe with her clipboard. The rest, as they say, is history.

We also welcome new member Lynda Lundstrom. More about Lynda in the next Garden Spray.

YEAR END WRAP-UP

Twenty new members joined our club in 2016, and although I don't have the exact number at present, it appears we retained more of our existing members this year as well. Hopefully, our twenty new members will still be active and enjoying the club by year's end. Please help this happen by watching for their green name tags at meetings/events and reaching out to them. It's music to my ears when I hear our club described as "warm and welcoming." Here's to MWGCM remaining strong and vibrant in 2017!

--Judy Brooke

Every member bring a member.

Proposed MWGCM 2017 Budget

[To see the proposed MWGCM Budget for 2017, click here.](#)

The budget will be presented for approval at the January 10 club meeting.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2016

Checking Balance	\$22,484*
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 3,376
Scholarship	\$ 4,856
Deane Fund at RCU [see below]	
Working Balance	\$ 14,252
Petty Cash	\$ 100*
MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank	\$ 5,282*
Deane Fund at Royal Credit Union	\$64,907*
General savings \$ 5	
Money market \$19,566	
18 month CD \$20,117	
30 month CD \$25,219	
Total Club Assets [sum of * amounts]	\$92,773

FROM THE DECEMBER 5 BOARD MEETING

The December board meeting provided an opportunity to thank outgoing members, welcome new officers, and review a successful club year. Membership has grown thanks to our hard-working Membership Committee. Club finances are in good order, and we start the new year with balanced books. Some language revisions are being prepared for the Member Handbook; these will be completed and presented early in the year.

The following motion regarding the re-structuring of the Deane Fund Committee was approved by the board:

- The Board of the MWGCM is reorganizing a Deane Fund Committee for 2017, under a new mission, and is looking for committee members who want to explore meaningful and creative ways to utilize this generous gift. Members of the original committee as well as club members at large are encouraged to apply to join the group. The re-formed committee will be expected to work under the following guidelines:
- The Deane Fund Committee advises the Board of Directors on possible uses for the estate gift of Betty Deane. The committee will solicit and evaluate proposals for projects that request funding, and will make recommendations to the board.
- Proposals may be submitted for needs within the club, or for outside projects.
- The committee serves in an advisory role to the board and has no authority to authorize expenditures or to determine how the board chooses to utilize the Deane Fund, nor is the board obligated to approve proposals recommended by the committee.
- The board would like to see proposals for a variety of uses, not a single use for the entire amount of the Deane Fund.

Full minutes of the board meetings are available to members by contacting [Laurie Levin](#).

Meeting & Event Calendar

January 10

Growing Fruits and Vegetables in Pots
Mark Armstead

July & August

Garden Tours
Dates and time TBA

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

February 14

Pruning Essentials for Landscape Shrubs
Kathy Zuzek
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

March 14

Best Practices for Garden Pest
Management
Dean Herzfeld
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

May 9

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

June 13

Pollinator Friendly Gardening
Rhonda Fleming
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

August

Flower, Food and Foto Show U of M
Landscape Arboretum

September 12

Ask the Experts: Answers to All Your
Gardening Questions
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

October 10

Using Dwarf and Miniature Conifers in the
Garden
Jeremy Moore
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

November 14

Behind the Scenes at the Friends School
Plant Sale
Henry Fieldseth
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

2017 Officers & Directors

Club Officers

President

Sandra Abraham
Eagan

Vice President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Membership Secretary

Judy Brooke
St. Louis Park

Recording Secretary

Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Treasurer

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Directors

Judy Berglund
Minnetonka

Bonnie Haehn
Minneapolis

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Steve Shubick
St. Paul

Past President
Judy Brooke

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.



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