

The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

2014, Volume 72, Number 2

February

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Feb. 11	LHC	Gardens of Scotland
Mar. 11	LWC	Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border
Apr. 1	Macy's	Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show
May 13	SMC	Plant Sale

More info on Page 11

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S., Mpls. (Lower level)

LWC = Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S., Minneapolis

SMC = St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Mpls.

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$13.

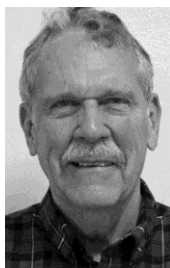
Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Feb. 7 – **no later!** Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

For last minute cancellations, call Nancy Bjerke at 612-353-5220. If she can sell it, you won't be billed.

Dinner Menu

Swedish meatballs with gravy and noodles
Ambrosia salad Rolls
Chocolate dessert

January Program Peter Olin Gardens of Scotland



Arboretum Director Emeritus and MWGCM member Peter Olin's presentation will feature the Arboretum tour he led to Scotland in September, 2013, which concentrated on touring gardens but also enabled the participants to enjoy the scenery, history, and

ambience of Scottish towns, cities and their people.

More about Peter and his program on Page 4

Photo from MWGCM photo directory.

Schedule for February 11

6:00 p.m. Social Time
6:15 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Business meeting
7:30 Program

Alert: Don't be a Dollar Short!

The price of dinner is going up to **\$13** starting at the February meeting. This increase is necessary to cover our catering costs.

Looking Ahead

March Program

Garden Gems of Minneapolis: Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border

Plus Lakewood greenhouse open house!

Details in March Spray.

Notes from the Prez:

-- *Randi Larson*

Another Ice Age on the Way?

The Earth's oceans seem to be warming, but the middle of North America is experiencing more cold weather than it has in decades. I think most of us had congratulated ourselves that the winters were not as cold as in the 'olden days' and are now considering hibernation. So I was wondering, could this awful cold be damaging our favorite plants? (You know that the plants you could stand to lose will certainly make it!)

Recently, growers have considered creating a subset of zone 4 that is closer to zone 5, since this area hadn't experienced -30 degree weather in decades. The 2012 USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, as a matter of fact, shows the Minneapolis/St. Paul area (most of us) in zone 4b, able to withstand temperatures down to -25 degrees. Just north of Anoka, however, is zone 4a, which need plants able to withstand temps down to -30 degrees. That isn't very far away!

One thing in our favor is the considerable amount of snow cover, which helps protect our plants. But as far as I'm concerned, our plants have enough snow cover! No more is necessary!

I digress. Two of our recent speakers talked about pushing the limits of our zone 4 hardiness with zone 5 or even zone 6 plants. Mary Lerman spoke of creating micro climates for marginal plants and Shirley Friberg used zone 6 plants in her rock wall. How will these plants fare this very cold winter? Larry and I planted a zone 5 Japanese Maple on the southeast side of our house about 6 years ago and it has done well, coming back very strong every year (with a considerable amount of

mulching every fall). We will be watching how it survives this spring. I will try to be hopeful but will keep a crying towel handy.

Randi

From the Editor

-- *Mary Maynard*

Spring is coming! It doesn't feel like it today, and it sure doesn't look like it, but the days are getting longer, and winter cannot prevail forever. By the date of our February meeting, the sun will be rising before 7:30 and setting after 5:30. Most municipalities stop maintaining outdoor ice rinks after Feb. 15 because it is generally too warm for good ice. We can make it!

A couple of things to note:

Our meal price is going up to \$13, starting in February. We had held the price at \$12 for a long time, but prices do go up eventually. And - our March meeting will be held in a new venue: Lakewood Cemetery's community room. More details to come in the March *Spray*.

This issue was made possible because of 14 different members who contributed photographs and written material. Thanks again to everyone who makes this newsletter possible. If you'd like to write up something about one of your gardening special interests, I'd love to include it.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 01-14-2014

Checking balance	\$15,875
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,357
Scholarship	<u>\$7,240</u>
Working Balance	\$ 7,278
 CD	 \$5,234

Membership Corner

Every Member Bring a Member

Free dinners for prospective members!

See below

Welcome New Members!

Judy Brooke, Membership Secretary

Do we have a deal for you!! The club will pay for your guest's dinner if you invite a gardener, or someone who would like to learn about gardening, to an upcoming dinner program. The membership committee has allotted enough from its budget to pay for 11 dinners. Don't just bring your brother-in-law because he's in town visiting. We want new members from this campaign.

Currently our membership count is 76. Put on your thinking caps and see if you can help grow our membership while we're "buying dinners". Remember to call Carole Ann Brekke with the dinner reservation for you and your guest by each month's appointed deadline.

Also don't forget about helping retain our new members. They have the green name tags so you can easily identify them at the meetings. Make them feel welcome. Ask them about their gardening interests. Help facilitate their involvement in a committee. We might restart gardening table topics at some of the club dinners to help guests and new or newer members take part in the conversation.

It's a great club with lots of reasons for joining. In the next newsletter issue, I'll list those reasons, but am out of space for this month.



*Judy introduces new member Nancy Rys while Pres. Randi looks on.
Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*

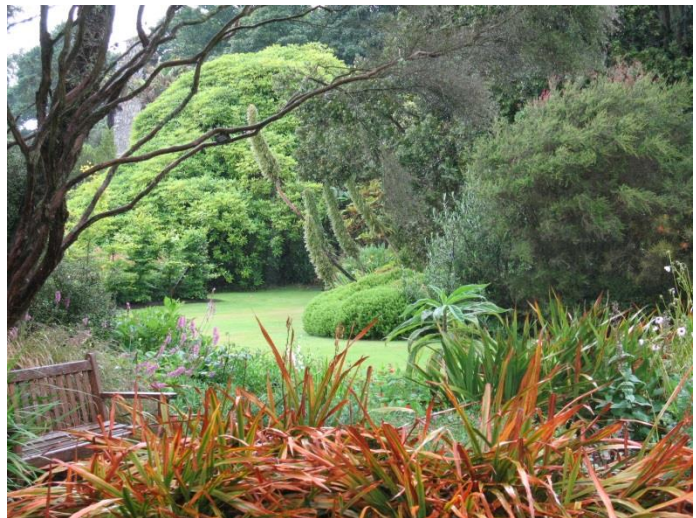
February Program: Peter Olin and Gardens of Scotland

Tom McKusick

In addition to being a member of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis for over 25 years, Peter Olin is Director Emeritus of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, University of Minnesota. He was educated at Cornell University (B.S. in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, 1961); the University of California, Berkeley (Landscape Architecture, 1961-62); the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Master of Landscape Architecture, 1971); and received a diploma from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England (Botanic Garden Management Course, 1994). Peter has taught at both the University of Minnesota and the University of Massachusetts, in the disciplines of design, planning, landscape construction, theory, plant materials, and public garden management. At the Arboretum he was involved with master planning, setting research and educational direction, garden development, model landscapes, visitor services, and fund raising.

The 2013 Arboretum tour began in Glasgow at the Glasgow Botanic Garden, and included a visit to Kibble House, designed in 1695. They then traveled to southern Scotland to visit Logan Botanical Garden.

Then it was on to see the 400 year-old remains of Castle Kennedy, as well as Inverwe Garden, perched on a rocky hillside that juts over the ocean. From there the tour embarked on a cruise on famous Loch Ness, followed by a walk along the edge of Loch Lomond. Later there were stops at David Welch's Garden in Aberdeen, Pitmedden, the walled gardens of Crathes Castle, and Drummond Castle where they saw a parterre garden designed as a St. Andrews Cross. Visits to Dawyck Botanical Garden, and the Edinburgh Botanical Garden rounded out the trip. Please join us for what is certain to be a fascinating presentation.



*Logan Botanical Gardens.
Photo by Akinom, Wikimedia Commons*

One Last Holiday Party Thank-You

Elaine Spiegel, Silent Auction Chair

Thank you, Tami Hagen, for your many ideas for improving the Holiday Party Silent Auction for next year!

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<http://www.mwqcm.org>

Save the Date: 2014 Plant Sale – Tuesday, May 13.

Gary Geister

Our annual plant sale will be at a new location this year.
It will be at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis.
The church is on the east side of Lake Calhoun.

The starting time of the Country Store will be at 3:00 pm. Hope those people working can sneak out of work early that day.

In the evening we will dine in the church dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Lake Calhoun.
garygeister@aol.com

2014 Board Members Sworn In

The 2014 Board took the pledge at the January meeting. Left to right: Mary Maynard, pledge administrator; Randi Larson, President; Nancy Bjerke, Co-Treasurer; Margaret Hibberd, Co-Treasurer, Tom McKusick, Vice President; Judy Brooke; Membership Secretary; Ray Bauch, Director. Not pictured: Sandra Abraham, Past President; Alan Gallaher, Director; and Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary.



-- Photo by Chuck Carlson

The Board Pledge:

I pledge my life to the club,
As long as I can serve and not flub.
With a heart that is true
I will work with this crew,
And when finished I can soak in the tub.
--Bob Olson, 2012

FFF Featured Flower and Vegetable: Zinnias and Beans

Jane Sheedy



Each August, at MWGCM's Flower, Food, and Foto Show (The FFF), one flower and one vegetable are featured. For the 2014 show, the featured flower is the Zinnia. There are many varieties, colors, and sizes of Zinnias. They are easy to grow in containers or in the ground. They make them a great cut flower and they are attractive to butterflies. The variety of options makes Zinnias a great flower to use in arrangements.

The show schedule lists 3 categories of Zinnias in Section A, Class 28. First is the Small size, which ranges from 0.5"-2", you would show 3 blooms of the same color in this category. Next is Medium with size range 2.5"-4" an

entry in this size would require only one bloom. Finally, the Giant category for blooms over 4" entries in this category would require one bloom. The stems should be straight with at least one pair of leaves but two is better. Pick blooms to enter in the show that have a center that shows new petals forming.

Zinnias grown in containers can be entered in the show under Section E, in either Class 28, or in hanging baskets under Class 33. Considering adding Zinnia's to your garden plan this year and entering your best blooms in the show either as cut flowers, container plants, or in you arrangement creation. More to come later on the themes for this year's FFF Show. Stay tuned.



More about our featured vegetable in March Spray.

Photos courtesy of Park Seed.

January Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

The Board welcomed new members and officers to their first official meeting. Highlights of the meeting included:

- presentation of the budget for the 2014-15 year
- review of the successful Holiday Party
- discussion about the plant sale and possible changes that might be incorporated into the event
- assignment of board liaisons to committees

The full minutes are available to any member who'd like more information after the minutes have been approved by the Board. Please get in touch with Laurie for a copy.

MWGCM Website Update

By Andy Marlow, MWGCM Webmaster

By next spring, the MWGCM website will have been in existence for 15 years. It started out as a couple of pages on my University of Minnesota web space, progressed to a couple of dozen pages on my mac.com account, and finally matured in its own web space on a Blue Host server.

The software used to manage the site has also transitioned over the years, from an early version of Macromedia Dreamweaver, to a newer version of Dreamweaver by Adobe and for the last five years or so, an Apple product called iWeb.

And the site's name has changed over time as well. I can't even remember the early name on the University website, but on Blue Host it was been minneapolismensgardenclub.org, MCGM.org, and, finally, just last year mwgcm.org. All these URLs still work and all will take you to the same site.

The site currently consists of 13 major pages, most of which have a number of subsidiary pages, including such things as an interactive membership application, scholarship application, an archive of *The Garden Spray*, and literally hundreds of photographs. I am currently working on getting all of the *Sprays* online. Right now there is a gap, with issues missing from the 1990s and the year 2000. I also plan on adding some of the videos produced for the TV program that never quite made it to TV.

Our most popular recent addition is a gardening blog written by Dr. Bob Olson. He has been remarkably consistent in providing the witty commentary and plenty of photos to go along with it. To enjoy his work, go to the site and click on Bob's Blog.

One of the problems with our current software is that it can only be run from one computer – mine for now. And that has to be a Mac. Over the winter I plan to update the site to WordPress, which has the advantage of working on all types of computers and allows multiple people to contribute content. If you're interested in helping with this project, please let me know. This has been a labor of love, but I've been doing it for a long time and, as I turn 70 next year, it may be time to think about passing the webmaster baton to a younger member.

The website remains popular. Since February of 2012, we have had 2469 unique visitors. The vast majority are from the US, and the count of 2066 includes 40 different states. Of the more than 350 foreign visitors, the largest number come, strangely enough, from India, followed by the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Mexico. In all, 35 countries are represented.

Bob's Blog is going strong over the winter! Check it out at

http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Bobs_Blog/Bobs_Blog.html

New Plant in the Spotlight: Echinacea "Cheyenne Spirit"

Margaret Hibberd



I saw these beautiful Echinacea "Cheyenne Spirit" growing in full sun at my friends Rich and Judy Olson's family farm in St. Francis MN September 11, 2013 and thought they were fabulous – great colors and many blooms growing on sturdy, well branched first year plants. While the seed catalogs describe the colors as rich purple, pink, red, orange yellow, cream and white, Rich had no pinks or purples. His colors are similar to some of the other new and expensive

orange, red and yellow cultivars sold only as plants.

"Cheyenne Spirit" is available as seed from several sources. In 2013 Rich ordered a packet of 15 seeds from Harris Seeds for \$6.95. He started them March 16, one seed per 3" peat pot, grew them under lights and generally the peat pots were planted directly into the garden – if they got too big, he put the peat pot into a larger pot with lots of soil around it. So there was little disturbance of the roots and he got 15 plants to bloom. His first-year plants were blooming by mid-August.



From the internet I learned that "Cheyenne Spirit" is a 2012 AAS winner and earlier received a Fleuroselect Gold Medal. Some reviewers said the seeds must be started January 25 for first year bloom, but they apparently do not have Rich's seed starting skills. It did say they needed 70 degrees for good germination. It also said plants of "Cheyenne Spirit" could be ordered cheapest from Jung's at \$6.95 for 3" pots, so the seed cost looks better. Maybe there will be some plants at local nurseries this spring.

Photos from Rich and Judy's garden by Margaret Hibberd

“Green Thumb” and “Dirty Fingernail” Awards for 2013



Members who attended every event of the year receive “Green Thumb” awards. Members who attend all of the club meetings but miss one summertime event receive “Dirty Fingernail” awards. Pictured here, taking the Green Thumb pledge, are Bob Olson, Joanne Bauch, Ray Bauch, Andy Marlow, Nancy Bjerke, Lynda Carlson, Steve Shubick, Margaret Hibberd, Bonnie Haehn, Nona Johnson and Judy Brooke. (There were also a couple of awardees who weren’t present to receive their awards – which guarantees that they won’t get an award for 2014!)

The Green Thumb Pledge

I pledge my life to the spade
As long as I can spade in the shade
With a heart that is clean
And a thumb that is green
Ah! That’s the life that I crave
-- Bill Hull

Scholarship Challenge goes through March.

Jan Johnson will match up to \$500 in contributions made to the club’s scholarship fund through March 31. Remember, MWGCM is a registered 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax-deductible.

Shirley Friberg at January Meeting



We are so grateful to Shirley Friberg for her presentation on rock gardens and troughs. I heard a lot of members hatching plans to get the perfect Styrofoam for their first troughs! The Minnesota Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society meets 9-10 times a year and all are welcome.



Please take a look at their calendar of events at

http://mn-nargs.org/mnChapterNargs/Events_for_2014.html

Photos by Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock



Bees and Neonicotinoids

By Henry Fieldseth



You have no doubt heard that the bees are in trouble.

The U of M Bee Lab has been studying the issue and has determined that one of the culprits in the class of insecticides called neonicotinoids.

"Neo" means new and "nicotinoid" means they kill insects "like nicotine." They are systemic which means they go everywhere in the plant-- including the nectar and pollen. And they are persistent in the plant, measured in bee-lethal amounts years after application

They were discovered late in the last century and brought into wide use as they were thought to be less toxic than other pesticides in use. They are very widely used in horticulture as well as agriculture. It turns out they are now known to be quite toxic to birds and soil invertebrates and more toxic to mammals than first thought.

We all need to be proactively excluding these chemicals from our gardens. We need to ask at garden centers to make sure we are not inadvertently bringing them home.

Judith Freeman from The Lily Garden in Washington sums it up quite well:

"I used to use insecticides until I got disgruntled when I followed the recommendations of our aggie extension service, and the more I used, the more harmful aphids I had. I finally decided that I was killing off all the natural predators. Just about that time I moved my field to where it was just across the street from a special high school with a lot of agricultural projects, and I decided that I didn't want to endanger their bees. I monitor the field with yellow sticky strips, but I have had NO problems since I stopped using insecticides. (I do see some aphids, but small populations, and the ones I see are not the ones that carry lily viruses--the green peach aphid is the one to worry about.)"

This article was submitted by Chuck Carlson, who had asked Henry to write a couple of paragraphs on the topic. It will be appearing in the Minnesota Rock Garden and Hennepin County newsletters as well.

Calendar of Events for 2014

February 11

"Gardens of Scotland"

Peter Olin

Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30

Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

March 11

"Garden Gems of Minneapolis: Lakewood Cemetery and the MWGCM Lyndale Park Border"

Plus Greenhouse Open House

Paul Aarestad and Kay Wolfe

Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

April 1

Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show

Macy's

May 13

Plant Sale and Auction

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church

June 10

"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape"

Tim Malooly

Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

July TBD

Garden Tours?

August 16-17

Flower, Food and Foto Show

U of M Landscape Arboretum

August TBD

Garden Tours?

September 9

"Houseplants"

Renee Lynch

Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

October 14

"Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle"

Hennepin County Master Gardeners

Lake Harriet Methodist Church

November 11

Hostas

Bob Olson

Lake Harriet Methodist Church

December 9

Holiday Party

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Henry Fieldseth (Chuck Carlson), Gary Geister, Bonnie Haehn, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Jane Sheedy, Elaine Spiegel

Photography: Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Park Seed, Lloyd Wittstock, MWGCM Directory, Wikimedia Commons

**MEN'S and WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB OF
MINNEAPOLIS, INC.**



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Club Officers:

President: Randi Larson

Minnetonka

Vice President: Tom McKusick

Minneapolis

Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin

Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Judy Brooke

Minnetonka

Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd

Minneapolis

Falcon Heights

Past President: Sandra Abraham

Eagan

Directors:

Raymond Bauch

Plymouth

Alan Gallaher

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(Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd)

The Spray

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.

Return To:

The Garden Spray

Men's and Women's Garden Club of Mpls., Inc.

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First Class Mail

February
2014