

The Garden Spray

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

2013, Volume 71, Number 3

March

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Mar 12	LHC	Woody Plants: Bert Swanson
Apr 2	Macy's Mpls	Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show
May 14	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 11	LHC	IPM: Butterflies, Bees and Bugs
July TBD	TBD	Garden Tour
Aug TBD	TBD	Garden Tour
Aug 17-18	Arb	Flower, Food & Foto Show

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park

ARB = University of Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum

Full Calendar of Events on Page 11.

March 12 Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Informal social hour

6:15 p.m. Catered dinner

~7:15 p.m. Short business meeting

~7:30 p.m. Program

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$12.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, March 8 – **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.

March Program: Proper Pruning of Trees and Shrubs in the Landscape With Dr. Bert Swanson

Dr. Bert Swanson will speak on the pruning of trees and shrubs, a subject he certainly knows well. He earned a PhD in Plant Physiology/Biochemistry and plant pathology at the U of M. Dr. Swanson has taught at Colorado State University and the U of M on subjects of nursery management and land management.

His nursery experience includes acting as planting foreman at Bailey Nurseries in St. Paul as well as being president and part owner of Swanson's Great Northern Nursery in Park Rapids.

He has spent 50 years working in or with the nursery and landscape industry. He has Hall of Fame awards from Colorado and the Minnesota Nurseryman's Association.

Currently he is vice president of the National Landscape Plant Development Center and president of the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association Foundation.

Looking Ahead

April 2: Bachman's/Macy's Show "Painted Garden"

Dinner at Macy's Oak Grill, followed by visit to this year's show.

See more information and reservation form on Pages 7-8.

Space is limited for dinner. *Reservations for the Bachman's/Macy's dinner are due by Monday, March 25.*



Notes from the Prez:

-- Sandra Abraham

Spring is Coming, Spring is Coming!

The vernal equinox occurs on March 20, which means the days are as long as the nights and spring is officially here. It means increasing daylight, warming temperatures, and the rebirth of flora and fauna.

March is a great time to tend to pruning of trees and shrubs in your garden. Our March speaker, Bert T. Swanson, will be presenting us with the knowledge and training we need to do just that. It is also time to start those seedlings you've been wanting to trial in your gardens this year. If you have extras you may even want to share them with other MWGCM members at our May 14 Plant Sale.

Those bulbs you planted last fall will emerge and the earth will begin to wear the color green again. The Macy's Bachman flower show will bloom again beginning March 24. The wonderful display will feature a radiant palette of petals inspired by Indian culture.

Beginning in March, we will start the dinner portion of our evening at 6:15 pm. This is being changed so that we can use our time together more efficiently. The goal is to finish eating and bussing our dishes earlier so that we can conduct our meeting before our visitors begin arriving for the speaker's presentation. As they arrive we hope to spend more time greeting them and welcoming them to our meeting.

Finally, our Marketing and Publicity Committee has been working diligently at getting the booth ready for the Home & Garden Show. We will be sharing space in Room 103 at the convention center with other garden clubs and societies so come visit us there from March 1-March 3.

From the Editor

-- Mary Maynard

We are only a few days away from the end of Meteorological Winter, which is the coldest three months of the year. So Meteorological winter ends on Feb. 28, while we have to wait another three weeks for "real" spring to arrive. I suppose it's time to take down the Christmas wreath before a purple finch builds a nest in it again. It's probably also time to prune my grapevines, so I am looking forward to our March program.

A few reminders:

- Starting in March, dinners will start at 6:15 instead of 6:30 in the hope that we can finish up and be ready for our speaker at 7:30.
- Our April event will be the **first** Tuesday of the month instead of the second in order to mesh with the Macy's Flower Show schedule. Space for Dinner at the Oak Grill is limited, and reservations are due by March 25.
- We are getting closer to meeting Jan Johnson's scholarship challenge. If you've been meaning to contribute, either Nancy Bjerke or Margaret Hibberd will take your tax-deductible contribution.

I look forward to seeing you at the March meeting!

March Dinner Menu

Lasagna
Tomato Bread Salad
Antipasto Platter
Bread Sticks
Italian Dessert: Cannelloni



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 2-19-2013

Checking balance	\$17,651.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,716.72
Scholarship	<u>\$4,425.28</u>
Working Balance	\$11,509.00
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

We were sorry to learn that long-time member Joe Stenger passed away on January 31 at the age of 96. Joe won the Bronze Medal (now the Bachman Award) in 2000. Joe was a photographer, a friendly greeter at the Treasurer's table and an enthusiastic auctioneer. Our condolences to his wife Velma.

Marketing and Publicity Committee Update

-- Judy Brooke

There were 14 visitors at our February 12th club program. Three were repeat visitors who had also attended the January program. The majority of the visitors had learned about our MWGCM programs from notices published in the Northern Gardener magazine or the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Again, our visitors will be receiving the club's newsletter for the next three months with the hope that some will decide to become members when learning more about us.

New MWGCM bookmarks are ready and will be used as a recruiting tool at the March 1-3 Home and Garden Show at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We'll be getting feedback from our club members who are staffing our club's table at the show. The feedback will then be shared with the membership at the club's March meeting.

Scholarship Challenge Update

Jan Johnson has extended her \$500 Scholarship matching challenge until the end of March. If we haven't matched her \$500 challenge by then, her donation goes somewhere else.

As of February 14, we were still \$45 short of the goal. If you've been meaning to contribute but just hadn't gotten to it, our Treasurers will be happy to accept your tax-deductible contribution.

Our thanks to Jan, who has so generously supported our scholarship program.



Lyndale Park Garden News: AARS Winners

-- Kay Wolfe

This year the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board gardeners are giving us All-American Selections (AAS) flower winners to grow in the Mixed Border Display Garden at Lyndale Park. The Lyndale Park Garden project is a community service of the MWGCM. The club donates, designs, and maintains both a Mixed Border Display Garden and Perennial Trial Garden at Lyndale Park in Minneapolis – located near Lake Harriet in the same park as the Rose and Peace Gardens.

Lyndale Park is an official Display Garden for the AAS winners. For more information on the AAS programs, see the website at www.all-americaelections.org. The seeds for the AAS winners arrive in January, and are grown for the Park Board by Busse Gardens of Big Lake. Check out the list and see what is new:

Salvia c. 'Summer Jewel Pink' (2012)	Snapdragon F1 'Twinny Peach' (2010)
Ornamental Pepper 'Black Olive' (2012)	Vinca 'James N Jellies Blackberry' (2012)
Marigold F1 'Moonsong Deep Orange' (2010)	Viola F1 c. 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien' (2010)
Gaillardia F1 'Mesa Yellow' (2010)	Viola 'Rain Blue and Purple' (2009)
Gaillardia a. 'Arizona Apricot' (2011)	Viola 'Shangri-La Marina' F1 (2011)
Echinacea p. 'Powwow Wild Berry' (2010)	Zinnia 'Zahara Starlight Rose' (2010)
Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit' (2013)	Zinnia 'Double Zahara Fire' (2010)
Canna 'South Pacific Scarlet F1' (2013)	Zinnia 'Double Zahara Cherry' (2010)
Salvia c. 'Summer Jewel Red' (2012)	

The two salvia cultivars, the marigold and Echinacea “Powwow Wild Berry” will be planted in the Hummingbird and Butterfly Gardens. The rest will be available for our committee to plant in the MWGCM border garden. We will be planting these cultivars some time end of May or early June, so join the Lyndale Park Garden Committee and join in the fun. Work crews are on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. For info contact Kay Wolfe, 952-922-0762 or email mngcmgarden@q.com.



Snapdragon 'Twinny Peach'



Viola 'Endurio Sky Blue Martien'



Zinnia 'Double Zahara Cherry'

More AAS photos on following page. All photos courtesy of All-America Selections



More All-American Selections that will be featured in our Trial and Perennial Display Gardens this Year



Clockwise from top left: Echinacea 'Cheyenne Spirit', Canna 'South Pacific Scarlet', Salvia 'Summer Jewel Pink', Gaillardia 'Arizona Apricot' All photos courtesy of All-America Selections.



FFF Show Featured Vegetable for 2013 is Peppers

-- Judy Berglund

Peppers, *Capsicum* cultivars, come in many varieties. We typically think of peppers in terms of how hot they are to the taste. The Scoville scale is the measurement of the pungency (spice heat of chili peppers). The Habanero, rated 100,000 – 300,000 SR, once considered the hottest chili pepper now has been surpassed by other hot varieties. The Jalapeno pepper, very popular in the U.S.A. is rated 2,500 – 8,000 SR. There are many more from around the world rated between these examples.

Sweet bell peppers ripen in a range of colors (green, red, yellow, orange, white, purple, blue, or brown) depending on the specific cultivar and they have no noticeable SR heat. Banana peppers shape and color resemble a banana and its flavor is not very hot.



The pepper plant has its best chance of becoming an outstanding plant when the temperature is warm; ideally the soil temperature is between 70-85 degrees Fahrenheit. They prefer soil that is kept moist but not waterlogged. Peppers are sensitive to an abundance of moisture and excessive temperature. Never plant peppers into the garden until all damage of frost has disappeared. If starting plants from seed, start indoors about 8 weeks before the last frost.

There are many circumstances with the growing of peppers that can lead to blossom drop. This includes temperatures that soar to ninety and above. If these extreme temperatures are predicted, by all means cover your pepper plants with a light cloth. If temperatures drop below 60 degrees at night it will also result in blossom drops, again requiring some kind of cover. A dry garden at bloom time can also result in blossom drop or the plants may fail to set fruits. The soil must be moist but not soggy or water logged.



When selecting fruit to exhibit, specimens should be uniform in size, shape and color. They should be free of disease or other defects. Trim all stems to a uniform length of 1/2 – 1 inch. All specimens should have the same number of lobes. Wipe clean but do not wash the fruits. Peppers may be entered as 3 large, 7 small fruits, or any vegetable growing in a container or any vegetable growing in a hanging basket.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOUR BEST PEPPERS AT THE FFF SHOW IN AUGUST!!!

Photos courtesy of Park Seed



Macy's Bachman's Flower Show and Dinner April 2, 2013

Our annual trip to Macy's flower show will take place on **April 2**. **Please note that this is one week earlier than our usual meeting date.** Macy's 8th floor auditorium will be transformed into a 'Painted Garden' which will be accented by architectural features. This flower show is always a breath of spring when we have all been surrounded by winter for many months. Dale Bachman will speak to us about the plants and show us the designers' concept drawings following a dinner at Oak Grill on Macy's 12th floor.

Time table (we will need to follow this schedule closely):

- 5:00 - Gather, be seated, order beverages
- 5:30 - Dinner is served
- 6:20 - Dale Bachman will speak
- 6:50 - Proceed to 8th floor to view flower show
- 8:00 - Macy's store closes (must exit store by 8:20)

Cost is \$23 per person (tax & tip included). Reservations **must be received** no later than Monday, March 25. Dinner reservations are required.

Menu selections (pick one in the reservation form on the next page):

- . Traditional chicken pot pie served with salad & mixed greens
- . Soup & sandwich - cup of chicken wild rice soup with oven-smoked turkey sandwich
- . Meat loaf with red pepper gravy with potato and a fresh vegetable.

Each entrée is served with signature popover, white chocolate bread pudding topped with caramel sauce and whipped cream, beverage (coffee, tea, lemonade, fountain drink).

Free parking vouchers are available at the Oak Grill after 4 p.m. Any questions please call Randi Larson at 952-949-9668.

Please fill out the reservation form on the next page and send with payment to Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306. **Reservations must be received by Monday, March 25**





Bachman's/Macy's Reservation Form

MWGCM April 2, 2013 Macy's-Bachman Flower Show-dinner at the Oak Grill

Please reserve ____ dinners at \$23.00 each. Check payable to MWGCM must be enclosed.

Dinner entrée choice(s): __ Meatloaf, __ Soup/Sandwich, __ Pot Pie

Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Send reservation form with check to:

Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306

Reservations must be received by Monday, March 25, 2013. No exceptions, out of respect for the committee and our arrangement with the Oak Grill Staff. Thanks.

Photos from February Meeting

-- Lloyd Wittstock



Left to right Bonnie Haehn, Steve Shubick and Nona Johnson receive "Dirty Fingernail" awards. Laurie Levin collects her Rookie of the Year certificate from Awards Committee Chair Chuck Carlson. Mary Lerman with various hydrangeas.



MWGCM Board Meeting Highlights February 4, 2013

-- Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Sandy Abraham, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Margaret Hibberd, Jean Strande, Robert Kean, Judy Brooke, Don Trocke

Absent: Nancy Bjerke

Several important dates were announced at this month's Board meeting. Please put these on your calendar:

- Spring Flower Show: April 2, 2013
- Plant Sale at Westwood Lutheran Church: May 14, 2013
- Flower, Food and Foto Show: August 17 and 18, 2013

Start planning for snapdragons and peppers!

Revising our logo, brochure and website will be addressed by the Marketing and Publicity Committee. Please send your ideas to the committee.

Members of the Lyndale Park Garden Committee have met with Paul Aarestad from Lakewood Cemetery to discuss possible ways that the Club and the Cemetery might work together for our mutual benefit.

We are going to make some modest changes in the timing of activities at the general membership meetings in order to finish the formal business work before welcoming guests to the program portion of the evening. This will involve starting our meal a bit earlier, and then starting the business meeting earlier.

Please join your officers in greeting visitors and guests to our meetings. Increasing our membership depends on providing a welcoming atmosphere at our meetings!

Complete copies of the monthly minutes are available from Laurie Levin:

levinlaurie@hotmail.com, or 763.542.8037.

May Plant Sale News

Our annual plant sale and auction will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park. The Country Store will open at **4:00 p.m.** Once again we will be able to pre-order plants from Gardenview Greenhouse. Members should watch their inboxes for the plant order form by March 1.



Calendar of Events for Rest of 2013

March 12

“Proper Pruning of Trees & Shrubs in the Landscape”
Bert Swanson
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

April 2

Tour of Macy-Bachman’s Flower Show
Dale Bachman
Dinner 5:00 Macy’s Downtown Minneapolis

May 14

Plant Sale & Auction
4 PM
Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park

June 11

“IPM: Butterflies, Bees, & Bugs”
Dr. Vera Krischik
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

July & August

Garden Tours TBD

August 17 & 18

Flower, Food & Foto Show
U of MN Landscape Arboretum

September 10

Tomato & Pepper Festival
MWGCM members
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

October 8

“Winter Hardy Cactus & Succulents”
Craig Johnson
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

November 12

“Planting for Fall and Winter Color in Your Garden”
Terry Yockey
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

December 10

Holiday Party
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

This Month’s Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Bonnie Haehn, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Kay Wolfe, Mary Maynard

Photography: Lloyd Wittstock, All-America Selections, Park Seed



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener: Winter Reflections

-- Mary Maynard

We are getting close to the end of official winter. As a gardener, I enjoy winter more and more as time goes on. Not for the ice and snow and cold – but for the restfulness. The garden is put to bed, the cuttings are rooted, the leaves gathered. By the time winter officially starts, the only things left to do outside are filling the bird feeders and shoveling snow.

And that works for me. January and February are the months to pore through the catalogs, write lists of things to do in the summer, catch up on some gardening reading and otherwise relax. In the winter, everything seems possible. By the time summer comes around, we realize that our backs and knees are not as young as they used to be. We discover that it takes quite a bit longer to grub out that old juniper than we thought it would back in February. We scale back on our plans. Maybe construction of the stone wall can wait until next year. Maybe we'll only get half of the buckthorn hedge torn out this summer.

So I take time in the dark wintertime to rest up and reflect. By March, I'm ready to start seedlings and by April I can't wait to set out the first pansies.

I'm not sure how people in southern climates do it. For many years, MWGCM member Phil Smith gardened in Montana all summer and in Florida all winter. He loved it, but it feels like a nightmare to me -- a never-ending struggle to control our surroundings without Mother Nature and Jack Frost helping us out. There is something about the forced downtime of a Minnesota winter that refreshes and rejuvenates so that I can step into spring with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

After the hectic comings and goings of December, I'm ready to take some time in January and February to light a fire in the fireplace, collect all the catalogs and start making lists. Any seed catalog that comes in the mail before the first of the year just sits in a pile, waiting for the peace of January and February.



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



Inside:

Page 1	March Program
Page 2	From the Pres., Editor
Page 3	Treas., Mbrship., Publicity
Page 4-5	Lyndale Park AAS
Page 6	FFF: Peppers
Page 7-8	Bachman's/Macy's Show
Page 9	Board Mtg. Highlights
Page 10	2013 Calendar, Contributor
Page 11	Lazy Gardener: Winter Reflections

Club Officers:

President: Sandra Abraham
931 Waterford Dr. E., Eagan, MN
Vice President: Randi Larson
15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka
Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin
240 Brunswick Av. S. Golden Valley
Membership Secretary: Jean Strande
11 Hanley Rd, Golden Valley
Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd
4904 38th Ave. S., Minneapolis
1850 Roselawn Ave., Falcon Heights
Past President: Robert Kean
3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis
Directors:
Judy Brooke
4728 Temple Rd., Minnetonka
Don Trocke
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington
(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.
Mary Maynard, Editor
4375 Dart Avenue
St. Louis Park, MN 55424

First Class Mail

March
2013