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MEN'S & WOMEN'S

GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

March 2018

The Garden Spray

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March Meeting Preview

Anne Spenningsby, Chair

"GEMS FOR THE SHADE"

WITH ARLA CARMICHAEL & STEVE KELLEY

Steve Kelley and Arla Carmichael from Kelley and Kelley Nursery and Landscape Design will share information about plants for home shade gardens.



Tuesday, March 13

Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

Menu

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

Stuffed Pork Chops
Parsley Red Potatoes
Roasted Carrots
Tossed Salad
Bread/Dinner Rolls & Butter
Lemon Bars

- Permanent reservations are in effect.
- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, March 9.
- 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 SPRING

As the days lengthen and the temperature rises, March is synonymous with the onset of spring. The average high temperature increases from 39 to 49 degrees between March 1 and 31. The hours of sunlight increase from 11 hours and 10 minutes to 12 hours and 44 minutes. Local events happening this month include the Bachman's Spring Idea Home starting March 14 and the Minneapolis Home and Garden Show starting March 30.

The **daffodil** is one of the world's most beautiful flowers and is representative of spring, so it is the perfect flower of the month in March.



Traditionally known as the daffodil, it has two names. The other name, *Narcissus jonquilla*, is made up of two parts: *Narcissus*, the name of the genus or wider species, after the mythical Greek character who was granted good looks and immortality in return for never being able to see his own reflection. Within this wider species, *Jonquil* is the name of the specific species. This means that the daffodil is known as the *Narcissus jonquilla*.

Daffodils and jonquils have similar appearances, but the main difference is their leaves. Jonquil leaves are round while those of daffodils are flatter and wider. Jonquils are also known for having a stronger scent than daffodils. However, daffodils are larger and more readily available at your local florist.

The colors of the bloom include white, yellow and orange. Sending a gift of daffodils conveys the hidden meaning of friendship, happiness, rebirth and respect. However be careful to never send or give a single bud. While most other flowers work very well as bud arrangements, a single daffodil represents misfortune and this is most likely not the kind of message anyone wants to send!

Daffodils are often used in fragrances and perfumes. They have previously been used in medicine due to research that shows daffodils produce galantamine, which is used in medicines to fight Alzheimer's disease. It also generates chemicals that are sometimes used in rodent repellent to protect crops.

In the past, daffodils were used in a range of medicines. Some believed they cured baldness, while the French thought of them as an aphrodisiac. Perhaps the most unusual was the ancient Greeks, who used them as a stimulant to induce trance-like states and cause hallucinations.

ORDER ANNUALS BY MARCH 27 FOR PICKUP AT THE PLANT SALE

We again have the opportunity to order high-quality annual plants, hanging baskets and other containers from a local wholesaler. The order form is available at the link below and [on the MWGCM website](#).

Prices are competitive. Full annual flats (48 plants per flat) are \$26.00 per full flat or \$13.00 per half flat. Most specialty annuals in 4" pots are \$5.00 each. And a wide variety of hanging baskets and other larger containers are also available.

All plants are neonicotinoid free.

Your order will be available for pickup at the MWGCM plant sale after 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8. The plant sale is held at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in south Minneapolis.

Here's how it works:

1. Print out the [order form](#) and decide what you want to order.
2. Fill out the form and total up your order on Page 8. Make sure your name is on the form!
3. Send the form, along with a check payable to MWGCM to Mary Maynard at the address on the form. The form must get to Mary by Tuesday, March 27.
4. If you have any questions about the ordering process, email [Mary](#) or call (952) 926-7506.
5. If you would like to know more about specific items available for sale, Google or another search engine is probably your best bet.

If you're interested, here are a few things I'm planning to order this year:

- 'Bounce' Impatiens series (\$5.00 specialty annual). Supposed to be resistant to downy mildew. Worth a try.
- 'Whopper' begonias (\$5.00 specialty annual). Very vigorous, tall fibrous begonia. One plant fills up an 18" container and makes a bold statement in sun or part shade.
- Ageratum 'Blue Horizon.' Tall blue ageratum that is a standard in my garden.
- Salvia 'Coral Nymph.' Another standard in my garden, good for pollinators.
- Browallia (annual flats, hanging baskets or specialty annuals). Grows well in shade, and rabbits left it alone last year.
- Mixed annual 'Mini Pot' for sun or shade. (\$15.00) Smaller container with at least six assorted "starter plants." These have been very popular at our auction in past years.

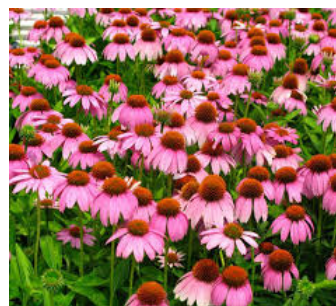
I look forward to hearing from you! Thanks in advance for supporting our club.

-- *Mary Maynard*

Here's just a sampling of the new plants available at this year's sale:

Rex Begonias

Some new varieties these non-blooming begonias grown for great foliage in the shade.



'Crazy Pink' Echinacea

Perennial with pink flowers and orange center cone. Lots and lots of blooms. Zone 4, 18-24" high.

Zinnias two new varieties

'Fruit Smoothie' is a combination of intense orange and purple double flowers up to 3' high. 'Forecast' (shown here) is a variety of iridescent colored blooms. Zinnias are a must for butterflies.



Sunflowers

The sunflower is the 2018 FFF flower of the year. Plant a few varieties for competing in the FFF show. Blooms on sunflowers range from 3" to 10" across. The height of the 'Teddy Bear' (shown here) is 2' while others range up to 6' high.

-- *Gary Geister*

2018 Flower, Food & Foto Show

Judy Berglund, Chair

2018 FEATURED VEGETABLE: ONION

Sharing the story of this year's featured vegetable could be a real tear jerker. The health benefits of eating onions include lowering the risk of several types of cancer, improving mood, and maintaining healthy skin.



Onions are a cool-season crop, easy to grow because of their hardiness. Plant onions early in spring and harvest in the fall after their tops begin to turn yellow and fall over. Set onions, recommended this far north, can be planted without worry of frost damage and have a higher success rate than direct seed or transplants.

- Plant onions as soon as the ground can be worked in spring, usually late March or April. Make sure temperature doesn't go below 20 degrees F.
- Select a location with full sun where your onions won't be shaded by other plants.
- Soil needs to be well-drained, loose, and rich in nitrogen.
- At planting time mix in some nitrogen fertilizer. Onion plants are heavy feeders and need constant nourishment to produce big bulbs.
- Think of onions as a leaf crop, not a root crop. When planting sets, don't bury more than 1" under the soil and plant about 4" apart.
- When onions start to mature the tops become yellow and begin to fall over. At that point, bend the tops down.
- Loosen the soil to encourage drying, and after a few days turn them up and let them cure on dry ground.
- When tops are brown, pull the onions.

To exhibit onions the specimens should be mature and thoroughly cured. The neck should be small. Do not peel to give slick appearance. Only outer scales that are broken or discolored should be removed. Small basal roots should be left intact but trimmed to a uniform ½." Wipe or brush but do not wash. Trim dried, twisted tips to a uniform length of 1" to 2." Do not damage dry skins.

To exhibit table or green onions, trim the tops to 3" long so the overall length should be 6" to 8". The roots are trimmed to ½." In some cases the wrapper skin is removed to expose the long white shank. This is generally done just before showing as it often discolors if it stands too long. The general diameter of the onion should be ½." They should be straight with white stems and dark green leaves. The bulbs should not be enlarged. Some of the usual faults include crooked, poor colored stems, dry or discolored leaves and bulbs enlarged or too small.

So here is to healthy eating. Try planting a few onions this year and put the 2018 FFF Show on your calendar for the weekend of August 18 and 19.

Thank you to all members who generously donated to the Lyndale Park Mixed Border Garden in 2017 (listed in the [February 2018 Spray](#)).

Memorial donations were given to remember three people: club members **Chuck Benson** and **Bob Redmond**, and **Elaine Maynard**, mother of club member Mary Maynard.

We planted a *Juniperus chinensis* 'Hetzii Columnaris' in memory of Chuck Benson. This dark green, columnar juniper has a dense growth habit, reaches 15' to 18' in height and 4' to 6' in width. It was planted near a group of other upright conifers. Like Chuck, it will stand out at the back of the border and overlook the garden. A grouping of evergreens was also dedicated to Chuck: three *Chamaecyparis pisifera* 'King's Gold' near the front of the border. Their bright gold color makes them stand out in the garden. They remind me of Chuck and his colorful artistic pursuits in both gardening and rug weaving.

In memory of Elaine Maynard, we planted what I have been calling "mother shrubs." These have been planted as backdrop shrubs, many in memory of mothers and aunts. This year we planted three upright Japanese yews *Taxus cuspidata* 'Capitata.' As memorials to Mary Maynard's mother, who had numerous children (two I have met besides Mary), this is very fitting. I am sure that Mrs. Maynard had to be in many places at once and her memorial yews are placed throughout the garden.

Bob Redmond passed in the fall and we will plant trees or shrubs in his memory this coming season. Bob and I co-chaired the Lyndale Park Garden/Trial Garden committee for four years, and he was a dedicated member of the committee, always bringing donut holes and coffee. We will have time to find some appropriate plantings.

Thank you so much for your gracious gifts and the opportunity to plant something in memory of our members and friends.

-- *Kay Wolfe*

The Galleria's New Floral Experience

POPULAR SPRING RITUAL IS REVIVED AT GALLERIA

"Spring is in the Air"

Galleria, 69th Street and France Avenue, Edina

Sunday, March 25 through Sunday, April 8

Open during normal business hours
Free

Anyone involved with design and gardening was disappointed with the closing of the downtown Macy's. Since 1960, Bachman's had teamed with Dayton's, Marshall Field's and Macy's, to bring a beautiful flower show to the Twin Cities. Luckily, this tradition is being revived by the Galleria in collaboration with Bachman's.



The new floral experience will be a series of displays and vignettes in several locations on Galleria's main floor, lower level, and newly completed wing. According to a press release, the free show promises an "immersive transformation [of Galleria] celebrating the arrival of spring." Many of the displays will be floor-to-ceiling, incorporating hanging arrangements and other raised installations.

The floral arrangements will nod to the Galleria's reputation for upscale fashion and home goods. "Think elegance with a hint of couture," says Galleria general manager, Wendy Eisenberg. Galleria's retailers will also have displays showcasing vibrant floral fabrics in fashion and home.

The gardens will include hyacinths, tulips, and other springtime favorites, all being specially prepared to bloom early by Bachman's. "We are already working on coaxing an early blooming schedule for a range of spring floral favorites," says Dale Bachman, chairman of the board of Bachman's and a fourth-generation member of the family-owned business (and a member of the MWGCM).

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

Marketing & Publicity Committee

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

The Marketing and Publicity Committee met in early February to review and approve our 2018 promotion plans and activities. The "to do" list is extensive. M&P will focus on supporting and collaborating with other club committees to meet club objectives to:

- Increase and sustain participation in area garden center expos.
- Increase and sustain promotion of club meetings and presentations to engage potential new members.
- Generate awareness and attendance at special events: Plant Sale, FFF Show, and 2019 Public Garden Tour.
- Identify and secure external funding sources for community projects.

- Increase funding, awareness and participation in the Scholarship Program.
- Gain support and funding for the redesign of our MWGCM website.

Expect to see more MWGCM emails in your inbox as we expand our internal promotions and communications as well.

These activities require a dedicated group of highly engaged folks to make it all happen. We are very pleased to welcome Pat Kessler to the committee and appreciate her marketing experience and expertise in project management. She has already proved to be a great asset to the committee.

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

Committee Members: Bette Fenton, Pat Kessler, Andy Marlow, Bob Olson, Anne Spenningsby

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

Please join in welcoming our new members from January and February:

SUE CLARK

Sue joined MWGCM at our January meeting, following her husband Bill who joined last year. She is a tax accountant, so this is her busy time of year. However, she has begun working fewer hours on a regular basis, and plans to find more time to devote to gardening from now on.

Sue was introduced to gardening as a child growing up on a farm in Wisconsin, when she says "weeding was more of a punishment" than the joy she gets from working in the soil these days.

She and Bill live in Minnetonka, where they grow a few vegetables but mostly concentrate on flowers and border gardens.

She loves touring other gardens, and would also like to know more about planting along a shoreline.

HAROLD AND DOROTHY LUDTKE

Harold and Dorothy also joined at our January meeting and learned about MWGCM from members Ray and Joanne Bauch (Ray and Harold bowl together).

The Ludtkes, who are both retired, met through a mutual friend six years ago. They married a year later and moved into Harold's home in St Louis Park.

Harold had lilac and honeysuckle hedges. Dorothy decided to add additional flower beds, planting day lilies, iris, roses, dianthesis, peonies, snowball bushes and hostas. Harold helps with the weeding and does the lawn care. Dorothy also does some container gardening.

They enjoy spending time outside in their yard and two-tiered deck in the summer and traveling to warmer climes in the winter. (They missed our February meeting due to a trip to Mexico.)

Mark and Linda Pahl and **Beate Marlene Lundstrom** also joined in February, More about them in next month's *Garden Spray*.

We also welcome back two former members who have rejoined: **Zan Tomko** and **Andrew Gawboy**.

If you have not yet picked up a 2018 Directory, please let me know at the March meeting, or email me if you would like one mailed to you.

-- [Kathy Lenarz](#) (with contributions from Judy Brooke)



CORRECTION: This photo was mislabeled in the February Garden Spray. Shown are 2017 new members David Voss and Suzanne Holt with Sandra Mangel.

Every member bring a member.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

FEBRUARY 26, 2018

Checking Balance	\$ 25,725
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 1,080
Scholarship	\$ 4,420
Deane Fund at RCU	\$ 61,875
Working Balance	\$ 19,805
Petty Cash	\$ 100
MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank	\$ 5,374

Meeting & Event Calendar

March 13

Arla Carmichael & Steve Kelley: Gems for Flower, Food & Foto Show
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

August

Flower, Food & Foto Show

September 11

Barbara Ronningen: Overwintering
Ornamental Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

October 9

Fiona Lennox: Native Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

November 13

June 12

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

July

Garden Tours TBA

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

December 11

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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