

The Garden Spray

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

2014, Volume 72, Number 4

April

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Apr. 1	Macy's	Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show
May 13	SMC	Plant Sale
June 10	LWC	"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape" Tim Malooly

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, 3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis

Note: Permanent reservations are

not in effect. Reservations for dinner at Macy's Oak Grill must be received by Monday, March 24. If you haven't sent in your reservation yet, call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) to see if there is still space.

Remember!

Plant pre-order forms are due to Mary Maynard by **Friday, March 28.** Call Mary if you have questions. 952-926-7506.



April 1 Event: Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show and Dinner

The Secret Garden, the theme of this year's floral extravaganza will offer spectators a peek behind the magic and majesty of lush landscapes. "This year, we'll travel on a magical journey of discovery. Macy's own secret garden will be filled with wonder and fantasy. Lush foliage and fragrant flowers delight at every turn. As you pass through the gateway you will be enveloped by rich and dynamic colors, elaborate scenic elements and breath-taking landscaping that will showcase hidden floral treasures," said Mike Gansmoe, the producer of the show.

Dinner reservations are due by March 24.

Schedule and more info on Page 4

Looking Ahead: Plant Sale and Auction May 13

Our annual plant sale and auction will be held at a new location this year. Plant sale begins at 3 p.m. at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis.

More information on Page 5

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<http://www.mwgcm.org>

Notes from the Prez:

-- Randi Larson

More New Perennials

Even though Spring seems like an eternity away, I thought I would focus on new perennials for this year. I believe this is something all of us look forward to (Spring and new perennials) so I looked at a few websites and picked some of my favorites for this year.



One of the first perennials that caught my eye was a Centaurea called 'Carmina', which features uniquely shaped pink flowers that emerge from fuzzy brown and black buds

that bloom most of the summer. Stems reach 2' tall and they like full sun.

A new Clematis called 'Diamantine' looks promising. It is a double-flowered clematis with large pom-poms of blue/purple. Each flower lasts up to 4 weeks! They grow 7' tall and like full to partial sun.

Two new Delphiniums from the New Millennium series look interesting. The first is 'Cobalt Dreams', beautiful dark blue flowers that grow 4-6 feet tall. 'Lilac Ladies' claims to be a blooming machine



with clear lilac purple flowers with white stripes. This one grows 3-4 feet tall. These two delphiniums are supposed to be more tolerant of heat and humidity than any other delphinium with thick stems that won't fall over in foul weather. That would be a nice improvement!

I liked two new Echinacea's called 'Big Kahuna', a honey-mango colored flower, and 'Chiquita', with lovely soft yellow flowers. Big Kahuna has a sweet Hawaiian scent that feature sturdy, upright stems that grow 20" tall. 'Chiquita' is a dwarf with large flowers and is great in containers.

Some of the hottest new coneflowers on the market today come from the 'Secret' series. They all produce large double blooms. 'Secret Affair' has flowers that combine rich tyrian rose, mauve and lavender colors. 'Secret Glow' is school bus yellow. They average an outstanding 35 large flowers per plant. 'Secret Love' has blooms that are a pure red on a double anemone type flower. All grow about 2 feet tall in full sun.

The 2014 Hosta of the Year is a striking and distinctive cup shape hosta called 'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'. The 8" leaves have glue-green foliage that resists slugs. Plants will grow 18" high and 24-36" wide. Hosta 'Curly Fries' is an irresistible miniature to small sized hosta that forms an arching, wiggly clump of extremely rippled, narrow leaves. It grows 6" tall.

An interesting new Shasta Daisy called Real Glory has an unusual reflexing anemone flower form with multiple layers of pure white petals with a frilly yellow dome. A new Phlox called Glamour Girl is powdery mildew resistant. Flowers are a hot coral pink on purple stems and grow 32" tall.



All of the above perennials are zone 4 plants. Good luck!

Randi

Photos courtesy of Wayside Gardens

Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 03-13-2014

Checking balance	\$16,833
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,357
Scholarship	<u>\$7,560</u>
Working Balance	\$ 7,916
CD	\$5,260

Membership Corner

Welcome to new member Eric Smoczyk!
See more about Eric below.

Every Member Bring a Member

Welcome New Member

Judy Brooke, Membership Secretary

Welcome new member **Eric Smoczyk**. Eric resides in Richfield and is employed at 3M. He received his horticulture degree from Purdue University. He learned about MWGCM through our club's website. He checked us out at our February dinner program and joined the club at our March meeting. Eric's reasons for joining were social and to share gardening interests. One of his gardening interests is propagation.



Lyndale Park Garden Committee

Spring Kick-Off Meeting

Tuesday April 15, 2014 at 7:15 PM

At the home of Sharla Aaseng
1025 20th Ave SE, Mpls 55414

For more information contact Sharla at
612.623.9341; Kay Wolfe at 952.922.0762
or mgcmgarden@q.com



Our annual trip to Macy's flower show will take place on **April 1**. Macy's 8th floor auditorium will be transformed into a 'Secret Garden', with individual gardens creating the impression of being in different countries. Dale Bachman will speak to us about the plants following a dinner at Oak Grill on Macy's 12th floor.

Timetable (we will need to follow this schedule closely):

- 5:00 – Gather, be seated, order beverages
- 5:30 – Dinner is served
- 6:30 – 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 are required, and **must be received** no later than Monday, March 24. Seating for dinner is limited to 48.

Bachman's/Macy's Reservation Form

MWGCM April 1, 2014 Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show-dinner at the Oak Grill

Please reserve ___ dinners at \$23.00 each. Include check payable to MWGCM.

Dinner choice(s): ___ Meatloaf ___ Mandarin Salad ___ Pot Pie ___ Steak Sandwich (Mandarin Salad can be made gluten-free. Please indicate on form)

Member Name: _____ Guest: _____

Send reservation form with check to:

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

Looking Ahead: MWGCM Annual Plant Sale and Auction

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our annual Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis Plant Sale is around the corner. Date: Tuesday May 13th, 2014 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church at 3450 Irving Avenue South in Minneapolis. This event includes the "COUNTRY STORE" where people can purchase plants from members' gardens, extra plants from the preorder sale and seed starting efforts as well as a silent auction and a live auction.

There will be much more information in the May *Spray*, but here are a few reminders:

1. Don't forget to send in your plant pre-order forms to Mary Maynard by Friday, March 28. Your order will be ready to pick up at the church by 3:00 p.m.
2. The 'Country Store' plant sale will start at 3:00 p.m., which is earlier than previous years.
3. Please bring in annuals you've started and perennials from your garden for the Country Store.
4. The Committee is also looking for gardening items and unusual plants for the Silent Auction.
5. Steve Shubick has arranged for 10 varieties of specialty hostas that will be available at the sale. See below for more info about them.

Specialty Hostas Available at May 13 Plant Sale

Steve Shubick

For the plant sale this year we have five each of ten different Hostas for sale. It is a very good selection from mini, small, medium, large and very large. Most of the Hostas were either on The American Hosta Society, Popularity Pop from 2012 and or on the American Hosta Growers Association, Hosta of the Year. Of the ten Hostas only three did not make either list. They are H. 'Empress Wu' for size which is very large, H. 'Fire Island' (medium) for color with stunning red petioles with yellow leaves and H. 'Alakazaam' (mini) for green leaves with a wide creamy-white upward ruffled leaves.



2014 Hosta of the Year
'Abiqua Drinking Gourd'
(Walden West 1989)

Color - Blue
Size - Medium (22"ht x 46"w)
Habit - Mounding
Bloom - White

Hostas at Plant Sale -- Continued



Empress Wu PP20774 CPBRAE [Very Large] 39" Tall x 66" Wide (Skaggs) Huge dark green leaves have deeply impressed veins and tremendous substance. In 5 or 6 years a mature clump can reach 4 1/2' tall. The 5' scapes topped with pale lavender flowers.



Fire Island [Medium] 15" Tall x 24" Wide (Brincka) Stunning red petioles hold bright yellow to greenish-yellow wavy leaves with lavender flowers.

Bill Brinka registered this cross of *Hosta longipes forma hypoglauca* x *H. 'Crested Surf'* in 1998. The medium sized mound has slightly wavy, slightly corrugated leaves with deep maroon-red petioles. It forms lavender flowers in August.



Rainforest Sunrise [Medium] (Anderson) Great sport from *H. 'Maui Buttercups'*...bright gold leaves are framed with a dark green border and show lots of corrugation. Vigorous grower topped with lavender flowers in early summer

Frosted Mouse Ears [Small] 6" tall x 12" Wide (Zillis & Deckert) One of the many sports of *H. 'Blue Mouse Ears'*. Thick blue leaves with a wide creamy-white border and the same lavender flowers as the parent

June [Medium] 15" Tall x 30" Wide (NEO Plants) One of the best hostas. The leaves have bright gold to yellow centers with wide blue margins and great substance. Holds up until the very end in the fall and is usually the last to do down. Lavender flowers in late July.

Liberty PP12531 [Large] 28" Tall x 60" Wide (Machen) Sport of *H. 'Sagae'*. Beautifully shaped thick green leaves have a very wide yellow border that later fades to creamy-white. Lavender flowers in summer.

Alakazaam PP22342 (Mini) 7" Tall x 12" Wide (Livingston) Great mini with *H. 'Atom Smasher'* genes. Beautiful green leaves framed by a "ruffled" creamy-white border are electrifying and dance upward. This plant is a vigorous grower with good substance. A dense fountain of long and narrow leaves of green with a ruffled yellow margin in spring.

First Frost [Medium] 14" Tall x 36" Wide (Scolnik/Solberg) Sport from *H. 'Halcyon'*. This plant makes a medium clump of blue leaves framed by a creamy-yellow to white border. Superb substance and lavender flowers on a hosta that holds long after others have gone to sleep in the fall.

Photos courtesy of NH Hostas & Companion Plants www.nhhostas.com

Flower, Food, and Foto Show Floral Design Division

August 16-17, 2014

U of M Landscape Arboretum

By Lynda Carlson

One of the highlights of the MWGCM's events calendar is the Flower, Food, and Foto show where gardeners showcase the results of their best efforts of the growing season. The floral designs always add the wow factor to this annual show. It's a once-a-year chance for exhibitors to unleash their artistic expression.

The Farm is the general design *theme* for 2014. The design *classes* offer a variety of interpretive options on the theme, and they are:

The Red Barn: Incorporate warm/hot color(s).

Windmill: Use tall components.

Picket Fence: Include white and/or cool color(s).

Kitchen Garden: Utilize vegetable(s).

Well House: Feature miniature elements.

Meadow: Display soft color(s) and/or grass(es).



Plan ahead to enter your floral interpretations in the Design Division competition. It's a lot of fun as well as rewarding to show off some ribbons for your efforts, and it's easy to stick to the rules. The plant materials need to be garden-grown but not necessarily from your own garden. You can include accessories as well as supplemental materials like foliage, seeds, weeds (we all have those!), berries, etc. Specific rules for the Design Division are in the show schedule which will be available soon. Please contact Judy Berglund at 952-975-1960 with questions.

Photo from last year's Design Competition by Lloyd Wittstock

March Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Two conversations were of particular interest at the March board meeting:

1. A discussion about the upcoming plant sale highlighted the importance of having members support the sale, both through pre-orders and on the day of the event. Plant sale committee members are investigating how to increase the number and variety of plants offered at the sale. We hope that the new location of the sale will attract non-members to our event along with all of our members.
2. The Board is considering re-organizing the committee structure of the Club in an effort to better organize and coordinate the work of our committees. We are not considering eliminating committees, but rather are focused on grouping those with similar purposes together so that they can work together efficiently.

The Club's finances were audited and found to be accurate and well documented.

The Scholarship Matching Fund Drive was met and exceeded.

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.

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<http://www.mwgcm.org>

Photos from March Meeting

Lloyd Wittstock

Our first meeting at the new Reception Room at Lakewood Cemetery. Thanks to Paul Aarestad for the greenhouse tour. And thanks to Paul and Kay Wolfe for their very fine presentations.



Getting Going with Facebook

*prepared by Alan Gallaher
Marketing & Publicity Committee Member*

Why gain access to the MWGCM Facebook page?

Becoming a “friend” of the MWGCM page on Facebook has two major advantages for you. Once you’re on the list, any announcement that gets posted on our Facebook page will automatically be sent to your email. This would include reminders about upcoming MWGCM meetings as well as special events or news about fellow members. Also, the page can act as a gardening forum. You can post gardening questions and ask other club members for their input, or be the helpful one and weigh in on other people’s questions.

How to sign up for Facebook

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can sign up for one in a few easy steps. To sign up for a new account:

Go to www.facebook.com. Either the sign up form will appear or look for a small green box that says, SIGN UP. Then click on it.

Follow the directions. Enter your name, birthday (Facebook wants to know IF you’re old enough, NOT how old), gender and email address into the form on the screen.

Then pick a password. Facebook insists on 6 characters and points out that mixing upper and lower case letters with some numbers makes the password much stronger; for example, the address of the house you lived in for 6 months when you were 14.

Once all the blanks are filled in, click on SIGN UP at the bottom or hit the ENTER key.

After you complete the sign up form, Facebook sends an email to the address you provided. Just click the confirmation link to complete the sign up process.

How to become a “Friend” of the MWGCM Facebook Page

Go back to www.facebook.com, but this time enter your email address and the password you created – then click on the box marked, LOG IN.

Then type into the address box (far upper left), <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mens-and-Womens-Garden-Club-of-Minneapolis/> or type in the Facebook search line (there’s a small magnifying glass at the right of this box), Men’s and Women’s Garden Club of Minneapolis, and hit ENTER. On our page, just below our large masthead picture and sort of on the right, you will see a small box with LIKE in it. Click on this box and a check-mark should appear and the word will change to LIKED. You should now be one of our Facebook “friends” and receive notices of upcoming events as well as notices of dialogues that other members initiate on our site. Welcome! Later if for any reason you find you do not want to receive further messages from our Facebook page, return to where you found the LIKE button but look a bit further to the right for the tools symbol, a small cogwheel. Click on the symbol and a drop-down menu will appear which includes the choice, UNLIKE. Click on the word UNLIKE and that should stop further notices. If for any reason you get stuck or are unsure of how to proceed, call Alan Gallaher at 952-933-1713 or email him at gallahaj@uwec.edu. He’d be happy to work with you to get you hooked up to Facebook.

Biochar: What's That?

Kirky Otto

In the ethanol-making process, when native grasses rather than corn are used, biochar is a by-product. It's a mass of carbonized grass. Think of charcoal briquettes – wood is pyrolyzed, or burned at high heat in the absence of oxygen. The goal is to wind up with pieces of carbonized wood to use in your grill. Producers want the briquettes. But in making ethanol to put in our gas tanks, the goal is to capture the liquids and gases resulting from the process, and the “briquettes” are a waste product. So what can be done with the biochar “briquettes?”

That's the question that CenUSA Bioenergy is asking. That organization is funded by the USDA to develop the use of native grasses for ethanol. The project involves 8 universities, led by the U of Iowa. Here in MN there are 5 experimental plots which over a 5-year test period will be used to evaluate the effect of returning biochar to the earth as a soil amendment. The two handiest spots for you to see these test plots are the U of MN St. Paul campus, and the MN Landscape Arboretum in Chaska. At the Arb, pay your admission at the gate, head toward the parking area and past it to Three-Mile Drive, and follow that to the Dahlia Garden parking lot. When you head toward the fenced dahlias, veer left to the other fenced plot, where biochar is being tested.

2014 will be the third year for the U of MN's experiment, which is being planted and maintained mostly by Extension Master Gardeners. The fence is to keep both critters and the public out, as there was a good deal of disease in the garden the first year, when the public ambled in and out of the unlocked gate, but almost none last season, when workers wore shoes and gloves and used tools that were dedicated to use in the locked garden.

The fenced area includes three gardens planted with identical crops, both edibles and ornamentals, annual and perennial. The control plot has no biochar added to the soil; the middle plot has the recommended one pound per square foot added, and the third plot has double that. Workers count, measure, harvest, and weigh each crop, so that figures can be compared over the 5-year test period. If you want to see results for last year, please contact me at kirky.otto@gmail.com so I can forward them to you. There's nothing conclusive yet, but differences do show up in yield, plant size, etc. One hopes that in the next 5 years we'll discover whether biochar can be a successful soil amendment, used as peat is today.

Editor's Note

Mary Maynard

When Macy's decided that all the Flower Shows needed to be at the same time across the country, we sometimes worried that the weather outside would already be so spring-like that we wouldn't need to see the show. Not this year! Please welcome new member and new contributor Kirky Otto with her article above. Don't forget to send in your dinner reservation for the Flower Show and your plant pre-order. Get ready for the Plant Sale. See you on April 1!

Calendar of Events for 2014

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, Lynda Carlson, Alan Gallaher, Gary Geister, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kirky Otto, Steve Shubick, Kay Wolfe

Photography: NH Hostas & Companion Plants, Wayside Gardens, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe

Check out Bob's Blog!

Margaret Hibberd is the guest blogger, writing about caladiums and her visit to a caladium grower in Florida.

Go to our website (<http://www.mwgcm.org>) and click on "Bob's Blog" at the top of the page.

**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
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Past President: Sandra Abraham

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Raymond Bauch

Plymouth

Alan Gallaher

Edina

(Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd)

The Spray

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

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First Class Mail

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