

The Garden Spray

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

2013, Volume 71, Number 5
May

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
May 14	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 11	LHC	Edible Gardens
July TBD	TBD	Garden Tour
Aug TBD	TBD	Garden Tour
Aug 17-18	Arb	Flower, Food & Foto Show
Sept. 10	LHC	Tomato, Pepper Fest
Oct. 8	LHC	Cactus & Succulents
Nov. 12	LHC	Fall & Winter Color
Dec. 10	LHC	Holiday Party

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church, 9001 Cedar
Lake Rd, St. Louis Park

Arb = University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Full Calendar of Events on Page 11.

May 14 Schedule (Westwood Lutheran)

3:00 Pre-ordered plants available for pickup
4:00 – 6:00 Country Store open to all
6:00 Dinner is served
6:15 Silent Auction Ends
6:45 Tables cleared and chairs set up for auction.
7:00 Live Auction begins

Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the May Plant Sale.

Call or email Carole Ann Brekke at
952.435.6029 or
numsix24@comcast.net by Friday,
May 10 to reserve a meal.

Cure Found for Long Winter Blues and Spring Fever: Our Annual Plant Sale and Auction

Tuesday, May 14

Westwood Lutheran Church

9001 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park.

This is one of our most popular events and our major fundraiser of the year. This is your chance to bid on items in the silent auction, buy raffle tickets for the many raffle prizes, have a great dinner and buy perennials and annuals from the "Country Store". Now is your chance to buy some of your old favorite plants or buy one you have never had before.

Please note that we will be opening the "Country Store" to the public at 4:00 p.m.

Members: please bring raffle prizes or items from your local hardware store or nursery and plants from your own garden for the Country Store. This all adds up to the success of this event. Plants or items can be dropped off at the church anytime on the day of the sale --- the earlier the better. We often run out of boxes and plastic trays for people to take their plants home so if you have any at home you could bring to the sale that would be great.

More info on Page 5

Looking Ahead

June 11: Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers

See preview on Page 4



Notes from the Prez:

-- Sandra Abraham

The Merry Month of May

What will the 2013 garden season bring us? Do April (snow) showers bring us May flowers? When will the soil be thawed so we can start our spring and summer gardening?

Our trip to the Macy's-Bachman's flower show was colorful and fragrant, and brought hopes of an imminent growing season. Should we have a contest to predict when it will begin this year?

The May 14 Plant Sale and Auction is coming soon so get ready. The Tour Committee is busy planning a mid-July and early August tour to get members out and about and into some fine gardens. The details for these tours will be published in the June *Spray*.

The Program Committee has begun planning the 2014 program calendar and we continue to get communications from nonmembers who have read about us or heard about us in our various marketing endeavors.

Many garden centers are beginning their spring open houses and gardening classes are sprouting up all over. We have just gotten word that the speaker we had confirmed for June is now unavailable; however, you will be happy to hear that Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers are available for June 11 and will be presenting a program on Edible Landscaping. This topic is very popular now and in great demand, so we will be able to renew our interest in vegetable gardening just in time for the 2013 growing season.

Don't forget to start taking photos as the season changes and as the plants start to emerge to enter into our photo contest for the FFF Show in August. Check out the MWGCM website for the contest rules and to view past winning photos for inspiration.

May your tulips pop up and your turf come to life by the time we meet again.

From the Editor

-- Mary Maynard

Instead of writing this, I should be outside enjoying the first day of summer, after a two-day spring! By the time you get the *Spray*, it could be winter again. It will be interesting to see how this growing season grows!

I have been surveying the rabbit damage in my gardens, and the neighbors across the street had three deer in their back yard yesterday. The will be no glorious flush of blooms from the old wood of my 'Prairie Joy' rose this year. Because there is very little old wood left! I'm hoping both the deer and the rabbits find greener pastures soon.

We have another full issue this month. Please check out Bob Livingston's article on growing tomatoes on Page 7. The second half of his very informative article will appear in the June *Spray*.

And we have a change in program for June. Dr. Krischik is unable to be with us, but we look forward to hearing from the proprietors of Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers instead.

Thanks again to the many contributors to the *Spray*. I appreciate it more than I can say!



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 4-15-2013

Checking balance	\$22,382.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,716.72
Scholarship	\$4,830.28
Working Balance	\$15,835.00
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

Welcome to new members Carol Rothe
and Jan and Don Nelson!

See below!

Welcome to New Members!

-- Jean Strande, Membership Secretary

We are very happy to announce we have 3 new members! First is Carol Rothe of 6105 Arbour Lane, Edina. She is interested in natives, planting in shade and planting for butterflies and other insects. Her email is: carrothe@comcast.net.

Our second and third members are Jan and Don Nelson of 740 Overton Dr. NE, Fridley. Jan wants a chance to learn and do good work with fun people. Don would like to find some kindred spirits to exchange information and to learn more about their yard. Emails are: jannywren611@gmail.com and denelson53@gmail.com

All three new members sound like they are going to fit in perfectly and I hope everyone finds an opportunity to seek them out this summer. It will be harder to find them without the usual nametags, but we will be introducing them as fast as we can so ask around if we haven't gotten to you yet.

Carol found us through an ad for a presentation in the StarTribune and Jan and Don come to us from the Garden Show. Thanks to everyone who was involved in these projects. You can see they work!

Members: Don't forget to bring items for the "Country Store", raffle and silent auction on May 14!



Remembering Jerry Olson

-- Mary Maynard



Our good friend and Honorary Member Jerry Olson died on March 27, 2013. He was 96.

Jerry was a captain in the Marines during World War II, landing on Saipan, Tinian and Iwo Jima. He had a Master's Degree in History from the U of M. And he worked for the Milwaukee Road Railroad for 40 years. But we know him, of course, for his roses.

Jerry grew roses for well over 60 years, and joined the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis in 1957. He opened his gardens to many club and public tours over the years, and was a regular attendee at club meetings until quite recently. The second edition of his book *Growing Roses in Cold Climates* was released last year.

Jerry's expertise on roses was phenomenal, but it was his self-deprecating humor and personal charm that made him special. He was generous with his knowledge and his time. He was also generous with his roses, sending them home with kids in the neighborhood (and getting thanks in the way of baked goods in return). Jerry's favorite shrub rose was 'Robusta'. I have a 'Robusta' in my garden, and I think of Jerry every time I see its glowing blooms. Rest well, Jerry. We will miss you.



-- Jerry's photo by Ted Olson (1991 MGCM photo directory)
-- 'Robusta' photo by Mary Maynard

June Program Preview: How to Install and Grow Edible Gardens

-- Larry Larson

The June 11 program will feature two ladies who own and operate their own company called **Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers**. They will discuss integrating edible plants into your gardens. It is their mission to "design, install and tend edible gardens that fit your life," according to their website.

Krista Leraas and Dina Kountoupes will "help you transform your city landscape into a tasty, beautiful and sustainable mini-farm."

Leraas has dedicated her work to the field of sustainability for over a decade, starting in 2000 when she worked the fields of Elsie's Family Farm, an organic farm in Wisconsin. She holds a Master's Degree in Culture and Ecology from the New College of California. Currently, she also instructs online sustainable design courses at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

Dina graduated from Macalester College in 1993 where she studied environmental issues around the nation. She studied sustainable farms in Costa Rica in 1996, then returned to the Twin Cities in 2000 and began working in children's garden programs and community gardens. She earned a Master's Degree in community gardens at the U of M.

The Garden Spray Page 4

<http://www.mwqcm.org>



May 14: Plant Sale and Auction – *continued from Page 1*

We are opening this sale to the public from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please inform friends, coworkers, relatives and neighbors of this sale. This is a large fundraising event for the club which helps keep the membership dues inline so we can continue to have the great programs and speakers throughout the year. Plan on attending, donating, bidding and participating in this event. May you have room in your vehicle for all your plants!!!!

Plants from Gary Geister’s Greenhouse (selected photos on following page):

Note: We will also have selected dahlias from Two Pony Gardens of Long Lake, MN.

Coleus

- Bright Ruffles
- Red Planet
- Stormy Weather
- Sangria
- Silk Sunsets
- Kiwi Fern
- Jade
- Kingwood Carnival
- Mardi Gras

Vines

- Cypress Vine
- Hyacinth Bean
- Sunset Runner Bean
- Scarlet Runner Bean
- Cardinal Vine
- Spanish Flag
- Morning Glory
- Venice Pink
- Split Second

Annuals

- Cosmos
- Lantana
- Bacopa
- Euphorbia
- Calibrachoa
- Begonia
- N.G. Impatiens
- Verbena
- Verbena
- Jacobiana
- Strobilanthes
- Purple Fountain Grass
- Zinnias
- Amaranthus
- Moss Roses
- Salvia Argentea
- Scabiosa
- Nicandra
- Sage
- Castor Bean
- Pumpkin on a Stick
- Cotton
- Chinese Houses
- Marigolds
- Jewels of Opar
- Double Click Cranberry
- Irene
- White
- Diwali Mystery
- Bright Pink
- Pink Charm
- Dallas, Loretta
- Purple Homestead
- Watermelon
- Persian Shield
- State Fair, Candy Cane
- Peppermint, Cactus
- Whirlygig Mix
- Love Lies Bleeding
- Joseph’s Coat
- Autumn Palette
- Samba Hot Rose
- Mixes
- Variegated
- Coral Nymph
- Texas Hummingbird
- Red and Green
- Lemon Gem

Perennials

- Peppermint Mint
- Orange Mint
- Gallardia
- Gallardia
- Salvia
- Razzle Dazzle
- Arizona Red
- Purple Volcano

Vegetables

- Tomato Sungold
- Peppers--Bell
- Peppers-- Poinsettia
- Peppers – Cayenne Blend Hot

May 14 Dinner Menu

- Pork Loin au jus
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Salad
- Dinner Roll
- Fudgy Brownies
- Lemonade



Photos from the Geister Greenhouse

-- Photos by Gary Geister



Our thanks to Gary, who does so much for the Plant Sale and Auction.



Growing Tomatoes Part 1: Soil Preparation and Planting

-- Bob Livingston



The purpose of this article is to teach you how to grow exceptional tomatoes in our area. I'm not listing varieties you should grow, the history of tomatoes or recipes etc. I've read many books on tomato culture and sorted out what you need to know.

Tomato Culture (Applies to both hybrid and Heirlooms)

Tomatoes need sunshine, 6 hours and up per day. They love a light soil and lots of compost or manure. In the fall, turn over 2 to 6 inches of compost into your garden each year. This buries surface plant disease below ground and improves your soil.

You need sturdy support for tomatoes. I use a trellis system, sturdy posts with horizontal support of metal conduit. The posts are about 6 feet tall above ground, with an additional 15 inches sunk underground. Another system is using construction fencing to form a circular wall around the plants. My trellis is so solid, I leave it up all year. Do Not Crowd Your Plants. Plants are spaced 4 feet apart.

Between the main stem of the tomato and its branches suckers will grow. There is much discussion on pruning suckers. Keep as many as you can, as the leaves produce food for growth, and the suckers really are separate plants and increase yield and length of the growing season.

On the horizontal support I tie twine vertically. I use strips of pantyhose to secure the plant. All this sounds like a lot of work. However, it is a time to inspect how the plants are doing, to prune and look for insect and critter problems. I use a small knife to prune, and I spray the blade with a small sprayer of water and bleach solution.

My actual setting out of plants seems tedious, but I am only planting 8 to 10 plants. I dig holes much wider than needed. I shovel the soil through a screen on my wheelbarrow. I find screening makes the soil light and I can amend the soil easier in the wheelbarrow than in the ground. I add bone meal, slow release fertilizer and compost. I then fill the hole and put in a small stake to mark where to plant the tomatoes. I am going to dig the holes in April, to avoid work in busy late May.

I roll out landscape fabric and slit the fabric so the plants are in the middle, and use staples to make it neat and tidy. I also install a soaker hose. I really like using the landscape fabric. There is no splash of soil up on the leaves and the black fabric increases soil temperature.



Part 2 of Bob's Article will appear in next month's Spray

Bob's photo by Lloyd Wittstock; tomato photo courtesy of Park Seed.



Lyndale Park Garden News

-- Kay Wolfe

The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis was nominated for the 2012 *Volunteers of the Year Awards* through the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB). Erin Buchholz, the Lyndale Park gardener that works with us sent in the nomination.

For those who might not know, the Lyndale Park Garden Committee designs and maintains a 300 foot Perennial Trial and Border Garden in Lyndale Park in Minneapolis. It is located near Lake Harriet, across the street from the Rose Garden and east of the Peace Garden.

I received a letter from Michelle Kellogg, MPRB Volunteer Coordinator, telling us that our "gift of time and talent is priceless." Even though we did not win the 2012 award, they are "grateful to have us among their nominees, and to have us as part of their team."

Erin's application was high praise for our committee. Erin wrote: *In addition to the thousands of dollars of plant materials the MWGCM has donated to Lyndale Park over the past 60 years, these outstanding volunteers are incredibly reliable. They faithfully come to the park for 3 to 4 hours twice per week, and at least twice per month. They communicate very well with each other and MPRB staff. While some of the individuals claim to be gardening amateurs, they each bring skill, dedication and a positive attitude to the park. They work in full cooperative mode and demonstrate to us the true meaning of the word "teamwork."*

In another section: *The MWGCM design and maintain a lovely and large garden area in a heavily visited park; they engage and teach visitors on the wonders and importance of natural spaces, encouraging them to take that knowledge to their own homes. Perhaps the most important contribution they offer is their leadership. Without fail, they faithfully return to Lyndale Park year after year. What humbles me most is how thankful they are to the MPRB for, in their words, allowing them the opportunity to garden in the parks. When I asked what they were most proud of regarding their work, they responded: "We are proud of our determination and not giving up – we took a space that was nothing and turned it into a destination. We are proud of the design of the garden, the flow of the whole border. It is beautiful in all four seasons." The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is truly lucky to have such kind and generous people volunteering in our organization.*

And I am honored to have been chair of this fabulous committee since 2002. Through drought and rain, bugs and weeds, they have worked endlessly to create a fabulous garden. When I took over the chairmanship, I could not have imagined we could create such a beautiful place. And thanks to the club members, most no longer with us, that had the vision to commit to this project. They knew Lyndale Park would be a highly visible public space to showcase the garden talents of MWGCM. And in turn, our garden is a great gift to the community.

For information or to join the committee, contact Kay at mqcmgarden@g.com



**2013 FFF Show – August 17 & 18
at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**
-- Judy Berglund

We hope that all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to this year's show. As you're browsing through the nurseries this month, be on the lookout for new and unusual snapdragons (the featured flower) and try some peppers (the featured vegetable), either hot or sweet in a sunny corner of your garden or in a planter on your deck. You may even find some snapdragons or pepper plants at the Country Store that need a good home.

We encourage everyone to get on the bandwagon and enjoy the fun and camaraderie of showing off the best of the best of what we all enjoy the most – GARDENING.



The 2012 FFF Show

Photo by Chuck Carlson



Photos from Macy's/Bachman's Flower Show

-- Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard





Calendar of Events for Rest of 2013

May 14

Plant Sale & Auction
Country Store 4:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Auction 7:00 p.m.
Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park

June 11

"Installing and Growing Edible Gardens"
Harvest Moon Backyard Farmers
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

July TBD

Garden Tour TBD

August TBD

Garden Tour 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, Gary Geister, Bonnie Haehn, Larry and Randi Larson, Bob Livingston, Mary Maynard, Jean Strande, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Chuck Carlson, Gary Geister, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Ted Olson (1991), Lloyd Wittstock, Park Seed.

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



Inside:

Page 1	Plant Sale & Auction Info
Page 2	From the Pres., Editor
Page 3	Treas., Mbrship.
Page 4	Jerry Olson, June Preview
Page 5-6	May Plant Sale & Auction
Page 7	Growing Tomatoes Part 1
Page 8	Lyndale Park Garden News
Page 9	FFF Show
Page 10	Photos from Macy's Show
Page 11	2013 Calendar, Contributor

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The Spray

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Return To:

The Garden Spray

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

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First Class Mail

May
2013