



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

2015, Volume 73, Number 5  
May

## Plant Sale and Auction

### Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
May 12	SMG	Plant Sale and Auction
June 9	LWC	Martagon Lilies
July TBA	TBA	Garden Tour?
Aug. 15-16	Arb	Flower, Foot & Foto Show
Aug TBA	TBA	Garden Tour?

*Arb = U of M Landscape Arboretum*

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

*SMG= St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis*

More calendar information on Page 11

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis**

**New this year: We will be accepting Visa and MasterCard for your plant purchases!**

### Schedule of Events

3:00 Pre-order plants available for pickup

3:00 Country Store (plant sale) opens

6:00 Country Store closes

6:00 Dinner is served in the carpeted dining room with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Lake Calhoun.

~6:45 Live Auction begins as soon as everyone is finished with dinner.

## Let the Gardening Season Begin!

*Gary Geister*

After all the positive feedback after last year's sale, we are back at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church again this year. We will be open to the public from 3 to 6.

Please let co-workers, neighbors, relatives, friends and especially other gardeners know about this sale

We will have many plants that we have had in the past and many new ones.

If you have any plant container trays at home bring them to the sale.

Also if you have plants for the sale you can drop them off at the church the night before after 5:00

More info about plants starting on Page 4

**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 8 to reserve a meal.

### Menu for May

Pulled pork sandwiches

Cole Slaw

Baked Beans

Cheesy Hash Brown Potatoes

Cheesecake

## Notes from the Prez

-- Tom McKusick

When we were editing the May/June issue of *Northern Gardener*, I couldn't help but marvel at the number of plant sales we have listed in our calendar of events for this issue. It seems nearly every garden club or plant society has one, and they are great places to pick up additions to your garden at very reasonable prices.

However, we in the MWGCM are fortunate to have one of the best plant sales around, and I've come to really look forward to it each year. In fact it's become my favorite club activity. The plant sale committee does a great job of organizing it, and the live auction is always a lot of fun. But for me, the treat is going there and seeing the assortment of plants that Gary Geister grows just for our sale. He does an amazing job, and some of the plants he chooses are unusual ones you don't often see at the local garden centers.

In past years I've been able to put together some unique containers with plants from our sale that had my friends asking, "Just what kind of a flower is that?" And plants grown by other club members make it even easier for me to find something I didn't know I was looking for. Of course, the challenge for me at this time of year is to rein in my plant spending, but the prices at our sale usually convince me to throw caution to the wind. And if I overspend, at least I know it's for a good cause.

Speaking of causes, the speaker at our meeting in June, Frans Officer, has dedicated himself to the cause of Martagon lilies. I'll have more details on him and his program in the June Spray.

See you at the sale.

## Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

Our FFF Show will always be my favorite event of the year, but the plant sale and auction comes in a close second. And our new location has added a new energy to the event, with many more "walk-in" customers. The plant sale committee always looks for ways to improve the plant material and the plant sale "experience". This year, for instance, we will be accepting Visa and MasterCard, and we're looking at streamlining the purchase process for cash-paying customers.

Our new location has brought a new energy to the sale. And I believe that our reputation will grow as more walk-in customers learn about the quality and variety of plant material at the sale.

One thing that is going away with the increased participation by the public is the silent auction. The cool things that have often been in the silent auction in previous years will be in the live auction this year.

This year, I'm thinking of taking Teresa Rooney's advice and incorporating edibles into my containers. I am particularly intrigued by the idea of using lemon grass instead of the traditional spike. (See Page 7).

And I am very much looking forward to June's speaker. I have heard that Frans Officer is a supreme expert in Martagons.

Here's one of my favorite photos from last year. See you at the sale!



Photo: Alan Gallaher

## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 4/20/2015

Checking balance	\$84,611
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park Garden	\$ 4,810
Scholarship	<u>\$10,925</u>
Working Balance	\$ 68,876
Petty Cash	\$ 100
CD	\$ 5,260

## Membership Corner

Welcome new members Tony Luce and Margaret Hastings. More about them in an upcoming Spray.

**Every Member Bring a Member**

## Welcome New Members

*Judy Brooke, VP & Membership Chair*

**Ann Marie Holleschau** Ann lives in South Minneapolis in a home with a double lot, near Minnehaha Park and the Longfellow Gardens. The double lot was important to her when she and her husband chose their home 20 years ago. Ann comes from a long line of gardeners. Both sets of grandparents were vegetable gardeners. Her folks had a garden, her Dad specializing in roses. Ann grows annuals and perennials in a yard that is half shade and half sun. In the spring, she loves going to the Minneapolis Farmer's Market early on Saturday mornings where she buys most of her plants. Additionally, Ann has a pond in the yard so has a special interest in water gardens. She learned about us through the *Northern Gardener* and is a member of Minnesota State Horticultural Society. She looks forward to increasing her knowledge about gardening through MWGCM. Ann is a Research Coordinator in Pediatric Ophthalmology at the University of Minnesota.

**Kathy Lenarz** Kathy grew up in Faribault MN and recalls as a child all the women in her family had gardens. She wishes she had paid more attention and learned from them. She and husband, Mike now live in Richfield on a ¾ acre lot which backs up to the Nature Center. Kathy recently retired from nursing so now has time to devote to her gardening. She'd like to learn more about growing native plants as well as improving on areas of perennials she already grows. This year she wants to dig up the grass near some large trees and put in shade plants. Kathy also enjoys photographing wild flowers that grow in the woods near their cabin in northeast Minnesota. Club member Carol Schreier brought Kathy to our February meeting as a guest. Kathy found our members to be very friendly and also learned a lot that evening. She subsequently joined the club and has been attending all programs/events ever since.



*Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*

## 2015 Plant Sale

### Plants of Note at the Sale

2015 Grass of the Year: Sporobolus Wrightii  
 2014 Grass of the Year: Carex Grayi  
 Hosta of the Year: 'Victory'  
 2015 Perennial of the Year: Geranium 'Biokovo'  
 2015 Shrub of the Year: Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)  
 FFF Featured Flower of the year: Marigolds – 6 varieties  
 MWGCM tomato taste-test winner: 'Sungold'



### A Partial List of Plants Available at the May Plant Sale

#### Annuals (Many Can be Used for Containers)

Acanthus spinosus	Nicandra-- variegated Apple of Peru
Alternanthera burgundy thread	Origanum 'Amethyst Falls'
Alternanthera yellow	Orthosiphon (Cat's mustache)
Amaranthus (Love lies bleeding)	Pink Pinheads
Amaranthus 'Autumn Touch'	Plectranthus 'Upright Gold'
Amaranthus 'Chinese Orange Giant'	Plectranthus 'Zulu Wonder'
Amaranthus 'Green Cascade'	Sage Texas Hummingbird
Basket grass	Salvia argentea
Begonia 'Pink Charm'	Salvia 'Hot Lips'
Begonia 'Sunbright Red'	Scabiosa: 'Mix', 'Gumdrop Candy', 'Zenorita'
Begonia 'Torch'	Setcreasea 'Purple Heart'
Begonias 'Moroccan'	Snapdragon 'Madame Butterfly'
Butterfly milkweed-(balloon flower) a must for butterflies	Snapdragons 'Day and Night'
Castor bean purple	Strobilanthes 'Persian Shield'
Celosia 'Forest Fire'	Sweet potato vine 'Blackie'
Celosia 'Pampas Plume'	Sweet potato vine 'Margarita'
Dichondra	Talinum (Jewels of Opar)
Lantana 'Irene'	Verbena trailing purple 'Homestead'
Licorice plant	Vinca 'Jams and Jellies'
Moss roses 'Samba Hot Rose'	Zinnias: 'Benary's Salmon Rose', 'Pinwheel Mix', 'Zinderella Peach', cactus

**Plus!** Many **succulents**, large and small. Great for troughs or rock gardens

*More plants on the next page!*



**May Plant Sale** – *Continued from previous page*

**Annual Vines**

Black-Eyed Susan Vine 'African Sunset'  
Bow Tie Plant  
Cypress Vine  
Cardinal Vine  
Hyacinth Bean Vine  
Love In A Puff  
Morning Glory: 'Dolce Vita'  
Morning Glory: 'Grandpa Otts'  
Morning Glory: 'Sunrise Serenade'  
Morning Glory: 'Picotee Red'  
Scarlet Runner Bean  
Snail Vine  
Spanish Flag

**Coleus**

Bright Ruffles  
Cracklin Rosie  
Dark Ruffles  
Inky Fingers  
Jade  
Kiwi Fern  
Marti Gras  
Pistachio Nightmare  
Stormy Weather

**Grasses**

Basket Grass  
Cherry Sparkler  
Fireworks  
Juncus-- Corkscrew Rush  
Purple Fountain Grass

**Novelty Annuals**

Mexican Sunflowers--- A Butterfly Magnet  
Castor Beans – Purple  
Cardoons  
Easter Egg Plant  
Night Blooming Cereus  
Pumpkin on a Stick

**Perennials**

Anenome 'Robustissima'  
Angelica Gigas  
Asclepias Swamp Milk Weed  
Bergenia dark pink to purple red flowers  
Crambe  
Columbine 'Leprechaun Gold'  
Echinacea 'Pow Wow Berry' (Looked  
Fantastic out at Arboretum)  
Iris 'Butter And Sugar' (rebloomer)  
Iris 'Welcome Return' (rebloomer)  
Jacob's Ladder 'Brise D Anjou'  
Jacobs Ladder 'Purple Rain'  
Leavenworth Eryngo  
Leptinella 'Platts Black'  
Liatris (white or purple)  
Persicaria  
Plume Poppy  
Rheum 'Turkey Rhubarb' (Ornamental)  
Scabiosa 'Mongolian Mist'  
Sedums: 'TriColor', 'Lime Zinger', 'Angelina',  
'Coral Carpet', Murale'

**Clematis**

'Nellie Moser': Rosy- Mauve Flowers  
'Henryii': White Flowers  
Sweet Autumn Clematis  
Alpina 'Stolwijk Gold': Blue Flowers With  
Gold Foliage  
'Vyvyan Pennel' Purple Flowers  
'Purpurea Piena Elegans'--Dark Magenta  
Blooms

**Hostas**

12 varieties, described in April Spray, pp. 8-9  
[http://www.mwgcm.org/MGCM/Events\\_files/Spray0415\\_1.pdf](http://www.mwgcm.org/MGCM/Events_files/Spray0415_1.pdf)

**Vegetables**

African Blue Basil  
Peppers Bell, Jalapeno, and Chili  
Tomatoes: 'Beefsteak', 'Hillbilly Potato Leaf',  
'Brandywine', 'Sungold'

*Photos from Gary's Greenhouse on next page*

**Scenes from the Geister Growing Range – to Whet Your Appetite!**

*Photos by Gary Geister*



## Edible Landscaping

*Teresa Rooney*



While our senses may be in overdrive this spring, may I suggest we cater, with an eye on the future, to one we may be overlooking? Our sense of taste.

Consider planting edible plants whenever and where ever you can as you add to your landscape this year. This opens up an entire NEW selection of possible plants for each location.

Instead of the standard geraniums and spikes in containers, consider nasturtiums and lemon grass. Instead of the bed of petunias, consider mixing calendula and parsley. That hanging basket could hold cherry tomatoes and basil. A hedge of currants can be a wondrous thing, scarlet red currants hanging like gems in the sunlight. Perhaps that small tree could be a service berry (amelanchier)? That large tree? A black walnut or maple instead?

Need a bit of 'protection in your yard? How about trying raspberries, roses or even stinging nettle? All will slow traffic thru that corner of your yard where people want to 'cut thru' or fill in that area between garages where loitering occurs!

What about those shadier areas? Can you grow edibles there? Yes! In that shady/damp area try growing ramps between the hosta. It may even 'guard' the emerging hosta from hungry bunnies and deer. Serviceberry and viburnum also do fine in the shade. Alpine strawberries make a nice shady ground cover too. Elderberry will take some shade- NEVER eat the RED berried fruit- that is a different elderberry and poisonous for humans.

That hot dry sunny area is great for your lavender if the soil is sandy, try the English lavenders, they are better for our climate. And of course some rosemary or other lavenders work great as annuals.

Let parsley border your beds, interspersed with some of the wonderful red or green leaf lettuces. Harvest the outer leaves of the lettuces and they will renew themselves- let the plants grow till they go to flower, then pull them or enjoy the flower/seeds and all the wonderful pollinators that they will bring to your garden. They may even reseed for an interestingly placed fall crop.



Let mint take over under that tree- less mowing for you and lots of 'product' for your mint juleps!

Oregano can make a great 'ground cover' too. You can mow it a few times a year, or let it flower and watch the bees and other pollinators just about swoon with delight. (Mow it after flowering if you wish).

Horseradish can make a statement in your yard as can a beautiful rhubarb plant or comfrey. All of these offer edible or medicinal treats for us in addition they are great plants to cut during the year and use as a green mulch around your plants. The leaves decompose quickly and add lots of great nutrition to the surrounding soil.

Yes many of the plants I have mentioned may be aggressive, so they can be mowed, or harvested frequently during the growing season to keep them in check. Plant them where their rambunctious attitudes can be appreciated.

These are only a few of the wonderful edibles we can add to our landscape. I hope they have inspired you to start creating your own 'Garden of Eating'.

*Photos courtesy of Park Seed*



**2015 FFF SHOW – August 15 & 16**  
**at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

*Judy Berglund, FFF Committee Chair*

We hope that all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers, vegetables and floral designs to the show this year. I will be on the hunt for some great Marigolds and summer squash, our featured flower and vegetable, at the May plant sale. The general rules are all on the club website along with all of the entry classes. There is even an example of how to fill out your entry tags. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of bright yellow 2015 FFF Show booklets at the May plant sale/club meeting.



**Happy gardening and see you at the FFF Show!!!**

*Here's the link to the show schedule:*

[http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Links\\_files/Show%20Schedule%202015%20flat.pdf](http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Links_files/Show%20Schedule%202015%20flat.pdf)

*The Photo Contest rules are also available on our site:*

[http://www.mwgcm.org/MGCM/Links\\_files/2015%20Photo%20Contest%20Rules%20%20copy.pdf](http://www.mwgcm.org/MGCM/Links_files/2015%20Photo%20Contest%20Rules%20%20copy.pdf)

*Photo courtesy of Park Seed*

**GARDENERS WANTED FOR ST. CROIX GARDEN**

*Bob and Mavis Voigt*

Bob and Mavis Voigt are looking for part-time help in planting and maintaining their extensive vegetable and flower gardens overlooking the St. Croix River in Denmark Township, South Washington County. They established the gardens about 20 years ago as a hobby. Bob is a longtime member of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis. They prefer gardeners with some experience and knowledge of horticulture plus the stamina needed for the work involved. If interested, contact Voigts at 612-823-4934; [bobmavisvoigt@gmail.com](mailto:bobmavisvoigt@gmail.com).



*Bob and Mavis have created a magical place on their extensive property overlooking the St. Croix. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit for this opportunity, please forward this information to him/her.*



**Photos from Macy's Flower Show with Gardens by Bachman's**  
*Alan Gallaher, Andrea Greene, Andy Marlow, Lloyd Wittstock*





**More Photos from the Show**



## Calendar of Events

**May 12, 2015**

Plant Sale and Auction  
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis

**June 9, 2015**

Martagon Lilies  
Frans Officer  
Lakewood Cemetery

**July, 2015** (Date TBA)

Garden Tour?

**August 15-16, 2015**

Flower, Food and Foto Show  
U of M Landscape Arboretum

**August, 2015** (Date TBA)

Garden Tour?

**September 8, 2015**

Laura Schwarz of Tangletown Gardens  
Gardening in the Minneapolis Downtown  
Improvement District  
Lakewood Cemetery

**October 13, 2015**

Roses Return: New Hardy Shrub Roses for the  
North  
David Zlesak  
Lakewood Cemetery

**November 10, 2015**

Hostas  
Bob Olson  
Lakewood Cemetery

**December 8, 2015**

Holiday Party

**This Month's Contributors: Thank You!**

Printed Content: Judy Berglund, Judy Brooke, Alan Gallaher, Gary Geister, Bonnie Haehn, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Teresa Rooney, Mavis Voigt.

Photography: Alan Gallaher, Gary Geister, Andrea Greene, Andy Marlow, Park Seed, Mavis Voigt, Lloyd Wittstock



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



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Minnetonka

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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.

Mary Maynard, Editor

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**First Class Mail**

*May*  
**2015**