

1942-2017



MEN'S & WOMEN'S

GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

May 2017

The Garden Spray

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Coming Up: Annual Plant Sale

ANNUAL MWGCM PLANT SALE AND AUCTION

Tuesday, May 9
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis

Schedule

2:00 Plant sale opens

3:00 Pre-ordered plants available for pickup

6:00 Plant sale closes

6:00 Dinner is served in the dining room

6:45 Live auction begins when everyone is finished with dinner

We will accept Visa and MasterCard for your plant purchases.

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Love will be at our plant sale. We will have Love Lies Bleeding, an amaranthus and Love In a Puff, a climbing vine with very small flowers but with seed pods that are lime green dangling on the vine. There will also be a clematis called Radar Love with yellow flowers and fuzzy puff ball seed heads that last into the winter.



Porcelain Berry Vine

Our plant sale takes place before Mother's Day so this is perfect timing to choose and buy plants for containers that would make excellent Mother's Day gifts.

Another new addition will be a selection of native plants with many of these being great pollinator plants for bees and butterflies.

If you have plants to donate to the sale you can drop them off at the church the day before (Monday) or any time on

Tuesday the day of the sale



Petunia 'Sparky'

HELP WANTED

Post banner and signs before sale

Looking for volunteers to help put up a banner at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church on Wednesday afternoon May 3, and to help placing yard signs around the church on Saturday May 6 or Sunday May 7. Email [Becky DeLaCruz](mailto:Becky_DeLaCruz) or call (727) 644-0176.

Cashiers

We need people who can work from 2 to 6 p.m. and also after the dinner around 6:45 to close. If you have already volunteered, please confirm you are available. We still need more so we can avoid long lines to check out. Give me a call or an email if you are able to and whether you are able to work 2 to 6 or 6:45 till close that day.

Email [Gary Geister](mailto:Gary_Geister) or call (651) 683-9136.

Sale day volunteers

Thanks to our Marketing and Publicity Committee, there will be more publicity for our plant sale in area newspapers and online newsletters. Anticipating more visitors, we're looking for additional volunteers to be on the floor to help people with their plant purchases. Plant sale hours are 2 to 6 p.m. If you can help for a couple hours, or the entire sale, email [Gary Geister](mailto:Gary_Geister) or call (651) 683-9136.

Plant Sale Dinner

Bonnie Haehn

MENU FOR MAY DINNER FOLLOWING PLANT SALE

Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Tomato Basil soup
Veggies and Dip
Chips
Brownies

Permanent reservations are in effect.

- Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than **Friday, May 5**.
- Email Sharla Aasang at resmwgcm@juno.com, or call (612) 623-9341 and

leave a clear message.

- For last-minute cancellations, call Alan Gallaher at (952) 933-1713. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

Plant Sale List

Gary Geister

A PARTIAL LIST OF PLANTS FOR THE 2017 MWGCM PLANT SALE

Plants of Note

Petunia 'Night Sky' dark blue-purple with star-like specks (every blossom is different).

Begonia 'Fireworks' (begonia rex hybrid), a feast for the eyes.

Coleus 'French Fry' Last year we had Ketchup and Fries. This year it is just French fry, a yellow and red trim coleus.

Origanum 'Amethyst Falls,' a great spiller plant for containers.

Zinnia 'Purple Prince,' named in honor of our Minnesota musician Prince.

Tomato 'Sungold,' a favorite cherry tomato of our club members.

Hemerocallis 'Ribbons and Curls,' a great nonflowering filler plant for containers.

Minnesota Horticulture Society 6-packs of native perennials for bees, butterflies, and monarchs.



Zinnia 'Purple Prince'

Perennials

Anemonella thalactroides

Aralia 'Sun King'

Bergenia

Brunnera 'Jack Frost'

Coral Bells 'Red Rover'

Coreopsis 'Berry Chiffon'

Dicentra 'Fire Island'

Dutchman's Pipe Vine

Eryngium 'Rattlesnake Master'

Gaillardia

Hepatica

Japanese painted fern 'Godzilla'

Lespedeza

Liatris ligustylis

Miscanthus Dwarf Zebra Grass

Missouri Primrose

Rodgersia 'Chocolate Wings'

Annuals

Ageratum 'Red Flint'

Alternanthera 'Burgundy Threads'

Amaranthus 'Love Lies Bleeding,'

'Chinese Giant Orange,' 'Green Cascade,'

'Pigmy Torch'

Asparagus 'Myersii'

Cosmos 'Bonbons'

Dichondra 'Silver Falls'

Euphorbia (white)

Four O'Clocks (red)

Gazania 'Big Kiss' (mix)

Grass 'Fireworks'

Juncus Corkscrew Rush

Lantana 'Irene' and 'Lemon Zest'

Licorice Plant

Lophospermum (red or white)

Pentas, red 'Falling Star' and mixed

Salvia 'May Night,' 'New Dimension Rose'
Sambucus 'Sutherland Gold'

Begonias

Bossa Nova Red
BIG® Red Bronze Leaf
BIG® Rose Bronze Leaf
Doublet Pink
Doublet Red
Eureka Bronze Leaf White
Gryphon
Megawatt Rose Bronze Leaf
Morocco
Nonstop(TM) Deep Salmon
Nonstop(TM) Mocha Bright Orange
Pink Charm

Rex Begonias

Fireworks
First Blush
Ruby Slippers
Stardust

Coleus

Bright Ruffles
Dark Ruffles
Florida Sunshine
French Fry
Hot Lava
Kingwood Karnival
Marti Gras
Pink Ruffles
Roaring Fire
Sangria
Solar Sunrise
Stormy Weather
Tapestry

Geraniums

Patriot Bright Red
Regal Aristo (white with lavender centers)
Vancouver Centennial
Zonal Tango Bright Neon Purple
Zonal Tango Hot Pink

Annual Vines

Candy Corn Vine
Cardinal Vine
Cypress Vine
Love In a Puff

Marigolds 'Lemon Gem'
Mexican Sunflowers (a must for butterflies)
New Guinea Impatiens 'Strike Orange,' 'Strike Plum'
Persian Shield
Plactranthus 'Zulu Wonder'
Popcorn Plant
Porcelain Berry Vine
Purple Fountain Grass
Purslane Samba 'Hot Rose'
Salvia 'Argentea,' 'Hotlips,' 'Black and Blue'
Setcrecea 'Purple Heart'
Sweet potato vine 'Margarita'
Tiarella 'Spring Symphony'
Verbena bonariensis

Petunias

Blackberry Cheesecake
Cloud 9
Forest Fire
Hell's Fruit Punch
Moonstruck
Pulse
Purple Wave
Ray Salmon
Sparky
Tidal Wave Silver

Zinnias

Cactus Mix
Coral Beauty
Polar Bear (white)
Purple Lilliput
Purple Prince
Queen Red Lime
Scabiosa Mix

Herbs & Vegetables

African Blue Basil
Dinosaur Kale
Sweet Basil

Tomato

Berkeley Tie Dye
Brandywine
Sungold
Yellow Pear

Pretzel Bean
Red Noodle Bean
Scarlet Runner Bean
Snail Vine
Spanish Flag
Thunbergia

Hostas

[Find a list of this year's Hostas in the April 2017 Garden Spray.](#)

Native Plants

Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fullgida*)
Common Oak Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Lady Fern (*Anthyrium felix femina*)
New England Aster (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)
Northern Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*)
Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla*)
Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)
Prairie Smoke (*Geum triflorum*)
Side Oats Grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*)
Stiff Gentian (*Gentianella quinquefolia*)
Turtlehead (*Chelone*)
Wild Blue Phlox, Woodland Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*)
Wild Geranium, Cranesbill, (*Geranium maculatum*)

Novelty

Cardoon (aka artichoke thistle)
Hairy Balls (milkweed, a butterfly magnet)
Night Blooming Cereus (cactus)
Ribbons and Curls

6-pk. Natives for Pollinators

Bee Mix:

Astragalus foeniculum, Blue Giant Hyssop
Baptisia australis, Wild Blue Indigo
Clematis recta, Vanilla-scented Clematis
Geum triflorum, Prairie Smoke
Penstemon digitalis, Foxglove
Beardtongue
Ruellia humilis, Wild Petunia

Butterfly Mix:

Echinacea pallida, Pale Purple Coneflower
Liatris aspera, Button Blazingstar
Liatris ligulistylis, Meadow Blazingstar
Liatris pycnostachya, Prairie Blazingstar
Lupinus Perennis, Blue Lupine
Rudbeckia fullgida, Black-eyed Susan

Monarch Mix:

Asclepias tuberosa, Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca, Common Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata, Swamp Milkweed
Asclepias verticillata, Whorled Milkweed
Asclepias speciosa, Showy Milkweed
Asclepias sullivantii, Sullivant's Milkweed

From the President

Sandra Abraham

The MWGCM is 75 years old and we are celebrating! We are planning some exciting ways to celebrate this milestone and we will be bringing these ideas and events to you throughout the year.

The newsletter will highlight historical memories, our 75th Anniversary plant sale and auction will be held on May 9, and a 75th Anniversary Garden Tea Party will be held

on Saturday, June 24, in the gardens of Lee and Jerry Shannon.

On Saturday, July 15, the tour committee has planned a special 75th Anniversary public garden tour which will feature distinguished gardens around the metro area. The theme of our August 19-20 Flower, Food and Foto Show is "Celebrating Anniversaries" in honor of our 75th year.



All of our committees are working diligently to make these summer activities special. For those who made it to the April 8 Gertens Greenhouse tour, you must agree that it was great fun and informative, too. Thank you to Larry Larson who stepped up and made the

arrangements for this event to fill the gap left by the end of the annual Bachman's Flower Show.



Lew Gerten

I sowed radish seeds in my raised bed garden the end of March and they all popped up by April 10. It is so much fun to know the growing season has officially started. While I am in North Carolina I will be planting a vegetable garden for my brother and his family. He took my advice and is building a raised bed garden similar to the one in my backyard. It is great to be able to stand and tend this type of garden. If you have trouble with your back and knees, consider giving it a try.

Be on the lookout for advertising and publicity about the MWGCM Annual Plant Sale and other news about our club. The Marketing and Publicity Committee is getting the word out many different ways this year. Kudos to them for all of their hard work. With the arrival of summer warmth and longer days we can look forward to some great times for the club. These activities will need the support of all of us. As the planning committees proceed, they may be asking the membership for some help. I invite you all to participate in any way you can to help them succeed. For example:

- The Tour Committee is asking that each of us sell at least 4 tickets to the tour.
- M & P is asking that we share the [advertising page](#) they created with friends and family or post them in neighborhood businesses.
- The Garden Party committee will need a people to assist in setting up and taking down tables and chairs.
- The FFF show will need members to host the show at the Arboretum.

Most importantly, please put all of these events on your calendars and join us in creating more memories. This

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75th
MEN'S & WOMEN'S
GARDEN CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS

Public Plant Sale
Tuesday, May 9th 2 – 6pm
St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Av S – Mpls
Inside in the Great Hall – rain or shine
Credit cards / checks / \$\$ accepted

High-quality annuals/perennials/natives &
pollinator-friendly plants at competitive prices

*Lots of great plants for sale, both past
favorites & many new plants*

Some plants you will not find at your
local nursery

Expert advice from Garden Club members!
www.mwgcm.org for more information

club wouldn't be what it is without the dedication and support of members like all of you.

Photos: Nancy Felice

From the Editors

Tom McKusick, Nancy Felice

Plant-buying season is upon us again. I really love to go to the garden centers early in the year when the plants have newly arrived. Everything looks so fresh and vibrant, and there's a noticeable excitement and anticipation among the shoppers as they select their purchases. I've found that there's a real skill involved in choosing plants for one's garden at the beginning of the season. For me, the problem has long been overestimating not only the amount of space I have for new plants but the amount of time I have available to plant them. Over the years I've gotten better at it. And I also think I've gotten better at visualizing what plants will look like when they're grouped together in a container or a bed and have reached their mature size. Or at least I tell myself that.

I especially like to shop at plant sales held by garden clubs, plant societies, and even home gardeners who pot up some divisions from their garden and set them out on their driveway. Often the home gardeners aren't even selling their plants--they're free for the taking. I have fun listening to people talk about why they like a plant and how it does in their garden--I almost always learn something new. And I know they enjoy sharing something they grew themselves with others--that's part of the joy of gardening.

We'll be sharing the joy of gardening at our annual Plant Sale on May 9. I hope to see you there!

-- *Tom McKusick*

Coming Up: 75th Anniversary Garden Tea Party

What a significant milestone our club has to celebrate during 2017: our 75th Anniversary! On Saturday, June 24, between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m., all club members are invited to mark this momentous occasion at a Garden Tea Party at Jerry and Lee Shannon's gardens in St. Paul. Stroll through and admire the Shannon's phenomenal gardens while enjoying an lavish menu of savory tea sandwiches and tempting desserts provided by the Elite Epicurean caterer. Harpist Trudy Harper will provide music.

This celebration will be complimentary for club members, however each member may bring one guest at a cost of \$20 per guest. Mark this date on your calendar and join your fellow club members for this enjoyable event.



It's not too early to get your reservation in to Sharla Aaseng at resmwgcm@juno.com or call (612) 623-9341. Additional reservation information will be available in the *June Garden Spray*. Event will be held rain or shine.

-- *Becky DeLaCruz*

Marketing & Publicity Committee

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

This spring, the M & P Committee has been busy with advertising and promotional activities for the MWGCM's upcoming 2017 events. Our most recent activities are promoting the May 9 Annual Plant Sale. In addition to listing the plant sale information in the usual places, we have expanded the listings into many local newspapers and journals, increased plant sale signage, and have asked our members to assist in spreading the word via Facebook, Nextdoor.com, email and the distribution of printed flyers. Let's keep our fingers crossed that everyone's efforts will pay off on the day of the sale.

We are also very excited to share the club's 75th Anniversary with the Twin Cities' communities. Throughout the second half of 2017, some of the local newspapers and journals will be featuring club members and their gardens, as well as our Mixed Border and Native Gardens in Lyndale Park, to help celebrate and bring awareness to this club milestone. All club members are encouraged to attend our membership-only (plus 1 guest) 75th Anniversary garden party celebration on Saturday, June 24 in the garden of Jerry and Lee Shannon.

The Flower, Food and Foto Show will be here before we know it, Saturday and Sunday, August 19 - 20. We hope to ramp up our advertising for this event to increase not only public attendance, but also to encourage participation by non-members who want to submit their own gardening or photo entries.

Lastly, the internal promotion of our Holiday Party and Silent Auction is also floating around in the back of our minds. This year we plan to solicit businesses to donate items to supplement member donations at our Silent Auction. Please contact anyone on the M & P Committee if you know of businesses we can, or should, call upon.

There's a lot on our "To Do List" for 2017, and I am so thankful to be working with

such an engaged and active group of M & P Committee members: Bette Fenton, Anne Spenningsby, Andy Marlow, Alan Gallaher and Bob Olson.

Photography Committee

Lloyd Wittstock, Chair

COMPOSING YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE FFF CONTEST

If you need inspiration and some practical examples of winning compositions, take a look at last year's winners on the club website at [2016 Photo Show Winners](#). You'll see a mix of extreme close-ups, bright floral patterns, stunning trees, colorful forests, club gatherings, and even a strip of the Lyndale Park Gardens. All of these are inspiring and well designed, so the quality level of the competition is apparent. Please jump in this year with your best shots and see how you impress our judges.

Complete rules will be available online soon, but in general, each contestant can submit up to 20 digital images, with no more than three in any one of the 12 categories. Send your well-labeled files by way of email to lwmpis@centurylink.net, or mail a CD-ROM disk or flash drive to Lloyd Wittstock, 913 19th Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 by July 31. Anyone can enter this portion of the contest.

For ideas on the other part of the contest, [The People's Choice](#), view that link for the three winners from each year. Big, bold and unusual compositions seem to do well here. This portion requires you to mail up to three 5 x 7" prints (use the same address) and that you are a club member. Everyone attending the FFF Show is invited to cast a ballot for his or her favorite.

Prizes are minimal but a matter of some bragging rights. Now that digital cameras have removed our basic worries about light levels, it's all about choosing the subject and composing from your perspective. So compose away.

2017 Flower, Food & Foto Show

Judy Berglund, Chair

2017 FFF SHOW: AUGUST 19 & 20 AT THE MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

We hope all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to this year's show.

The general rules will be posted club website (look for them on the [Links](#) page on Friday, May 5) along with all of the entry classes including the floral design classes that we hope many of you will try this year. There is even an example of how to fill out your entry tags. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of the blue FFF Show booklets at our May plant sale.



Our featured flower is the Salvia, which may be exhibited as three uniform stems. Salvia may also be exhibited as container-grown plants. Carrots are our featured vegetable, which may be exhibit as three that are uniform in size, color and quality. Tops of carrots should be trimmed off 1½ - 2" above the crown and top roots trimmed to 1."

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: gardening.

Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair

MANY GARDENS IN ONE: PART THREE THE NEWEST BLOOMS

The MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee divides the Mixed Border Garden at Lyndale Park into numerous sections. The March and April Spray articles described the areas at the far western edge of the border. Now let's jump to the Far East of the border close to Dupont Avenue. This area has been redesigned by club member Sharla Aaseng. On our recent Tuesday April 18 work day this section of the garden had the only blooming tree--an 'Anne' Magnolia.'

The Far East area of the garden has morning sun, afternoon shade, and easy access to the park irrigation system. This makes for a great area to plant varieties that need more moisture than is available in other parts of the garden. The featured shrubs are a pair of 'Holmstrup' Arborvitae on one side, balanced by the 'Anne'

Magnolia on the other side. "Anne" is one of the Little Girl series of magnolias. It is a slow growing shrub or small tree reaching 8 to 10 feet tall and wide with purple-red flowers. We planted this magnolia in 2014 in memory of committee member M.T. Pulley's mother.



Sharla and the 'Anne' magnolia, a gold chamaecyparis, 'Technito' arborvitae, with mugo pine in front.

Other shrubs that Sharla has added have been chosen for their leaf color: Weigela 'Wine and Roses' and small barberries are red; 'Nana Aurescens' yews are gold; 'Grey Owl' junipers add blue; and a unique dwarf Norway spruce 'Clanbrassiliana Stricta' has glossy green foliage. A ring of 'Little Giant' arborvitae encircle the magnolia, along with Weigela 'Rainbow Sensation.' A group of 'Miss Kim' lilacs are the backdrop. Perennials and annuals fill in the bare spaces. The stone with the plaque honoring the work of our club sits in the front of this part of the garden.

Stop at the garden and see the spring blooms. The committee will be working every Tuesday morning in May, except the day of the plant sale.

Photo: Kathy Lenarz

Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens

Kirky Otto, Carol Shreier, Co-chairs

REALLY EARLY GARDEN BLOSSOMS



Giant trillium

Winter isn't so bad, if you can get away for a bit or grow plants indoors. The crisp, clear days are great for walking, skiing is marvelous if there's snow, and winter holidays can be wonderful. But by March, I'm done with it. There is no longer anything good about winter at that point. I'm ready for spring.

That's why I plant things in my own yard

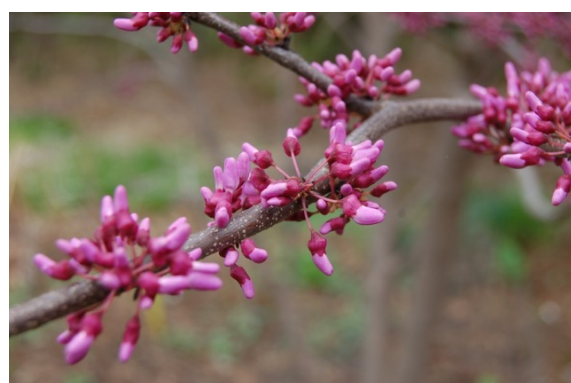
(and in the native/shade gardens at Lyndale Park, where this club volunteers), which bloom as early as

possible each year. Last year on March 14 there were Minnesota-hardy primroses (not native, but at that point I didn't care) blooming against an east-facing white fence in my backyard. I hate owning a white plastic fence but am not willing to replace it with wood, and for the months of March and April I welcome the bounce of warmth and light it gives to the early plants.

When the native/shade garden crew worked at Lyndale Park on April 12, there were sharp-lobed hepatica blooming, rue anemone, pasque flowers, and Geum triflorum. The bloodroot was up and ready to set blossoms. The jack in the pulpit was pushing its way up, and the Jacob's ladder was putting out a few flowers and setting a whole lot more. The hybrid plants in other parts of the garden were starting to show signs of life, but I at least didn't see any blossoms other than on the natives.



Marsh marigold



Redbud tree

These early-blooming plants are mostly spring ephemerals -- they show up as soon as the ground thaws, blossom fast, and about the time other plants are starting to show some color they are dying down. By midsummer many of them have disappeared entirely, which is just fine, because the slower developers are wonderful, too.

I'll take whatever signs of life I can find at the end of winter, and the precocious short-lived ephemerals are as good as the birds that show up when it's really still late winter. They all convince me, every year, that spring and summer are on the way, the air will be soft again, and color will reign. And that's why I love native plants. They're tough, but they're soft, and they mean we're going to see summer again.

-- Kirky Otto with photos by Kathy Lenarz

Membership Corner

Judy Brooke, Chair

EVERY MEMBER BRING A MEMBER, TO THE PLANT SALE

When attending the May plant sale, please consider bringing a guest to the sale and then to the dinner. As long as the guest is a gardener or interested in gardening, the club will pay for their dinner. Contact dinner reservationist, Sharla at (612) 623-9341 or resmwgcm@juno.com to let her know you are bringing a guest to dinner. We ask that you limit it to one guest per dinner.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF APRIL 25, 2017

Checking Balance	\$ 25,807
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 2,456
Scholarship	\$ 2,946
Deane Fund at RCU	\$ 65,150
Working Balance	\$ 20,405
Petty Cash	\$ 100
MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank	\$ 5,323

Meeting & Event Calendar

May 9

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

June 13

Pollinator Friendly Gardening
Rhonda Fleming Hayes
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

June 24

75th Anniversary Celebration
Details to come

August 19 & 20

Flower, Food and Foto Show U of M
Landscape Arboretum

September 12

Ask the Experts: Answers to All Your
Gardening Questions
Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

October 10

Using Dwarf and Miniature Conifers in the
Garden
Jeremy Moore

July & August

Garden Tours
Dates & Times TBD

Lakewood Cemetery Garden Mausoleum

November 14

Behind the Scenes at the Friends School
Plant Sale
Henry Fieldseth
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

2017 Officers & Directors

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