

The Garden Spray

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

2013, Volume 71, Number 6

June

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 11	LHC	Edible Gardens
July 16		Garden Tour
Aug 3		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)

Arb = University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

June 11 Schedule:

6:00 p.m. Informal social hour

6:15 p.m. Catered dinner

~7:15 p.m. Short business meeting

~7:30 p.m. Program

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$12.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, June 7 – **no later!** Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

For last minute cancellations, call Nancy Bjerke at 612-353-5220. If she can sell it, you won't be billed.

June Program: How to Install and Grow Edible Gardens

Tuesday, June 11

Lake Harriet Methodist Church
4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis



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."

--Photo from website: <http://harvestmoonfarmers.com>

Menu for June Meeting

Hawaiian Chicken Pasta Salad

Bread Sticks

Marinated Vegetables

Strawberry Shortcake

July and August Tours

Dates are set for the July and August garden tours! See Page 3 for more information.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Sandra Abraham

A Work in Progress

Looking ahead to our summer events it came to me that, just as a garden is never complete but is always a work in progress, so are our goals for the MWGCM.

Our annual plant sale and auction are completed, the tours are in the final stages of planning, members are getting their snapdragons and peppers planted in hopes of winning that top prize at the FFF Show in August and the rains have started greening up our landscapes. Photo opportunities abound with the blooming of forsythia, magnolias, and flowering crabapple trees.

I hope you all are planning to attend the June 11, 2013 meeting back at the Lake Harriet United Methodist church where we will hear about incorporating edibles into our landscape. My radishes, spinach, and mesclun have already emerged in the raised bed garden we built last year.

I just returned from North Carolina where I helped my brother in his gardens. Together we managed to complete planting a small rose garden and vegetable garden. I am now ready to get my Minnesota garden into some semblance of order. Is it time to get those tomato plants in yet? The house finches who managed to nest on my front door have fledged but now I have two robin's nests on my house. One of them is on the back deck flood light...so much for the motion detector, and the other is inside a crock I had turned on its side so the rain water wouldn't fill it. I guess I won't be doing any container planting in that one this year.

Have you all visited the MWGCM website recently to see the recent changes in format?

Kudos to the website team for their work on this project.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the garden tours we are planning this summer, July 16(Tuesday evening) and Saturday, August 3, 2013. See the details elsewhere in this newsletter. Our growing season this year has already been a challenge. It remains to be seen how it will unfurl. I am guessing it will be a fast paced one with many more surprises from Mother Nature. Whatever may be in store for us, I hope that you have a great summer with lots of gardening rewards. See you in the garden.

From the Editor

-- Mary Maynard

I am looking forward to our June program. I haven't been much of a vegetable gardener (except for tomatoes and peppers), but every once in a while I try a new thing. Last year I grew cucumbers, which were great. And I didn't have to share them, because my husband Phil doesn't like them!

I have also tried growing beets, which were mowed down by rabbits within a week.

This year, I bought a four-pack of Swiss chard on impulse. Do rabbits eat Swiss chard? Should I build a fence around four plants?

In this issue, we highlight several key activities of the club - the Lyndale Park garden, Arbor Day, the FFF Show, the annual plant sale and auction and our summer tours. It takes a lot of willing hands to make this all happen. My personal thanks to all of you who make this club great.

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



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 5-17-2013

Checking balance	\$21,668.88
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,636.77
Scholarship	\$4,830.28
Working Balance	\$15,201.83
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

Welcome to new members

Susan Abelson

Cheryl Pedro

Shereen Rhamini

Welcome to New Members!

-- Jean Strande, Membership Secretary

We are very happy to announce we have 3 more new members this month!

Cheryl Pedro comes to us from White Bear Lake. Her email is sherry.pedro@gmail.com

Shereen Rahamini lives in St. Louis Park. email is: shereen@accentsignage.com.

Susan Abelson is also from St. Louis Park. Her email is: susankabelson@comcast.net

The Publicity Committee is collecting info on where people learn about us. Susan learned about our plant sale from the newspaper, and Shereen found an ad on craigslist!

July and August Tours Set

-- Robert Kean

July

On the evening of July 16 (Note: **3rd** Tuesday) we will tour the gardens of members Tami Hagen and Nancy Bjerke, with an optional self-guided tour of the nearby Longfellow Gardens. The event will follow the format of the last two years, with appetizers and beverages at the first house, and desserts at the second. Cost and other details are being finalized and will be published in the July *Spray*. This tour is open to members and guests.

August

Our August tour is scheduled for Saturday afternoon August 3. We are planning a bus tour to the gardens of Don Dean, Lloyd Weber, and Len Brenny. More details to follow in the July and August *Spray*.



Growing Tomatoes Part 2: Everything Else

-- Bob Livingston



Note: Part 1 of Bob's article, which covered soil preparation and planting, appeared on Page 7 of the May Spray.

I only use slow release fertilizer, Osmocote, and two applications of fish emulsion with kelp. The plants love it. I use a hose end sprayer, and apply when the plants are 3-4 feet tall and the fruit has set.

Avoid watering the leaves and water in the morning.

Heirloom tomatoes ripen differently. Go by how they feel rather than their color. Pick them a day or two before they are fully ripe and watch carefully. The skins bruise easily.

I spray on a weekly basis, with Fung-Onit, a multipurpose fungicide.

If you see insects, use an appropriate spray or dust.

Sometimes I need to use a box trap for critters.

Watch the weather reports. If it rains, you can delay watering. If it is going to hail - pray!

Our tomatoes grew 7 to 8 feet tall. I do top them in late August.

Don't let fallen fruit sit around on the ground.

Buy good quality plants. It is better to put them out later rather than earlier.

Very Good Reads - I highly recommend these two books:

100 Heirloom Tomatoes for the American Garden - by Carolyn J. Male

The Heirloom Tomato, From the Garden to Table - by Amy Goldman

Catalogs - both are on the internet

Totally Tomatoes, www.totallytomato.com

Seed Savers Exchange Catalog of Heirloom Seeds, Books and Gifts

www.seedsavers.org

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





Memorial Day in the Garden

-- Kay Wolfe

Memorial Day is a time for remembering those who are no longer with us. In our garden club, memorial gifts are given to the Lyndale Park Garden, unless designated for another purpose. Here is an updated list of those who have been honored with a park garden memorial gift, and those that made the donations.

2011

In memory of:

Blair Bjerke
Howard Berg

Ken Hibberd

Donors:

Nancy Bjerke, Margaret Hibberd, Andy Marlow, and Mary Maynard
MGCM Board, Dave (Fridley) Johnson, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard,
Bob Voigt, and Kay Wolfe
Nancy Bjerke, Peter Olin, Mary Maynard, and Kay Wolfe

2012

Carleton Nelson
Mary Ann Finnegan
Ray Kessler
Chet Groger

Andy Marlow and Mary Maynard
Mary Maynard
Kay Wolfe
Andy Marlow and Mary Maynard

2013

Marilyn Erwin-Maynard (feline) Kay Wolfe

Memorial plantings are to be “permanent plantings” of shrubs and trees. No memorial plantings were installed in Lyndale Park in 2010 or 2011. In 2012 memorial plantings included a *Picea abies* (Norway spruce) ‘Hillside Upright’ in memory of Howard Berg. A new memorial bed was planted with an *Aronia Melanocarpa*, two *Rosa* ‘Paint the Town,’ two dwarf Japanese juniper, one ‘Blue Nest’ spruce, an upright ‘Nova’ yew, and a gold ‘Sunburst’ yew. And so far in 2013, we have planted a shade grouping of *Viburnum* ‘Mohican,’ an upright ‘Nova’ yew, a ‘Green Mountain Pyramid’ boxwood, and three round arborvitae – two ‘Techny Globe’ and one ‘Little Giant.’ The beds in front of the shrub groupings will be planted with annuals that have been donated by the Minneapolis Park Board. Stop by and see the garden!

If you are interested in this project contact Kay Wolfe at mgcmgarden@q.com.



Photo of some of our memorial plantings – and the members who planted them – by Kristina Hughes.



2013 FFF SHOW – August 17 & 18 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 and vegetables to the Flower, Food and Foto Show this year. I found some great snapdragons and peppers, 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 the 2013 FFF Show booklets at our June club meeting. Entry tags will also be available at the June club meeting.



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

Here's the link to the FFF Show Schedule:

http://mwqcm.org/MGCM/Links_files/Show%20Schedule%202013%20flat.pdf

May 2013 Board Meeting Highlights

-- Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Highlights of the May Board meeting included reports from committees that have been active this spring:

- *The Program Committee has scheduled activities and presentations for next year.
- *The Tours Committee has confirmed tours in July and August to 5 gardens.
- *The Marketing and Publicity Committee has produced a new brochure about the Club that will be available to share with potential new members, our Facebook site and website are being updated and improved, and inquiries are being made about possible award programs for which the Club may be eligible.
- *The Arbor Day Committee has planned the annual celebration with the Audubon Society.

Membership in the Club has increased to 90 members.



2013 Arbor Day Planting

-- Robert Kean

On May 11, the Arbor Day committee of the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis completed their annual planting event. This year's planting took place in Lyndale Park, near the entrance to Robert's Bird Sanctuary. The planting site borders the parking lot that services Robert's Sanctuary, The Lake Harriet Rose Garden, and the Peace Garden. The planting included over 30 native shrubs and small trees. Native perennials will be added later this year (by other volunteers). This site was recently cleared of buckthorn and weeds. The native plants will make the site more attractive in appearance as well as more favorable to birds. Hopefully, they will also suppress the re-growth of buckthorn at the site.



This project continues a partnership between the MWGCM and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis (ACM), which started last year with a planting in the sanctuary. This partnership has led to greatly increased available funding for plant materials and protective fencing. In addition to MWGCM and ACM, funds for this project were provided by the East Harriet Farmstead Neighborhood Association, the Linden Hills Neighborhood Council (pending) and a \$900 grant (obtained by ACM) from the Minnesota Ornithologists Union.



Don Trocke, M.T. Pulley, Robert Kean and Rodger Sefelt on Arbor Day. Photos by Robert Kean



May Plant Sale and Auction

We had another successful plant sale, netting over \$2,000 to support club activities and bringing in some new members. Our thanks to everyone who participated.

Photos by Andy Marlow and Chuck Carlson





Getting to Know Your Board Member: Margaret Hibberd, Co-Treasurer



My story is about the evolution of a gardener who learns many things from people and places along the way. I was born in Duluth, a beautiful place with a climate that prepares one to withstand many adverse situations. From my ages 7-17, my parents, brother and I lived in a home two blocks from the lake and a mile from our swimming hole in Lester River and eventually I did a lot of the yard work and learned to tend grass, peonies, lilacs, apple trees, shrub roses, and raspberries planted by the previous owner.

I graduated from East High School and went on to UMD where I studied in Zoology and Chemistry. After working at the Federal Water Lab in Duluth, I moved to St. Paul for graduate school in Genetics and met my husband, Ken, and we were married in 1969 during his first year in the Navy.

Ken came from a family of California gardeners, farmers, and ranchers, so we were soon gardening and visiting gardens in Homestead, Florida and Puerto Rico where he was stationed. During this time I worked at several things including the U of Fl. Subtropical Experimental Station working on eradicating Caribbean fruit flies and learning a lot about tropical fruits.

-- Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

We returned to Minnesota for graduate school and lived in Lauderdale for 6 years, gardening, raising rabbits in the garage and working at the food co-op. During this time I slowly finished an M.S. Degree in Genetics and worked in the U of M Weed Research Lab, growing weeds and crop plants in the greenhouse to test the effects of Round-Up and Dicamba and took Horticulture and Agricultural Education courses and the first Master Gardener classes with the idea of becoming a County Agent.

Ken took his first position at Monsanto in St. Louis and after briefly working at Hummert's Horticulture Supply Company and Washington Univ. doing peanut tissue culture, I was hired as a Technical Librarian at Monsanto.

We bought a 1904 house and planted gardens, fruit tree, hollies, dogwoods and other things hardy in zone 6 gardens. One summer we had so many days over 100 that no tomatoes set fruit in that heat.

(Continued on next page)



Getting to Know Your Board Member: Margaret Hibberd -- *continued*

After 3 years Ken was hired by Molecular Genetics and we escaped back to Minnesota where I started working in the U of M Horticulture Dept. on lilies, beans, tissue culture, and managing the lab of 15 graduate students. I learned a lot of aspects of Horticulture and especially enjoyed the students and their friends. We had many fine pot luck meals with the different foods at our house and got to make many trips to Italy to visit former students after they returned home.

During this time I also worked part-time as a Patent Searcher in the library at 3M and after 6 years of this moved to 3M only in 1989, retiring in 2010.

In 1983 we bought the Falcon Heights house on its $\frac{3}{4}$ acre to do any kind of gardening we wanted and eventually had fewer opinionated expertise discussions if we divided our specialties. Ken got vegies, hostas, fruits trees, small fruits and I started growing perennial flowers along with annuals, kind of a life-long learning experience. I think lilies are still my favorite because they don't have to be dug like my favorite dahlias and cannas and now I've discovered the easiest gardening is planning my big pots and shopping for specialty annuals. But I have also enjoyed all the interactions I have meeting people as I tend my boulevard garden with its many tropical plants.

After attending the MGCM plant sales for several years as Mary Maynard's guest, she gave me a membership for my birthday in 1996. Soon I was recruited as a mid-season Secretary replacement and on the Board learned a lot about the club and now I am the co-treasurer. I have enjoyed all the club activities and especially the people and all I have learned from them.



*Margaret and her husband Ken on a walk near their cabin in Wisconsin in 2010.
-- Photo by Mary Maynard*



Calendar of Events for Rest of 2013

June 11

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

July 16

Garden Tour
Nancy Bjerke, Tami Hagen

August 3

Garden Bus Tour
Len Brenny, Don Dean, Lloyd Weber

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

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Bonnie Haehn, Margaret Hibberd, Robert Kean, Larry and Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Bob Livingston, Mary Maynard, Jean Strande, Kay Wolfe
Photography: Chuck Carlson, Kristina Hughes, Robert Kean, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Lloyd Wittstock, Park Seed.

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



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Club Officers:

President: Sandra Abraham
Eagan

Vice President: Randi Larson
Minnetonka

Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Jean Strande
Golden Valley

Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd
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Falcon Heights

Past President: Robert Kean
Minneapolis

Directors:

Judy Brooke

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Don Trocke

Bloomington

(Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd)

The Spray

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Return To:

The Garden Spray

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

Mary Maynard, Editor

4375 Dart Avenue

St. Louis Park, MN 55424

First Class Mail

June
2013