

# The Garden Spray

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

2014, Volume 72, Number 6

June

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 10	LWC	"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape" Tim Malooly
June 28		Public Garden Tour
July 26		Member Bus Garden Tour

More info on Page 11

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

ARB = U of M Landscape Arboretum,

**Note: Permanent reservations are in effect for June Meeting.** Dinner is \$13.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, June 6 – **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.

## Menu for May 13:

Herb roasted chicken  
Potato Salad  
Biscuits  
Strawberry Romaine Salad with Raspberry Vinaigrette  
Rhubarb Crisp

## June Program

### Wise Use of Water in the Landscape June 10

We will return to Lakewood Cemetery's Mausoleum Reception Room for this presentation by member Tim Malooly. Tim is the president of Water in Motion. He is a tireless advocate for water-efficient irrigation and is a leader in the irrigation industry, nationally and in the Upper Midwest.

### Schedule for June 10 Meeting

6:00 p.m. Social Time  
6:15 p.m. Dinner at Reception Room  
7:00 p.m. Business meeting  
7:30 Program

Map & directions on Page 4.

### It's Back!!! MWGCM Public Tour Saturday, June 28

### We all have a part to play

After a four year hiatus, MWGCM is conducting a tour open to the public designed to raise funds for MWGCM scholarships. The 2014 extravaganza will feature six gardens in the East Metro; two member gardens, one former member's garden and three non-members. It will also feature both drive-yourself and bus options to visit the gardens. The biggest change is that the tour will be only one day.

All the details on Page 5

## Notes from the Prez:

-- *Randi Larson*

### Congratulations to our Plant Sale Committee!!!

I want to give a great big shout-out and congratulations to our plant sale committee for the outstanding plant sale and auction they put on this month at the St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. The new venue was just wonderful, a big A+++! It has a very large, ballroom size front room with plenty of light and very easy access. All the plants were shown off to great advantage there.

An especially large shout-out goes to Gary Geister, who grew more than half of the hundreds and hundreds of annuals featured on the tables. The plants had pictures of what the flower would look like, which really helped the shoppers decide which ones to buy. There were many new varieties this year. We are very fortunate that Gary provides so many plants for us, and the public, to choose from. I hope he never tires of growing these great plants for us.

And speaking of the public, there were approximately 75 shoppers from outside the club that came in to shop at our sale, and many of them were seen carrying around boxes of plants. They seemed quite pleased at the sale. I'm sure word will spread around the neighborhood about our sale.

Having our meal in an adjacent room was very convenient. This room overlooks Lake Calhoun and is a beautiful setting. (Did I mention the sunset over the lake)?

I want to thank the members of the Landscape Arboretum for donating items for our silent and live auction, and to Jerry Shannon, who donated

several unusual and rare plants to the live auction. I also want to thank live auctioneer Doug Whitney and his aide, Margret Hibberd, who looked up many of the plants on the internet so everyone knew what they were bidding on.

I also want to thank all the cashiers who worked so hard to keep the plant sales moving and to Andy Marlow, who kept track of the bidding winners. It all ran very smoothly! I also want to thank everyone who brought in plants for sale or auction.

All together it was a very enjoyable evening. I felt very fortunate to have made some excellent purchases (yes, including the yellow Azalea that Larry had brought from Bachman's and I bought a second time) and winning bids. I hope we can duplicate this event next year. Thank you Plant Sale Committee!

Randi

### Editor's Note

*Mary Maynard*

It must be summer. We turned on the A/C today, and I only have 5 kinds of cannas, two kinds of callas, some voodoo lilies and a flat of salvia left to get into the ground. Things are looking up! We have a busy month ahead, with our regular meeting and program on June 10, and a public tour on June 28. A public tour is a big undertaking, and the committee has been working hard. If you haven't been involved yet, your turn is coming up! It's a great way to spread the word about the club and to showcase some of the best gardens around.

Last month's plant sale and auction were a success. Congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 05-16-2014

Checking balance	\$17,020
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$ 852
Scholarship	<u>\$7,560</u>
Working Balance	\$ 8,608
CD	\$5,260

## Membership Corner

Welcome to new member **Mary Barsness** (more info below).

### **Bob Redmond has moved!**

His new address is  
 3733 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. South, Apartment 314  
 Minneapolis, MN 55407.  
 Phone is 612-238-2761.  
 Bob's email is unchanged.

## Welcome Mary Barsness

*Judy Brooke*

Welcome new member Mary Barsness ([mbarsness@frontier.com](mailto:mbarsness@frontier.com)). She had been thinking about joining a garden club and when approached at our plant sale about becoming a member, she said "yes". Mary is a nurse anesthetist at Children's Hospital where she and Sandra Abraham are coworkers. Mary's father was an avid gardener so she grew up gardening. She lives in Prior Lake with husband Linden. Because of a grove of oak trees on their property she's become most interested in shade plants. She estimates having 800 hostas, with 300 different varieties. Do look forward to greeting Mary at our June meeting.

### Every Member Bring a Member

## Farewell to Russ Smith

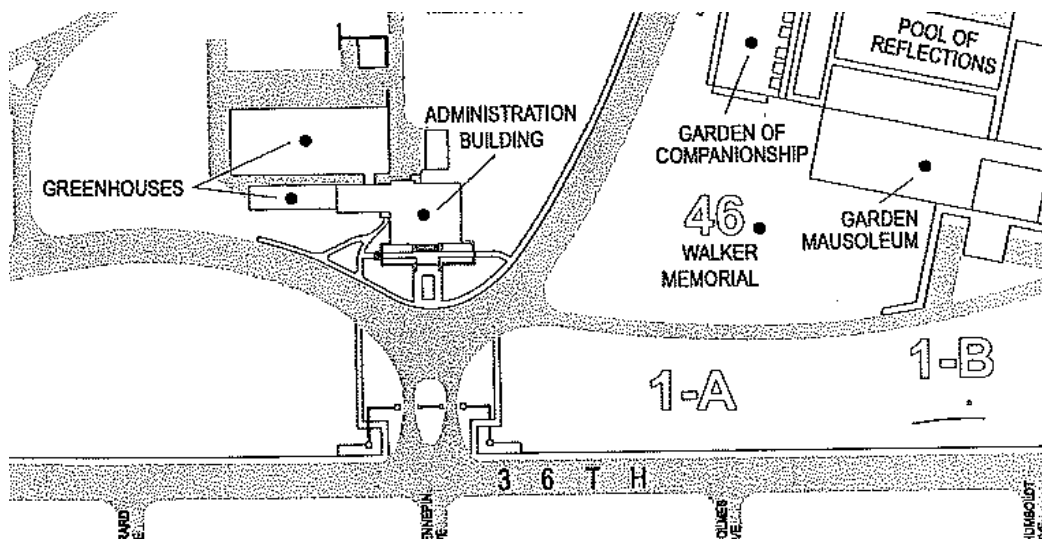
MWGCM Honorary Member Russell Smith passed away on May 6 at the age of 91. Russ joined the club in 1980; was president in 1984; won the President's Award in 1985 and won the "Bronze Medal" (now the Bachman Award for Outstanding Service) in 1990. He served as the club's primary representative to The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America organization up until the time the club disaffiliated from "The National". Russ was an orchid specialist, but his gardening interests did not stop there. He was a gracious and generous man. Our sympathy to Russ's wife Janet, to his son and former MWGCM president Greg, and to the rest of the Smith family.



## June Meeting: Map to Lakewood Cemetery Buildings

The entrance to Lakewood Cemetery is at the intersection of 36<sup>th</sup> St. South and Hennepin Avenue, which dead-ends at the cemetery. The Garden Mausoleum will be on your right. Parking is ample on the cemetery roads.

The cemetery is no doubt in excellent form. Memorial Day is their biggest day, and they work very hard to have everything perfect by then.



### While You're in the Neighborhood ...

Our Lyndale Park garden is just south of Lakewood Cemetery, off King's Highway. Why not stop by before the meeting to see how everything is shaping up? May was a very busy month for the crew. And the garden looks particularly lovely in the late afternoon/evening light.

*More Park Garden news on Page 8.*



*-- Photo by Sharla Aaseng*

## **It's Back!!! MWGCM Public Tour**

*Andy Marlow*

*Continued from Page 1*

Here are the details:

Saturday June 28 noon to 5:00 p.m.

Drive-yourself tickets: \$15.00

Air-conditioned motor coach: \$25.00

(Bus departs from the North Parking Lot of the Fort Snelling Transit Station  
6053 Minnehaha Avenue South)

**The success of this tour depends on each member.** Every member will receive 5 drive-yourself tickets in the mail. The tickets contain the addresses of and maps to the gardens. You are asked to sell them or buy them yourself. You will need to return any unsold tickets.

Additional drive-yourself tickets and bus tickets are available from Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444, 763-560-7747. Drive-yourself tickets will also be available at the Shannon and DeGrande gardens on the day of the tour

The Tour Committee is also seeking volunteers to help out at each garden. Committee members will be calling you.

Here are short descriptions of each of these stellar gardens:

### **Mary Witkus & Werner Koeler, South Minneapolis**

Japanese gardens compliment this Asian influenced home on Minnehaha Creek. Flowing water adds to the feeling of tranquility. Many plants are those found in Japan, others are more hardy adaptations suited to our climate. Sculptural elements were chosen for their rustic beauty and patina.

### **Lee & Jerry Shannon, St. Paul**

Plant collectors both, Lee and Jerry have turned 2/3rds of an acre into garden rooms showcasing the results of their collecting efforts from around the world. Rock gardens, a dwarf conifer collection and a wisteria covered archway leading to a formal garden are only a few, plus the roof top of their potting shed.

### **Steve & Linda Shubick, St. Paul**

How much garden can you pack into a St. Paul city lot? Steve, an award-winning hosta exhibitor, grows those prize winners just north of Macalester College. While he emphasizes hostas in all their many varieties, plenty of shade-loving companions grow along-side. Creatively potted plants abound as well.

## Public Tour!

– Continued from Page 5

### **Gary deGrande & Mary Boss, White Bear Township**

Mix four years living in France and frequent trips “up North” inspired a garden that looks like something Claude Monet would paint if he grew up in Ely, MN. Throw in a two-level pond with a connecting stream, lots of native plants mixed with colorful annuals and perennials, and you have a one-of-a-kind paradise.

### **Monica & George Morin, White Bear Lake**

Roam nearly an acre of woodland gardens with redbud, serviceberry, viburnum and witch hazel beneath basswood, birch, elm, fir, maple, pine and spruce along 800 feet of walking paths. The gardens are home to hostas, ferns, roses, wild flowers and interesting garden structures

### **Keith & Sandy Miller, Stillwater**

Over 1200 varieties of hosta grace the Miller garden. A pond doubles as drainage from the cul-de-sac and a perfect setting for the hostas and companion plants. Water from the pond is pumped up to a creek, which passes over several waterfalls on its way back to the pond.

## May 2014 Board Meeting Highlights

*Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary*

Highlights of the May Board meeting included:

- an update of planning for the Plant Sale
- an update on the summer garden tours – there are 2 tours being planned, one a public tour to 6 gardens on the east side of the metropolitan area that can be accessed via bus or a self-guided driving loop, and the Club bus tour, of 3 gardens on the far south side of the metropolitan area
- decision to hold more monthly meetings at Lakewood Cemetery.

Membership is currently at 80; as always, members are strongly encouraged to make a particular effort to find and greet our new members at Club events.

Please consider accepting a Board position this year! There are many leadership positions available. More information is available from Sandra Abraham.

*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.*

## Garden Photos on Display: Photo Contest Entries Due July 31

*Lloyd Wittstock*

As I looked over the recent issues of the *Spray*, I have been struck by how many people have contributed photos, sometimes four or five people per issue! Whether it is the proliferation of Smart Phones, point-and-shoot cameras, or fine digital cameras, the corner has been turned and taking good photos has become the norm. Well, the 2014 Photo Contest gives you an opportunity to show those photos by giving some of them over to the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis this month or next.

You can send up to 20 digital photos and two prints. To organize your entries, including up to 20 in the 12 categories for the juried contest, see the rules on the club Website. Full rules are posted at [minneapolismensgardenclub.org](http://minneapolismensgardenclub.org) under the "Photo Show Winners" link at the top of the page. Take time to view the variety of photos from previous competitions. Then select away according to the rules and send your jpeg files to Lloyd Wittstock at 913 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414. All entries will be judged by real people for photographic quality in the presentation of horticultural subjects. The entrant with the most points will have the photo trophy with their name engraved under the list of the many previous winners. The person whose single photo is judged best in show will win a gift card, and all will win through the satisfaction of participating.

The prints go into the part of the contest that is **for members only**. You can print two of your favorite photos, with horticultural content, and mail them to us, but, please, by July 31. This part is called the People's Choice, because it is decided by ballots cast at the Flower, Food and Foto show in August, with more chances to win gift cards.

Enter your photos in both parts of the contest or in just one. We will take as many as you care to send in up to the maximum. We look forward to the competition, especially with all the fine examples we have seen already in the *Spray*. Let's hope we get to see even more at the Arboretum on August 16 and 17.

*Lloyd Wittstock and Chuck Carlson*

Submit your photos for the 2014 Foto Show by July 31.  
Winners will be revealed at the FFF (Flower, Food and Foto) Show on August 16-17.  
Check out the rules at this [link](#) at our website.

## "The Dirt" on the Lyndale Park Gardens

*Sharla Aaseng and Kirky Otto*

The committee has spent 3 Tuesdays and a long, busy Saturday cleaning up, preparing beds, and planting in the Lyndale Park Gardens. Here's a look at what's been going on.

*Photos by Sharla Aaseng and Kirky Otto.*



*Clockwise from top left:*

1. BEFORE the installation of new dwarf conifers on May 6: Nancy Bjerke and Steve Shubick work to clean up winter damage. 2. AFTER the installation: Steve, Kay Wolfe, Tim Rosener, Sharla Aaseng, and Rodger Sefelt stand behind their work. The dwarf conifer crescent is charming! Several other MWGCM members worked as well that day, but managed to escape the photographer. 3. Tim installs anti-theft devices around new plantings of dwarf conifers on May 13. 4. Volunteer James Empson discovering how hard it is to remove the dead boxwood. 5. Rog brought the donut holes, but Tim had the candles to help him celebrate his birthday, while Kay holds the "cake." Rog made his wish, and blew out the candle on the first try. 6. Installing the annuals on May 20, after the deluge on May 19, was messy but fun. Kay considers the overall effect of the design, while Kirky and Tim plant. 7. Tim, Kay, Kirky, Steve, Rodger, Nancy, and James take a donut-hole break amid the equipment they all hauled to the gardens.



## A Successful Plant Sale and Auction

*Gary Geister*

Last summer we were set to have this year's (2014) Plant Sale at our regular place in St Louis Park. Until we were notified (the bomb dropped) that the church would not be available. So it was a little bit of a scramble for the committee to find a new place. We ended up at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. The location, atmosphere, convenience and ease of working with the church were great. All the comments regarding this new location were positive.

A big THANK YOU to the Plant Sale committee who made this a successful plant sale. And a thank you to all the members who brought in plants, helped set up the sale, did the advertising, dragged plants to the sale. Thanks, too, to the cashiers, pre-order sales, the auctioneer, computer guru and to all the people who helped in any way. And finally to all the people who bought plants.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB!!!



*Photos by Chuck Carlson and Alan Gallaher*

**More Photos from the Plant Sale and Auction**



*Photos by Chuck Carlson and Alan Gallaher*

## Calendar of Events for Rest of 2014

### June 10

"Wise Use of Water in the Landscape"  
Tim Malooly  
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

### June 28

#### Public Tour!

### July 26

Member bus tour

### July 31

Photo contest submission deadline.

### 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: Sharla Aaseng, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Gary Geister, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Kirky Otto, Lloyd Wittstock

Photography: Sharla Aaseng, Chuck Carlson, Alan Gallaher, Kirky Otto

### Check out Bob's Blog!

Bob's daughter didn't plant tulips the way Bob thought she should. To see whose tulips turned out better, 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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Minnetonka

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Minneapolis

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Golden Valley

**Membership Secretary: Judy Brooke**

Minnetonka

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**(Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd)**

**The Spray**

The *Garden Spray* is published monthly by the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members. The Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Return To:

**The Garden Spray**

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

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**First Class Mail**

***June***  
***2014***