



# The Garden Spray

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

2015, Volume 73, Number 6  
June

June Program: Martagon Lilies  
by Frans Officer

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 9	LWC	Martagon Lilies
July TBA	TBA	Garden Tour?
Aug. 15-16	Arb	Flower, Foot & Foto Show
Aug TBA	TBA	Garden Tour?
Sept. 8	LWC	Laura Schwarz, Tangletown Gardens



Arb = U of M Landscape Arboretum  
LWC= Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S,  
Minneapolis

More calendar information on Page 11

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

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, June 5 – **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 Alan Gallaher at 952-933-1713. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

The program at our June meeting will be on "Martagon Lilies", and our presenter is Frans Officer. According to his bio, Frans was "born in a previous century in a land far, far away." He's been gardening in Bloomington since 1967, specializing in *Lilium martagon* (since 1987).

More info on Page 4

### Schedule for Tuesday, June 9

- 5:20 **Tour of Lyndale Park Gardens**  
(See Page 4)
- 6:00 Social time
- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:00 Business meeting
- 7:30 Program

### Club Tour in Planning Stages

*Robert Kean, Committee Chair*

The Tour Committee is working on a club tour, possibly as early as late June. Stay tuned for details to be published soon.

### Menu for May

- Hawaiian Chicken
- Bread Sticks
- Marinated vegetables
- Strawberry Shortcake

## Notes from the Prez

-- Tom McKusick

I'd like to report back to you on the results of the survey we circulated in March asking you as members what should be done with the \$64,000 estate gift from Betty Deane. The suggestions we received were quite varied; everything from paying speakers higher fees to providing wine with dinner! The most frequent suggestion – with ten responses – was that the money should be applied to scholarships, though I wonder if everyone who suggested that option knows that the current balance of the Scholarship Fund is nearly \$11,000... At any rate, a lot of good ideas were put forth, and it's clear that what's needed is an additional layer of participation among club members to evaluate them. So we are forming a new committee; the Deane Fund Committee, and we're inviting anyone with an interest to join it. This committee will be charged with reviewing proposed uses of these funds and will make recommendations to the board. It will also look at both short and long-term ways this money can be invested. As for whether this is a permanent committee or would function only for a specified time period is an open question. One idea that's been discussed is that the fund could exist beyond the scope of the original gift and might be a place where memorials could be made into the future.

Speaking for the board, we're hopeful that creating this committee will broaden out the process and make any decision that is reached more inclusive and representative of a wider range of opinion among club members. If you feel strongly about what the club should do with this money, please contact me about joining the Deane Fund Committee.

## Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

My feet are still a little mad at me for being on them for a very long day at our plant sale, but the rest of me is not sorry! It was a great day. Or two days, since I helped haul plants from Gary Geister's greenhouse to the church on Monday. I learned last year that it is possible to get 17 flats of plants in a 2007 Camry, especially if you don't care about the condition of your seats or the floor mats. It seemed like we had more walk-in customers this year, and the purchase process went smoothly, at least from my vantage point. Gary Geister deserves the lion's share of the credit for the success of the sale, since he grows out much of the plant material in his greenhouses. Gary's back yard is an amazing sight, even more amazing when you realize that all of his growing area is temporary, and it goes away for the summer.

I am looking forward to our June program. I have never had the guts to buy a Martagon lily, but I think if anybody can persuade me, it will be Frans Officer. I'm also looking forward to getting there in time to visit the Lyndale Park Garden beforehand. We'll have a chance to see the "bones" of the garden at this time of year, before annuals grow up.

This issue of the Spray includes information from 15 different contributors. My thanks to everyone who makes this publication possible. I am more grateful than I can say.

See you at the Club meeting!

## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 5/20/2015

Checking balance	\$93,589
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park Garden	\$ 4,226
Scholarship	<u>\$10,950</u>
Working Balance	\$ 78,413
Petty Cash	\$ 100
CD	\$ 5,260

## Membership Corner

Welcome new member Katherine Meehan from Golden Valley. We look forward to meeting Katherine at an upcoming program or event.

**Every Member Bring a Member**

## Membership News

*Judy Brooke, VP & Membership Chair*

To date 15 new members have joined our club since January bringing our total membership to 106. Last year at this time our membership total was 82 so we've continued to grow at a healthy rate.

Please help retain these new members by looking for their green name tags at our dinner meetings and making them feel welcome. Engage them in conversation. Ask them about their gardening interests or why they joined the club. Was it because of the tours, the programs or learning/sharing interests with other gardeners?

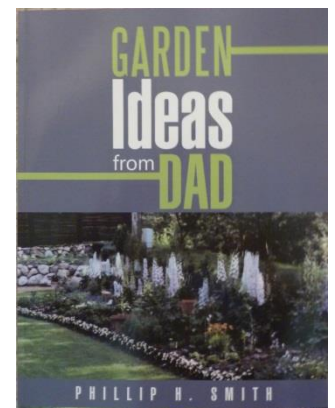
Also, a reminder; if you have a friend or relative who is interested in gardening, invite them as your guest to a dinner meeting and the club will pay for their dinner. In June we'll have our last dinner/program 'til fall, so June is a good time to bring a guest.

Thanks to each of you who contribute to making this a successful garden club.  
See you on June 9th!

## Phil Smith has a New Book!

Long-time member Phil Smith has a new book out, titled *Garden Ideas from Dad*. In this book, Phil passes on knowledge he has gained over the course of 60+ years of gardening, with color photos of his gardens in St. Louis Park, Golden Valley, Big Sky, Montana and southwest Florida. His advice ranges across many topics, from starting seeds to autumn cleanup.

Phil plans to be at the June meeting and will have a few copies of his book for us to look at. It is also available as an e-book.



## June Program: Martagons – Continued from Page 1

He has grown over 150 different Martagon hybrids and species. He's registered two new cultivars with the Royal Horticultural Society: "Sassy Sandy" and "Fallen Angel". A member of the North Star and North American Lily Societies, he also created the CD "Martagon", available for free viewing at [www.lilies.org/resources/north-star-martagons/](http://www.lilies.org/resources/north-star-martagons/)

I've seen Frans's large garden when the Martagons are in bloom, and it is a sight like no other. I'm really looking forward to this program -- hope you are too.

*by Tom McKusick*  
*Photos from MSHS event at Frans' garden, courtesy of MSHS*



## Lyndale Park Gardens Tour before June Club Meeting

Stop by the Lyndale Park Gardens before the June 9 Club Meeting and see the new garden additions!

At 5:20 PM Kay Wolfe will give a guided tour of what was planted this spring in the Mixed Border Garden. Plant lists will be available. Be sure and see this year's Coleus collection so that in September you can get cuttings!

At 5:30 PM Carol Schreier will lead a tour of the new Pollinator Garden which is part of the Park Board's Hummingbird Garden. Check out the native plants that will feed the native bees.

Tours will be repeated as time allows. The gardens are just "around the block" from Lakewood.

Park on Dupont Ave. S. at the intersection of Roseway Road. Cross the street and the gardens are on the north side of Roseway Road. There is a large sign "Trial Garden" marking the spot!

Questions? Contact Kay Wolfe @ [mgcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mgcmgarden@q.com) or 952-922-0762.



## Another Successful Plant Sale

Gary Geister

It was another very successful plant sale at St Mary's Greek Orthodox Church – the second year at this location. And this year, we took credit cards, which proved to be a popular addition.

A big “THANK YOU” to the plant sale committee members who help to make this a great fund raiser for the club. Many people in this club were working the day before hauling plants to the church and again on the morning of the sale. Some were at the church in the wee hours of the morning and some until before the stroke of midnight. Needless to say it was more than an all-day event. You have heard of this song "All day all night Mary Ann". This could be our theme song for the plant sale.

And a thank you to the members who brought plants from their garden to the sale, set up the sale, did the advertising, set up signs, the cashiers, pre-order sales people, the auctioneer, computer and credit card guru, members who helped transplant and make labels for all of the varieties of plants, members who were out on the floor helping the public with their plant purchases, the cleanup crew, and to the people who brought back plants after a long day and finally to all the members who bought plants from the sale. It takes a VILLAGE (garden club) and it worked

May all your plant sale purchases be a raging floral success.

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR CLUB!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

*Photos by Sandra Abraham and Alan Gallaher*



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

*Judy Berglund*

Earn a \$20 shopping spree at Bachman's awarded to four lucky exhibitors of the Flower, Food and Foto (FFF) Show this year. They will be awarded to the best marigold of show, the best summer squash of show and the Sweepstakes winners in both the flower and vegetable Horticultural Division. 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 an entry tag. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of the yellow FFF Show booklets at the June meeting.



We hope that all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to this year's show. If you have not participated before, many members are experienced exhibitors and will be happy to offer their help with hints on how to show those prize winning flowers and vegetables at their very best.

**Happy gardening and see you at the show!!!**

*Photo of last year's award table by Lloyd Wittstock*

**Board Meeting Highlights**

*Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary*

Motions passed at the May 2015 board meeting included:

Motion moved, seconded and approved to increase the Membership Committee line item to \$250 for the current fiscal year.

This motion is an acknowledgement of the successful work that our Membership Committee has been doing in the last 2 years to increase membership and member involvement and provides funds for the work.

Motion moved, seconded and approved to revise the budget to include a line item for guest meals. This motion clarifies bookkeeping related to our policy of providing guest meals at our meetings.

Motion made, seconded and passed to establish the Deane Fund Committee.

This committee will be responsible for decisions related to the expenditure of the extraordinary gift the Club recently received.

In addition to these formal motions the Board agreed to support the establishment of a permanent Hummingbird Garden at Lyndale Park.

*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.*

## Are Hummingbirds Pollinators?

--Kirky Otto

Actually, hummingbirds are pretty useful pollinators. Which is a nice thing to know, since the new "Planting for Pollinators" project the MWGCM is taking on is in a spot labeled 'The Hummingbird Garden' on the Minneapolis Park Board's maps of the Lyndale Gardens.

Our organization was invited by the Park Board volunteer coordinator to work on the Hummingbird Garden, west of the area which originated as a Trial Garden. That garden has been beautifully developed by MWGCM members over quite a number of years. There are work crews there on Tuesdays and Saturdays during the season, and they have their hands full.

However, there were eight fairly new members of the club who expressed interest in native plants, especially natives for pollinators, and the Trial Garden crews suggested them to the Park Board. A new club project was born. The MWGCM board has approved the Hummingbird Garden at Lyndale Park as a separate project, located west of the Trial Garden.

The first (most daunting) task has been to identify the plants already in the area -- after 10 inches of leaf mulch was dumped on the area by other volunteers. That task is about 3/4 accomplished, the area has been mapped, and the club volunteers have come up with design and plant suggestions for the bed, which is about 65 feet long and 15 feet deep.

The Park Board will be providing the plants in June, and installation will begin. The plan is to have fairly large drifts of native wildflowers which will bloom from very early in the spring to very late in the fall. If you visit the Trial Garden before the June meeting, you might be willing to stroll west a bit (past the white pines) and see the Hummingbird/pollinator Garden in its infancy.

Carol Schreier will be leading a short tour, and maybe you'll be able to help identify the last plants yet to be labeled.

If you have time on a Wednesday morning and would like to join the work on the Hummingbird Garden, please let Carol know. All are welcome.



*In the Hummingbird Garden: Don Doeksen, Jo Batty, Carol Schreier, and Dan Conley in the light clothing, and volunteer from the Kenny Neighborhood Garden Club Gen Bolling in the dark sweatshirt.*

## Getting to Know Your Board Member: Steve Shubick

I joined MGCM in 2011 after being invited by Andy Marlow to attend a club meeting. I told Andy, at a Minnesota Hosta Society meeting, I was looking for a garden club with more diversity. I wanted to learn more about different plants.

I remember when I was a child helping my father with his vegetable garden. My mother had roses, peonies and hollyhocks, which I always liked. When I got out of the Navy and bought my first house, I planted trees, shrubs, and tomato plants.

When I bought my current house in St. Paul in 1983, the yard was in dire need of a makeover, but, I was still just planting trees and shrubs. In 1994 I started getting interested in different kinds of Hosta and I joined the Minnesota Hosta Society. Last summer I had a community garden plot, for the first time, and grew lots of vegetables. Next summer I am going to try the square foot garden method for growing vegetables in my yard.

Since I retired from the Ford Plant in January 2012, I have participated in more of the club committees. It's a good way to meet other members. I would like to invite new members to try out different committees. I have met new friends with the Lyndale Park Garden, FFF show and the plant sale/auction. I have really enjoyed meeting club members, new and old, and learning from them and trying new things such as grouping succulents and entering the artistic display at the FFF Show.



Here's a photo of one corner of Steve's garden in the spring.  
*(Photo by Steve.)*

*Photo of Steve taking the Board Member Pledge (above) by Lloyd Wittstock.*



## The Lyndale Park Garden As Seen from Space!

*Kay Wolfe*



Our park garden is identifiable from Space! Check out Google maps satellite view! Clearly visible in the satellite photo are the letters MWGCM. It looks like we are communicating with aliens! Our esteemed editor Mary Maynard found the maps. Attached is a photo—I hope Mary can get it all in the Spray! Google it for yourself—just use the address “Roseway Road” in Minneapolis.

## Farewell to Duane Reynolds

The Twin Cities gardening community lost a quiet leader when Duane Reynolds passed away unexpectedly on May 3. Though Duane “retired” from MWGCM about 10 years ago, he remained a firm friend. Duane joined the club in 1983. He won the President’s Cup in 1987. By 1988, he was President in the year that MGCM hosted the national convention of TGOA/MGCA. He won the Bronze Medal (now known as the Bachman Award for Outstanding Service) in 1991. When the club hosted the national convention again in 2001, Duane agreed to lead the entire convention effort. Along with his many other accomplishments, he was an outstanding speaker.

Duane was a Master Gardener, a former President of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, the founder of the Hennepin County Horticultural Society, and a member of several plant societies, including the North Star Lily Society and the Minnesota Dahlia Society.

We extend our sympathy to Duane’s wife Patti and his daughters and grandson.

## Reminder: Photo Contest Entries due July 31

We still have almost two months to take a few more photos, and then select the best ones for the Photo Contest. Submissions are due on July 31, and the rules for the show are posted on our website. Go to [www.mwgcm.org](http://www.mwgcm.org) and click on "Links". You'll see a link to this year's rules. For inspiration, you can click on "Photo Show Winners" on the front page and review winners from the last several years.

## A Few More Photos from the Plant Sale and Auction

*Sandra Abraham and Alan Gallaher*



## Calendar of Events

**June 9, 2015**

Martagon Lilies  
Frans Officer  
Lakewood Cemetery

**July, 2015** (Date TBA)

Garden Tour?

**July 31, 2015**

Photo Contest Entries Due

**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, Robert Kean, Laurie Levin, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kirky Otto, Steve Shubick, Kay Wolfe.

Photography: Sandra Abraham, Alan Gallaher, MSHS, Kirky Otto, Steve Shubick, Lloyd Wittstock

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



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**Judy Brooke**

Minnetonka

**Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin**

Golden Valley

**Treasurer: Alan Gallaher**

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**David McKeen**

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**Steve Shubick**

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**The Spray**

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Return To:

**The Garden Spray**

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**First Class Mail**

*June*  
*2015*