

# The Garden Spray

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

2014, Volume 72, Number 7

July

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
July 26		Member Bus Garden Tour
July 31		Photo contest entries due
Aug. 5		Club Garden Tour
Aug. 16-17	Arb	Flower, Food & Foto Show
Sept. 9	LWC	"Know Your Soil"

More info on Page 11

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

ARB = U of M Landscape Arboretum,

**Note: Permanent reservations are  
NOT in effect for July Tour.**

See the reservation form on Page 5.  
Reservations must be received by  
**Tuesday, July 22.**

## September Program Change: "Know Your Soil"

Our September speaker has not changed, but her topic has. Rene Lynch's program topic is "Know Your Soil". More information to come in the September *Spray*.

## July Club Bus Tour! Saturday, July 26



Our July tour is a bus-only tour at a cost of \$25 per person, which includes the bus ride and lunch. We will visit Gary Geister's and Soni Forsman's gardens in Eagan, and then travel to Faribault to Roger and Kak Koopmans' garden.

Departure will be at 9:00 AM from the Park and Ride in Eagan at 4565 Black Hawk Road, with a return time around 2:30). Lunch will be served at Koopmans'. Reservations can be mailed to Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court N., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444 (Phone 763 560-7747, [dkkrust@hotmail.com](mailto:dkkrust@hotmail.com)), to be received no later than **Tuesday, July 22**. Mail your reservation early to make sure you have a space on the bus!



More garden descriptions, photos and reservation form starting on Page 4.

**Save the Date!**  
**Club Garden Tour on Tuesday,**  
**August 5**

Watch for more details in the August *Spray*

The Garden Spray Page 1

<http://www.mwgcm.org>

## Notes from the Prez:

-- *Randi Larson*

The June garden tour was such an inspiration. I have to admit we didn't go to the Witkus/Koeler home because we thought we had been there before. But after talking to several people who had been there, we realized that we were both wrong. So we missed that one. We hope to see it at a future time.

The other gardens we visited were fabulous. So, hats off to our tour committee; they did a wonderful job of finding these gardens for all of us to see.

Lee and Jerry Shannon are amazing gardeners. Their garden "rooms" spread out from their small city lot to include formal gardens, a meandering woodland and showcase areas for their dwarf conifers, rock gardens and unusual plants. Lee and Jerry have obtained some of these plants from all over the world, such as the variegated Eskimo Maple, the Appalachian Wild Dicentra, Clematis Recta, Perennial Bush Sweet Pea, Cleodendron and a double purple Datura. I wish the archway formed by Wisteria had been in bloom. I saw it years ago and that memory stayed with me.

If anyone wishes to have instructions on how to build cement troughs for rock gardens like the ones in front of the Shannon house, I have copies Shirley Friberg left after her program on rock gardens at our club.

Steve and Linda Shubick's house was next. Steve is one of the club's Hosta growers par excellence. To accommodate the many hostas he collects, Steve pots them and displays them on shelves as well as in natural settings. He says this is common practice in Europe and Japan where space is at a premium. I like the way that bright and light colored perennials and shrubs are mixed together for contrast. I'm sure I would never see so many varieties of Hostas outside a convention. Speaking of conventions, if Steve missed out on going to the Iowa Hosta convention, he deserves a special thank you for staying home to show us his garden.

Then we visited Gary DeGrande and Mary Boss' garden. On entering their backyard, you're suddenly on the edge of a wetland with a bubbling stream

running down the rocks from the edge of the Koi pond. Fish treats are available to feed the Koi from your fingers. The atmosphere is so relaxing as well fun for kids to explore. The garden is paved with individualized stepping stones created by the grandkids. It's a very personalized garden.

The garden of Monica and George Morin is so peaceful. We wandered from one area to another shaded by mature basswood, birch, conifers and the largest redbud I've ever seen. I asked the same question I asked at the Shannon's - what is that? And how is it spelled? I decided I really want a Rodgersia, as well as other plants I had not seen before. Perhaps because it was so vast (almost an acre of land), it all seemed so natural, so unplanned, although it was immaculate, weed-free.

Keith and Sandy Miller's garden seems to belong to the neighborhood. We could see the pond and fountain from the road as we approached the house but didn't realize it was the centerpiece of the Miller's garden. Paths meander around the pond bordered by 1200 varieties of hosta. Splashes of color from other plants accent the hostas as the paths lead to three neighboring houses. I hope those neighbors help to maintain this beautiful adornment to their community. It seems obvious the design and execution are by one homeowner who is happy to share with his neighbors.

We enjoyed each garden, each with its own highlights. The owners should all be very proud and we thank them for welcoming us to their paradise.

Randi

## Editor's Note

*Mary Maynard*

This issue is later than usual due to the fact that our only July event is on the 26<sup>th</sup>. But don't get used to a later publishing date, because the first August event is on the 5<sup>th</sup>, so I will be asking for contributions earlier than usual.

Thanks again to all of the contributors who make this newsletter possible. You're the best!

## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 06-20-2014

Checking balance	\$14,648
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$ 581
Scholarship	<u>\$7,610</u>
Working Balance	\$ 6,457
CD	\$5,260

## Membership Corner

Welcome to new members **James Empson and Grace Malilay** (more info below).

**Every Member Bring a Member**

## Welcome New Members

*Judy Brooke*

We had two additional members join our club in June. The first was James Empson who became acquainted with the Lyndale park garden committee when his wife encouraged him to step in and help them earlier in the season. He's been a welcome part of the Tuesday morning crew ever since. When I asked him about specific gardening interests he described himself as a "happy planter enjoying all of nature's rich tapestry." He humorously added that he plants an assortment of things then waits to see if the rabbits want them. James lives in South Minneapolis.

Grace Malilay attended our June dinner program as a guest of Kay Wolfe and joined that evening. By becoming a garden club member, Grace hopes to get ideas for her yard. She lives in Minnetonka. Grace's gardening interests include annuals, perennials and shrubs.

We welcome James and Grace. This brings our total membership to 83.

## Arbor Day Plantings

Looks like Rog Sefelt, M.T. Pulley and Don Trocke are doing all the work while Robert Kean takes photographs!





## July Bus Tour to Eagan and Faribault

-- Bob Olson and Denise Rust

The bus will leave from the Eagan Park and Ride (4565 Black Hawk Road) at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 26.

The park and ride is just east of 35E and just north of Cliff Road in Eagan.

### The Gardens

#### Gary Geister



Gary, who is renowned for his night blooming cereus parties, has opened his eclectic garden for a visit. Stunning collections of potted perennials and annuals are strewn about his tranquil patio. Terraced banks of carefully selected cultivars progress to a brick retaining wall – again punctuated with clever and colorful potted annuals. You will get a lot of garden ideas here. And then he has the night blooming cereus...



#### Soni Forsman



Soni, also known as the Queen of Water Plants, has a garden replete with water features, large and small. She writes about, grows, and sells them – in addition to providing priceless insight in how to best cultivate them.

A wide selection of water lilies and other aquatic plants including lotus, parrot's feather and water hyacinth are shown with marvelous effect.

Be warned, she is charismatic – you may be making plans for digging a small pond into your back yard by the time you leave.

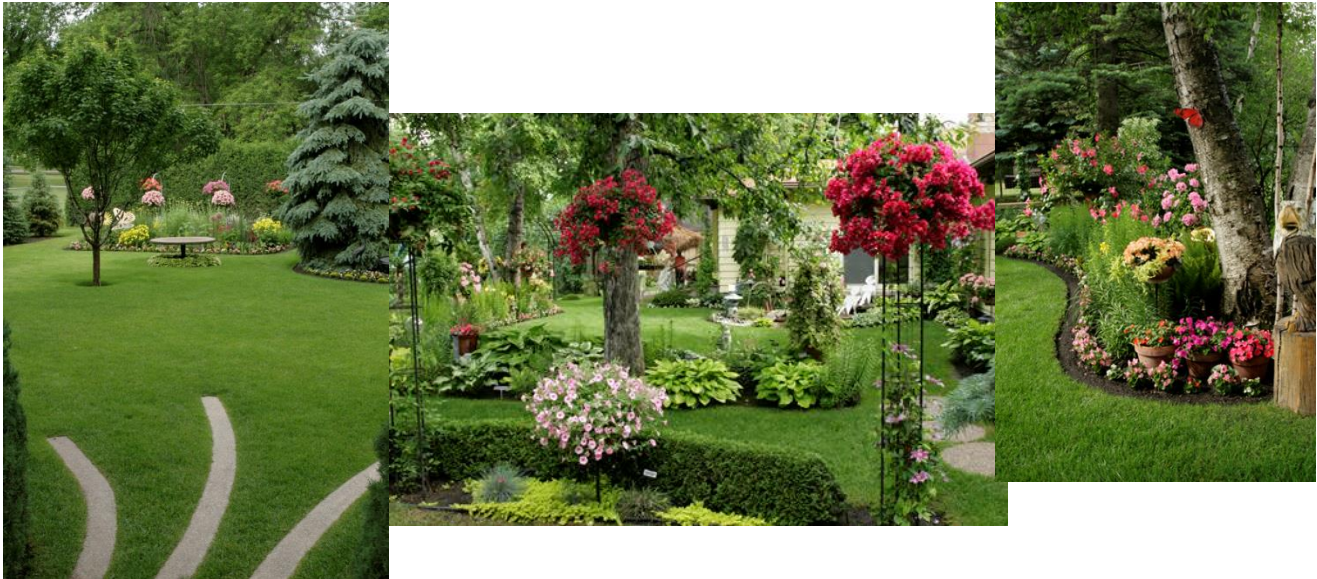


*Photos courtesy of Soni Forsman  
 Continued on next page*

**July 26 Tour** – *Continued*

**Garden of Kak and Roger Koopmans**

The Koopmans garden is like a visit to Versailles, and a fitting place to have a picnic lunch. Immaculately groomed landscape with artful design and flawless execution. Roger and Kak have amassed an incredible collection of prize winning hostas, daylilies and curiosities during fifty years of collecting and they display them with panache. You are in for a treat!



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**Tour Reservation Form**

Return this portion with your check made out to MWGCM, **to be received by  
Tuesday, July 22**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment amount enclosed (\$25/person) \_\_\_\_\_

Return to Denise Rust  
7933 Girard Court N.  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-2070



**2014 FFF Show – August 16 & 17  
at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

*-- Judy Berglund*

We hope that all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to this year's show. The general rules are all on the club website along with all of the entry classes including the floral design classes that we hope many of you will try to do one or two of 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 booklet at our club tour in July.

Our featured flower is the Zinnia, which may be exhibited as 1 bloom for medium and large sizes 2.5 inches and up. For small blooms that are less than 2 inches, exhibit 3 uniform blooms of one variety. Zinnias may also be exhibited as container grown plants. Beans are our featured vegetable, bush or pole, in green, yellow or purple. For exhibit, do not trim the stem or end of the pods. There should be 7 pods uniform in size, color and quality.

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.



*Photo by Chuck Carlson*

*In June, Judy's vegetable garden was under three feet of water. Please consider bringing your vegetables to the show this year! -- Editor*

**Photo Contest Entries due by July 31!**

Don't be modest! It's easy to enter!

Winners will be revealed at the FFF (Flower, Food and Foto) Show on August 16-17

Take a look at the rules at this link at our website:

[http://mwqcm.org/MGCM/Links\\_files/2014%20Photo%20Contest%20Rules.pdf](http://mwqcm.org/MGCM/Links_files/2014%20Photo%20Contest%20Rules.pdf)

## The Perennial Trial Garden—or the Trials of Gardening?

*By Kay Wolfe*

Many of you have heard the news: University of Minnesota Horticultural Professor Neil Anderson announced this spring that he is terminating the Perennial Trial Project. This was no surprise to the Lyndale Park Garden Committee. The University has been sending fewer and fewer trial plants every year. In 2008 we had 30 new varieties to plant; the last two years we've received only 5 varieties per year. Along with the Trial Garden, the Park Garden Committee had also been planting an educational display garden, featuring new and hardy cultivars that homeowners can grow in their own gardens. In that light, we continue to have a "Trail Garden." New varieties of shrubs, small trees, and annuals are planted alongside perennials and ornamental grasses.



*Trial plants in 2008*



*The same area in 2013*

The past two seasons, the park garden committee has planted the land once reserved for trial plants with beautiful well designed gardens. The new gardens are much more attractive than the rows of trial plants, and the gardens are getting much more attention. We have created areas or bays along the border, outlined with shrubbery. In these areas we can feature annuals one year, the latest perennials, or ornamental and edible vegetables another year. The Park Board's sign on the boulevard reads "Trial Garden." I don't know if they will change the name of the garden, but even without the U of M's perennial trial project, we continue to have a significant display of the latest varieties. And we are "trying" some experiments of our own!

Here is one of our latest creations. Member Tim Rosener offered to design a new bed where trial plants used to grow. Tim got annuals in two contrasting colors from Paul Aarestad at Lakewood—a nice donation. Tim also borrowed the letter "frames" that are used to spell out "Lakewood" on the hill by Lake Calhoun. And now we have the MWGCM letters growing in our own garden! Much thanks to Tim for his creative idea and hard work planting all these small annuals.



*Photos courtesy of Kay Wolfe*

## Looking Back to Memorial Day

*By 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.

2013

In memory of:

Marilyn Erwin-Maynard (feline)

Jack Kolb

Dave Johnson

Jerry Olson

2014 (so far.....)

Charlotte E. Pulley

Russ Smith

Memorial plantings are to be “permanent plantings” of shrubs and trees. In 2013 a shade grouping of three shrubs were planted: Viburnum ‘Mohican’; ‘Nova’ yew; and a pyramidal boxwood. In front of these were planted three globe arborvitae, a Chamaecyparis ‘Blue Mountain’, and a ‘Fire Chief’ arborvitae. In front of the shrubs colorful annuals finished the display. Here is a photo from August 17, 2013. Thank you to everyone for your donations that make this beautiful garden possible.

If you are interested in this project contact Kay Wolfe at [mngcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mngcmgarden@q.com).

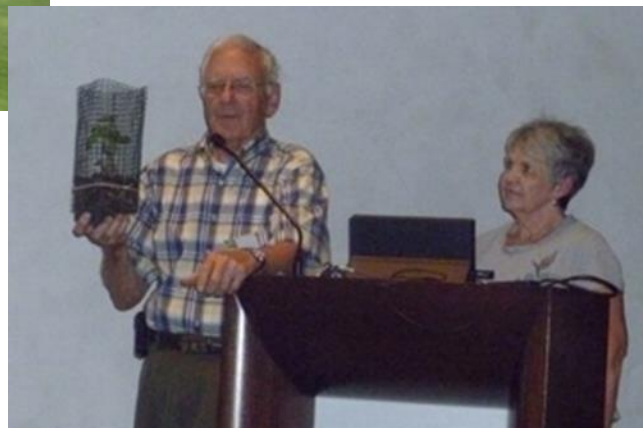


*Photo courtesy of Kay Wolfe*



## Photos from the June Meeting

By Lloyd Wittstock



*Clockwise from top left: The view from the terrace that members enjoyed during dinner. Jerry Shannon gives us information about the hardy redbud that Carole Ann Brekke grew from seed and donated to the club to be auctioned. Andy Marlow and Robert Kean discuss the June public tour. And MWGCM Member and June speaker Tim Malooly holds up a modern sprinkler head.*



**Photos from June 28 Public Tour**  
*By Sandra Abraham, Robert Kean and Denise Rust*



## Calendar of Events for Rest of 2014

**July 26**

Member bus tour

**July 31**

Photo contest submission deadline.

**August 5**

Club Garden Tour

**August 16-17**

Flower, Food and Foto Show  
U of M Landscape Arboretum

**September 9**

“Know Your Soil”

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: Sandra Abraham, Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Mary Maynard, Bob Olson, Denise Rust, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Sandra Abraham, Chuck Carlson, Soni Forsman, Robert Kean, Bob Olson, Denise Rust, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe

### Check out Bob's Blog!

Bob's garden is so popular that he has to get it ready for more tours than most of us do. But there are advantages to that. To learn more, 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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**Club Officers:**

**President: Randi Larson**  
Minnetonka

**Vice President: Tom McKusick**  
Minneapolis

**Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin**  
Golden Valley

**Membership Secretary: Judy Brooke**  
Minnetonka

**Treasurer: Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd**  
Minneapolis

Falcon Heights

**Past President: Sandra Abraham**  
Eagan

**Directors:**

**Raymond Bauch**

Plymouth

**Alan Gallaher**

Edina

**(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.

Mary Maynard, Editor

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**First Class Mail**

*July*  
**2014**