

MEN'S & WOMEN'S



GARDEN CLUB

OF MINNEAPOLIS

July 2018

The Garden Spray

Vol. 76, No. 7

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President

From the Editors

2018 Tour Announced

2018 FFF Show

Photo Show Reminder

Lyndale Park Garden/Native & Shade Gardens

Membership Corner

Treasurer's Snapshot

Meeting & Event Calendar

2018 Officers & Directors

From the President

Mary Barsness

I hope everyone is having a successful gardening season. I've had some back issues that have prevented me from doing much gardening. Hence, I am having much success growing weeds.

The flowers for the month of July are the larkspur and water lily.



Larkspur (*Delphinium consolida*) belongs to the buttercup family, *Ranunculaceae*. *Delphinium* is a genus of about 250 species of annual, biennial or perennial flowering plants. The common name, shared with the closely related genus *Consolida*, is larkspur. Larkspur flowers are irregularly shaped and bloom in a loose, vertical grouping along the upper end of the plant's main stalk. The complex flower consists of both petals and sepals. Flowers come in a variety of colors including spikes of red, pink, violet and white.

As a result of their similar floral structure, as well as the absence of genetic barriers to intercrossing, species of Larkspur are known to hybridize in many different combinations.

Traditionally, each color variation of the Larkspur has a different meaning:

- Pink means fickleness.
- White conveys a happy nature.
- Purple represents a first love.

Facts about Larkspur:

- Their tall spikes make excellent cut flowers, especially *Consolida ambigua* and *Consolida orientalis*.
- Flowers tend to be fragile and relatively short lived in the vase (under seven days).
- Larkspur grow to their full potential in climates with cool, moist summers.
- The Larkspur plant is toxic. The stem and seeds contain alkaloids.
- Stake tall varieties of Larkspur to prevent hollow flower stalks from snapping in the wind, and deadhead after flowering to encourage rebloom.
- After the first killing frost, cut the Larkspur's stems back to an inch or two above soil line.
- Divide plants every three to four years as new growth begins in the spring, lifting plants and dividing them into clusters.

The other July flower is the **water lily**. Sometimes called "Queen of the Water," they symbolize life, love and enlightenment.



Nymphaeaceae is a family of flowering plants, commonly called water lilies. They live as rhizomatous aquatic herbs in temperate and tropical climates worldwide. The family contains five genera with about 70 known species. Water lilies are rooted in soil in bodies of water, with leaves and flowers floating on or emerging from the surface.

Water lilies are often used in ponds to deter the growth of algae and to shade and cool the water for resident fish and frogs.

The white water lily is the national flower of Bangladesh and state flower for Andhra Pradesh, India. The seal of Bangladesh contains a lily floating on water. The blue water lily is the national flower of Sri Lanka.

Fun and interesting fact: The water lily seed can survive and be planted for up to 2000 years.

From the Editors

Nancy Felice, Tom McKusick, Co-editors

Mentors and members of the Marketing and Membership Committees were on hand at Sunnyside Gardens June 9, sharing their wisdom in between rain showers. Fortunately there was shelter.

M.T. Pulley demonstrated how he has perfected the art of composting.

Kirky Otto showed the benefits of natives with their long roots.



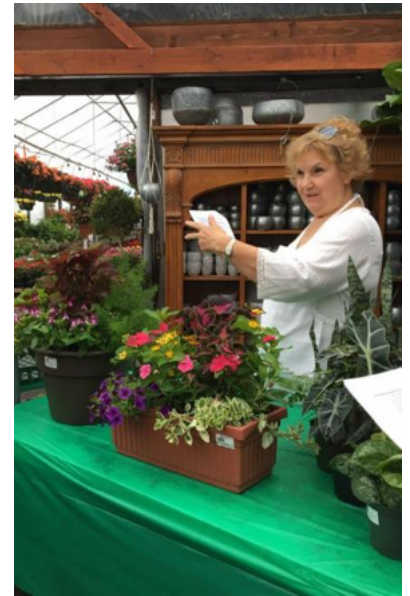


Bette Fenton revealed some of her secrets for spectacular containers.

Larry Larson shared his expertise on dahlias; Bob Olsen offered tips on hostas; and Judy Berglund showed us how to grow maximum veggies in minimum space.

I may be prejudiced, but I thought it was a very impressive presentation.

-- Nancy Felice



Tour Committee

Robert Kean, Chair

MEMBERS' PROGRESSIVE GARDEN GATHERING, TUESDAY JULY 24

RESERVATIONS DUE BY MONDAY, JULY 23

[Download a printable reservation form.](#)

During the height of gardening season, we enjoy gathering with fellow MWGCM members to admire the fruits their labors. We continue this tradition with the schedule as follows:

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Appetizers and beverages

Dave McKeen's, 2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park

7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Dessert and beverages

Carol Schreier's, 4949 Thomas Ave. S., Minneapolis



Cost is \$5 per attendee.

Please send your [reservations](#) to arrive by Monday, July 23 and a check payable to "MWGCM" to:

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

Questions? Email [Denise Rust](#) or call (763) 221-1466.

If you are willing to bring an appetizer, dessert, or a beverage to share, please let us know so we have plenty!

-- *Denise Rust*

REMINDER: THE 2018 MEMBER GARDEN TOUR IS THIS SATURDAY, JULY 7

The tour will visit three beautiful gardens, plus the Tangletown Garden Farm, via an air-conditioned motorcoach. Box lunch is included.

Tour is 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with the motorcoach leaving promptly at 9:00 a.m. from the parking lot of the 7-Hi Shopping Center (NW corner of MN Highway 7 and County Road 101 in Minnetonka). The bus will be located at the north end of the parking lot, just north of SuperTarget near Caribou Coffee.

Gardens on Tour:

- **Ross and Lori Ruschmeyer in Victoria.** Features a meticulously maintained, terraced backyard.
- **Tangletown's Garden Farm in Plato.** Sustainable agriculture to support their Tangletown Nursery and their restaurant, The Wise Acre Eatery.
- **Julie Carley and Gary Mosiman in Minnetonka.** Nationally recognized hosta garden.
- **Steve and Laura Hanson in Minnetonka.** Chairpersons of the Arboretum Plant Sale, their property is filled with annuals, perennials and unusual trees.

SCHEDULE FOR THE 2018 FLOWER, FOOD AND FOTO SHOW

Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Saturday, August 18

7:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Entries accepted

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Judging

12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open to the public

Sunday, August 19

10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Open to the public

[Find complete rules, entry classes, and sample entry tags on the MWGCM website.](#)



Calling all members and their friends. The time will soon be here to gather all of those award-winning flowers and vegetables to exhibit at our annual FFF Show. We hope all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers, vegetables and floral designs to the show. If you have not exhibited at the show before, experienced exhibitors will be on hand to help you.

Our featured flower is **annual sunflower**, which may be exhibited as small, under 3", three uniform stems. Medium blooms, 3" to 6" and large blooms, those over 6", exhibited as one stem.

Onions are this year's featured vegetable, which may be exhibited as three uniform specimens mature and thoroughly cured. The neck should be small. Do not peel to give a slick appearance. Only outer scales that are broken or discolored should be removed. Small basal roots should be left intact but trimmed to a uniform ½". Wipe or brush but do not wash. Trim dried, twisted, tops to a uniform length of 1-2 ". Do not damage dry skins.

Remember to bring your "Wonders of the Universe" floral designs, too. We hope to see you there.

If you have questions, please give Judy Berglund a call at (952) 975-1960.

LAST CALL FOR PHOTO CONTEST. ENTRIES DUE TUESDAY, JULY 31

[Find complete photo contest rules on the MWGCM website.](#)

What a beautiful time of the year for photography! Plus, if you go on the July 7 tour, or -- better yet -- the July 24 tour, which is in the evening (the best time to take photos), you can get some great shots for Class 8 (Men's & Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis Activities) or Class 9 (Scenes of MGWCM Gardens).

Remember, this is a two-part contest:

For the **People's Choice Contest**, you can enter up to two **prints** (no larger than 5x7") that will be displayed at the Flower, Food and Foto Show, where show attendees will vote for their favorites. You must be an MWGCM member to enter the People's Choice contest.

For the **Juried Contest**, you can enter up to 20 photos in digital (.jpg) form. There are 12 different classes in this contest, and you may enter up to 3 photos in any one class. The Juried Contest is open to everyone.

Have fun with your camera!

-- *Mary Maynard*

Lyndale Garden/Native & Shade Garden

Kirky Otto, Carol Schreier, Co-chairs

June was a busy month in the garden.



Bee Hotel: Next time you stroll past the native garden in Lyndale Park, take a close look at the Bee Hotel. Installed a couple years ago by an Eagle Scout, it finally has guests. Look for hollow stems

that are closed at the front with a mud plug. There are Mason bee larvae in them!



Caterpillar: This fat Monarch caterpillar was very close to attaching a thread to a plant stem and beginning to spin a pupa. They hatch out of their eggs as tiny

instars, eat their way through five stages in a matter of weeks, form the pupa around them and turn into butterflies, then crack out of the pupa and rest while their wings dry and harden. Fabulous!



Chelsea Chop: Kirky Otto and new native garden volunteer JoEllen Haugo demonstrated the "Chelsea Chop" method of helping tall plants stand erect, rather than flopping. Several plants at the front of the group are cut quite low around the time of the Chelsea Flower Show in England, and the ones behind them are trimmed to a higher level. The theory is that the tallest ones in the back that have not been trimmed will bloom first, and the middle ones second, after the first have bloomed out. The shortest ones should bloom last, covering the stems of the spent plants and at the same time holding them up. We'll see how it works this summer!



-- Kirky Otto

Photos by Kathy Lenarz

Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

Kathy Douglas, Mary Matthews, and Marsha Theis (wife of member Paul Theis) joined in June bringing our total membership to approximately 130! We'll introduce you to them in future issues the *Garden Spray*.

These new members joined at the Plant Sale:

WELCOME KATHY BYRN

Kathy lives in the Lowry Hill neighborhood near Lake of the Isles. Her lot was once the site of horse stables owned by the adjacent mansion. The stables burned down years ago and were later replaced with a side-by-side duplex, now a two-family condo where Kathy and her family have lived for 12 years.



*Welcoming new members
at the June meeting.*

With the loss of a large tree, her lot has gone from mostly shade to mainly sun. In addition to lilies and peonies, Kathy likes to try unusual plants. That attracted her to our plant sale and then to joining the club.

Kathy also enjoys cooking and grows herbs for her kitchen. She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and learned to garden from her mother who was also an artist. Kathy works at the University of Minnesota in elementary education.

-- Judy Brooke

WELCOME CHERYL BATES

Cheryl noticed our plant sale signs in her Southwest Minneapolis neighborhood and joined at the sale.

She enjoys "muddling around" in her garden, and considers it great exercise for her aging fingers. She has gardened at her current home for a number of years, and was notable on her block for having the first magnolia tree in the neighborhood, which sadly, she lost a couple of years ago. She enjoys growing natives, and is delighted when spring, ephemerals like hepatica pop up to surprise her when she forgot they were there. She is establishing more perennials in her yard, too.

Cheryl learned about gardening with her grandmothers, when she grew up in New Prague, and now is helping her four-year-old grandson appreciate the joy of mud and growing things. They are signed up for the Pea Pods for Preschoolers program at the Arboretum this summer.

-- Kathy Lenarz

Please join in welcoming all our new members! Look for the green name tags.

Every member bring a member.

Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

AS OF JUNE 26, 2018

Checking Balance	\$ 37,773
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 1,551
Scholarship	\$ 4,413
Deane Fund at RCU	\$ 62,223
Working Balance	\$ 31,809
Petty Cash	\$ 100
MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank	\$ 5,396

Meeting & Event Calendar

July 7

2018 Member Garden Tour

July 24

Members' Progressive
Garden Gathering

August 18 & 19

Flower, Food & Foto Show
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

October 9

Fiona Lennox: Native Plants
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

November 13

Mary Meyer: Minnesota Landscape
Arboretum Grasses
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

December 11

Holiday Party

September 11

Barbara Ronningen: Overwintering

Ornamental Plants

Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

2018 Officers & Directors

Club Officers

President

Mary Barsness
Prior Lake

Vice President

Anne Spenningsby
Minneapolis

Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz
Richfield

Recording Secretary

Laurie Levin
Golden Valley

Treasurer

Alan Gallaher
Edina

Past President

Sandra Abraham
Eagan

Directors

John Cooke
St. Louis Park

Dave McKeen
St. Louis Park

Linda Thompson
Minneapolis

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.

