

MEN'S & WOMEN'S



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# GARDEN CLUB

## OF MINNEAPOLIS

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August 2019

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## From the Editors

Nancy Felice, Tom McKusick, Co-chairs

### WHEN THEY SAID RAIN OR SHINE, THEY WEREN'T KIDDING



Another great public tour is in the books and on the iPhones. Judging from the turnout, a little rain--OK, a lot of rain--couldn't dampen our spirits.

Waiting on the bus watching the torrential rain and lightning, I overheard another rider ask our intrepid tour shepherd Denise Rust "What are we going to do?" Denise responded "We'll make the best of it. We're gardeners!" Well said.

### FUTURE GARDENER NEWS

Club member Andrew Gawboy and his wife Michelle welcomed Beatrice Edelia Gawboy into the world on August 1--at 4:56 a.m. to be precise--weighing 7 lbs. 7 oz. Those of us who volunteer at the Lyndale Park Gardens have enjoyed working with Andrew. He is now in charge of the Rose Garden and we suspect, diaper duty.



### GOT POTS?



This is a familiar sight in many of our gardens after a season of planting. Gary Geister will gladly take square plastic pots off your hands to use for next year's Plant Sale. Just bring them to the September meeting.

-- Nancy Felice

# Flower, Food & Foto Show

Judy Berglund, Chair

## 2019 FFF SHOW, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 10 & 11 MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM

### Saturday, August 10

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 11

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



Calling all members and friends, the time is coming to gather all of those award-winning flowers and vegetables to exhibit at our Flower, Food and Foto Show. We hope all club members will consider entering a few of their favorite flowers, vegetables and floral designs.

If you have not exhibited at the show before, never fear - experienced exhibitors will be on hand to help you. On the club website ["Links"](#) page you'll find the show schedule with rules, entry classes and an example of how to fill out an entry tag. If you want to receive a printed copy of the show schedule, contact Judy Berglund at (952) 975-1960.

Our featured flower is zinnia, which may be exhibited as 3 uniform blooms of one variety for small blooms that are less than 2 inches or as 1 bloom for medium and large sizes 2.5 inches and up. Zinnias may also be exhibited as container-grown plants. Beets are this year's featured vegetable. Exhibited as 3 uniform beets with tap root trimmed to 2 inches and tops trimmed to 1/12 - 2 inches with all side roots removed.

Also, please to bring your "Song Titles We Love" floral designs.

We hope to see you there.

## Lyndale Park Gardens/Mixed Border Garden

Kay Wolfe, Chair

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MGCM/MWGCM AT LYNDALE PARK GARDENS

By Steve Shubick and Kay Wolfe

The club was chartered as the Men's Garden Club (MWGCM) of Minneapolis by the Men's Garden Clubs of America in October 1942, and changed to our current name, the Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis (MWGCM) in November 2012.

The first meeting of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis was held in the Lyndale Park in 1942, under the large cottonwood tree across the street from the current Mixed Border Garden.



For the tenth anniversary of the MGCM in 1952, 200 crabapple trees were planted by the club in Lyndale Park. Four Minneapolis Park Recreation Board commissioners, who were also MGCM members, directed the planting.

In 1954, the Arbor Day Committee planted 85 trees in Roberts Bird Sanctuary including 10 buckthorn!

In May 1982, the Arbor Day Committee donated and planted replacements for the trees lost to a storm. The MGCM won an award from the National Arbor Day Foundation for replacement and planting of those trees.



From 1996 to 2013, the MGCM/MWGCM, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota had an agreement to have a Perennial Trial Garden in Lyndale Park. The original length was 500 feet long until 2001, when it was reduced to 280 feet long. In 2013, the university discontinued the Perennial Trial Garden Project.

[Read the complete article here.](#)

## Lyndale Park Gardens/Native & Shade Gardens

Carol Schreier, Judy Berglund, Co-chairs

Between the raindrops, heat and humidity, our committee members have been very busy--weeding, mulching, planting, weeding, pruning, weeding and moving plants. The gardens look beautiful. Our westward expansion continues with a new rain garden spearheaded by committee member JoEllen

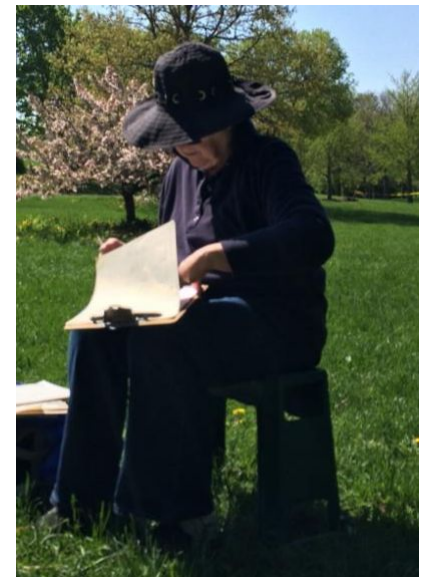


Haugo. Our Park Board liaison, Jacob Deaver and his crew have dug out the space, and we all are learning about moisture absorption and berms; plants come next! Come and see for yourself on August 21 during "An Evening in the Gardens."

A garden group from Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Edina approached us at a Wednesday work session and asked if they might come for a guided tour. We said "of course," and Kirky Otto and I led the tour on Tuesday, July 16. We also included a tour of the mixed border and winter interest gardens ably led by Steve Shubick and Andrew Gawboy. The group enjoyed the tour, and it is very gratifying to share our gardening knowledge.

As noted above, we are inviting all club members to spend "An Evening in the Gardens" with us Wednesday, August 21. The mixed border garden is a beautifully designed formal garden that Kay Wolfe and her committee have lovingly tended for many years. The native and shade gardens have been in existence for only five years. You will be pleasantly surprised to see what can be achieved in that short time.

You may have noticed that the chairmanship of this committee has changed. Kirky Otto, a co-founder of these two gardens has passed co-leadership to Judy Berglund. We welcome Judy's experience, ability to get things done and warm presence in the group. Kirky is now happily digging in the dirt with other committee members. Kudos to Kirky! In five years, these two gardens have emerged from thick, weedy overgrowth into two beautiful gardens. This could not have happened without you, Kirky. Thank you for all you have contributed.



*Co-chair Kirky*

See you August 21.

*-- Carol Schreier*

**To those attending "An Evening in the Gardens"**  
**Wednesday August 21 6 to 8 p.m.**  
**Lyndale Park Gardens at Lake Harriet**

### **Free Parking Pass**

If you have sent an RSVP, you will receive a parking pass via email. This allows you to park free in one of the park's pay lots during the event. Just print the pass and display it on your dashboard. Thanks to Kay Wolfe and Sherry Brooks of the Park Board for making this happen.

## **B.Y.O. Chair**

Please bring your own chair if you would like to sit while you enjoy the gardens.



## **Marketing & Publicity Committee**

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

### **SUMMARY OF THE 2019 MWGCM MEMBERSHIP SURVEY**

This month, we will offer members a brief summary of the 2019 MWGCM Membership Survey results. Survey details will be provided to the current MWGCM Board Members and Committee Chairs at a meeting to be held on August 13. Thank you to all that provided input to the survey. It was important to offer a way to solicit feedback from the current members since it has been over eight years since the last membership survey. Any questions pertaining to the survey results may be directed to [Becky DeLaCruz](mailto:Becky_DeLaCruz@mwgcm.org) (727) 644-0176.



#### **Demographics**

64 people took the survey with an 83% completion rate. Of those 64 people, 68% were female and 32% male. 81% are 65 years old or older. 70% are retired. 76% live in Minneapolis or the west metro suburbs.

31% have been a club member 3 years or less; 27% 4 - 6 years; 13% 7 - 10 years; 5% 11 - 15 years; 11% 16 - 25 years and 13% more than 25 years.

#### **Membership**

The suggestions provided on how the MWGCM can better serve its members were widely varied. Details will be provided to the Membership and Program Committees, however some suggestions included: offer plant swapping/sharing, have member "experts" take questions from audience, help in garden design/management, provide a "mentor" to all new members, more hands-on info, provide the club's history online,

hold specific workshops on weekends or at the Arboretum, disease/weather protection, monthly presenters should not "promote" their businesses, etc.

37% of those surveyed would like to see the Club grow; 48% are neutral on Club growth. 68% feel current members should invite folks to join and 59% feel we should increase our advertising to increase membership. 42% feel our Club would become too large with more than 200 members.

[Read the complete summary here.](#)

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## Deane Fund Grants Update

### MINNEAPOLIS VETERANS' DAY CENTER COURTYARD REJUVENATION

Last fall ten club members weeded, raked and removed dead shrubs to prepare for the new plantings. Club members donated a total of 78 hours in 2018.



Nine club members so far this month have met twice to finish the remaining prep and to start phase one of the planting. They have planted sixteen purchased plants and hostas donated by two club members.



We are current on hold until the underground utilities around the building and around two high voltage transformers are located and marked. Club members have donated a total of 49 hours so far in 2019.

-- *Steve Shubick*



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### LAKE HARRIET APA'HALAKA

Though the salvia is on the wane, gorgeous yellow goldfinches are darting in and around them. The monarda and coneflowers are blooming now, offering a nice contrast to the arctic willow and ninebark. The

mid-July rainstorm wreaked havoc with the wood chip path and mulch, yet hard work by James restored things in excellent fashion. And lest you think only plantings will be growing here, the caged area between the two sporobolus in the photograph is a buried nursery of turtle eggs that a mama found to her liking. Stay tuned.



-- *Paul Waytz*

## Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

Another new member, **Michael Meeks**, discovered the Native/Shade Garden Committee working at the park and wanted in on the fun. We will introduce him more fully in a coming issue. We now have 132 members.

### **WELCOME DENIS BAKKE**

Although Denis spent most of his career guiding people in investing and wealth management, he has deep roots in horticulture. As a 13-year-old he worked at Rose Hill Nursery for 35 cents per hour. After spending time in the Air Force, his wife advised him to use the GI bill to further his education, and Denis earned his bachelor's degree in Forestry/Building Products Management at the University of Minnesota. He happened to be taking a class taught by Leon Snyder when Professor Snyder invited the class to tour some property that the Horticulture Department was looking at. That's how Denis first became involved with the Arboretum.

In recent years, he has taken more than 16 trips to various parts of the globe with Peter Olin, who invited Denis to come to our April meeting and to join MWGCM.

Denis still lives in the home he and his late wife built on a 1-1/2-acre lot in Lake Elmo, in 1960. He says that while he enjoys nature and appreciates horticulture, he's given up on gardening after the deer treated his hostas like Caesar salad too many times.

Denis has two daughters and five grandchildren. They are a close family and enjoy Sunday dinners together.

### **WELCOME ELLEN WRIGHT**

Ellen first became aware of the MWGCM from our spring plant sale. Growing up, gardening was part of the family, and there were always lots of vegetables. Her



grandmother had a huge garden and even sold vegetables.

Ellen attended Iowa State University where she met her husband Bob. They moved to Oregon, where they both worked in the software industry. After raising their two sons in Ashland, Oregon, they moved to Minnesota last fall to be close to one of their sons, daughter-in-law and grandchild.

Although Ellen was a master gardener in Oregon, she feels she has lots to learn about gardening in our Minnesota climate. Their new yard has some trees, perennials, and lilacs, but Ellen says there is entirely too much lawn. She is looking forward to adding lots of pollinator-friendly perennials, cutting flowers and edibles. The home also happens to be just a couple of blocks from the Lyndale Park Gardens. Ellen has already gotten her hands dirty in the Mixed Border Garden and is now a member of our committee.

Welcome to all our new members.

*Every member bring a member.*

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## In Memoriam

### JOHN SIMS



John Sims, MWGCM member from 2002 through 2016, passed away on July 25. John was a member of the Scholarship Committee from 2003 through 2016. Ada Hegion, also a member of the club, and John were life partners. John has two children, Harriet Sims and John Sims Jr, and several grandchildren.

Tuesday, August 6

Reviewal 5 to 8 p.m.

Washburn McCreavy Nokomis Park Chapel

1838 E. Minnehaha Parkway

Minneapolis, MN 55407

Wednesday, August 7  
Funeral Service 10 a.m.  
St. George's Episcopal Church  
5224 Minnetonka Blvd.  
St Louis Park, MN 55416

## Remembrances

As another scholarship committee member, I would like to add my regrets at the passing of John Sims. He was a kind man.

-- *Kent Petterson*

The passing of John Sims truly saddens me. John served on the Scholarship Committee for our garden club for fourteen years. His comments on our committee's deliberations were always well reasoned and thoughtful. John and I sometimes carpooled to the committee meetings as he became less confident to drive at night. John and I, along with his son, sat together at Ada's memorial and had a nice visit afterwards. He will be missed.

Fare thee well Mr. Sims. Thank you for your contributions to our garden club and may you rest in a beautiful, peaceful garden.

-- *M.T. Pulley*

John was a delight to know. And so kind and faithful to dear Ada.

-- *Lynda Carlson*

## Board Meeting Highlights

Sue Clarke, Recording Secretary

July 2, 2019

The Membership Survey results should be available by the first week of August. A meeting will be scheduled to review results with the board and committee chairs.

The Deanne Fund grant application process was discussed. The committee to review grant applications and approve grants consists of the directors of the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Clark, Recording Secretary

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## Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Bill Clark, Co-treasurers

### Bank statement information:

Beginning balance on June 3, 2019	\$ 65,625.92
Deposits June 2019	
	\$ 658.00
Card withdrawal	
	\$ 37.00
Checks paid	
	\$ 3,067.68
Ending balance June 30, 2019	\$ 63,179.24

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## 2019 Meeting & Event Calendar

### **August 10 & 11**

Flower, Food & Foto Show  
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

### **August 21**

An Evening in the Gardens  
Lyndale Park Gardens  
(Lake Harriet)

### **September 10**

Lillies  
Forrest Peiper  
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

### **October 8**

Program TBA  
Lakewood Cemetery Mausoleum

### **November 12**

The Most Toxic Plants & Fungi of  
Minnesota  
Laurie Willhite  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

### **December 10**

Annual Holiday Party & Silent Auction

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# 2019 Officers & Directors

## Club Officers

### President

Anne Spenningsby  
Minneapolis

### Vice President

Linda Wilkins  
Richfield

### Membership Secretary

Kathy Lenarz  
Richfield

### Recording Secretary

Sue Clark  
Minnetonka

### Co-treasurers

Alan Gallaher  
Edina

Bill Clark

Minnetonka

### Past President

Mary Barsness  
Prior Lake

## Directors

John Cooke  
St. Louis Park

Suzanne Holt  
Minneapolis

Linda Thompson  
Minneapolis

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