

# The Garden Spray

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

2013, Volume 71, Number 9  
September

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Sept. 7	Lyndale Park	Open Garden
Sept. 10	LHC	Tomato, Pepper Fest
Sept. 21	Lyndale Park	Open Garden
Oct. 8	LHC	Cactus & Succulents
Nov. 12	LHC	Fall & Winter Color
Dec. 10		Holiday Party

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S.,  
Mpls. (Lower level)

Lyndale Park is located on the north side of Lake  
Harriet. Our garden is just north of the Peace  
Garden.

### **Note: Permanent reservations are in effect.** Dinner is \$12.

Reservations or cancellations are  
required by Friday, Sept. 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.

### Dinner Menu for September 10

Hay and straw pasta with sausage  
Antipasto platter  
Garden fresh salad  
Bread sticks Carrot cake

## Tomato and Pepper Fest! Tuesday, Sept. 10



We are bringing back a blast from the past for our September 10 program, a tomato and pepper tasting extravaganza. All club members who are tomato and/or pepper lovers are asked to bring their favorite ripe tomato and/or pepper varieties to this event. We will have a taste testing prior to dinner, beginning at 6 p.m., with everyone rating each tomato or pepper they try.

Please remember, you must know the variety of the tomato or pepper you bring and if the pepper is spicy or not. Cheese and crackers will be available. Heirloom tomatoes are especially desired.

If you are bringing tomatoes or peppers to this event, please notify Randi Larson (952-949-9668; [daddu777@msn.com](mailto:daddu777@msn.com)) with the names and varieties of each vegetable and how many you're bringing so a tote board can be made up. Recipes for salsa or other tomato or pepper dishes are very welcome. The more veggies, the more fun for all!

For this event, the dinner will be pushed back to 6:40 p.m.

To add to the fun music will be provided by our own Rusty Debris (aka M.T. Pulley) joined by Mark Briere, mandolin virtuoso, from Switched at Birth Stringband and John Wallace. The scores of the tomato and pepper tasting will be announced after the music!



*Photos courtesy of Park Seed.*

### Schedule for Sept. 10

6:00 p.m. Taste tests begin  
6:40 p.m. Dinner  
~7:15 Business meeting if needed  
~7:30 Music and contest results



## Notes from the Prez:

-- Sandra Abraham

### September Is “Back to School Time

No matter what our ages the memory of going back to school in the fall triggers many things. It is time to get new tablets, pencils and pens, shoes and school clothes. We must begin a new routine and get reorganized. It is time to reset the button, so to speak.

It is often the most beautiful time of the year, these dog days of summer. The temps are warm but not too hot, the leaves are beginning to show signs of turning color, the harvest from the garden is still plentiful, and we return to our monthly meeting schedule at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church.

We had a lovely garden tour season and our FFF show was a huge success. Attendance at all of our summer events was impressive and a good time was had by all. We owe a big thank you to all of the members who volunteered their talents and time towards making both the tours and the FFF show the successes they were.

We have a great lineup of educational speakers confirmed for the end of our year so there is a lot to look forward to as we carry on. The Bylaws Committee has finished their work and we will be reviewing the proposals in the next few months with the goal of endorsing them at our annual business meeting in November.

It is also time to reconsider participation on our club’s activity and service committees. Are you going to continue on the committees you are on or perhaps change things up and join another committee for the coming year?

If you haven’t visited the Lyndale Park Garden or the Arboretum this summer, there is still time to see the colorful gardens in all their glory. Our members who participate on the Park Garden Committee are to be commended on a job well done.

The board is looking at some interesting options for next season with regards to meeting sites and activities so stay tuned for further information in upcoming newsletters and meetings.

The tour committee is still soliciting nominations for possible gardens that could be featured on a public tour for next summer.

Please send them in soon so that we may visit them before the summer is over.

Even as the days of summer get shorter there is still time to get out and smell the roses. The Japanese beetles are leaving us and the rose blossoms are back on my bushes again. What a pleasure to see them flourishing again! The same cannot be said for the hail damaged hosta and hydrangeas, though. I am sorry to say their time has passed for this year. I think I’ll take “Blogger Bob’s” advice and go out and buy some potted plants to spruce up the final days of this gardening season.

See you at the “Tomato and Pepper Festival” on September 10!

## From the Editor

-- Mary Maynard

Wasn’t August a wonderful month for club activities? The weather was perfect for our bus tour and for the two days at the Arboretum for the FFF Show. Both the tour and the show were outstanding, and we have the photos to show for it! The hardest part about being the editor of this newsletter is choosing among the many excellent photos that you submit each month.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. I appreciate it more than I can ever say.



## Treasurer's Snapshot

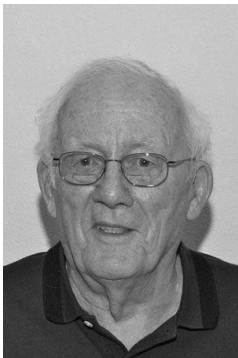
As of 8-19-2013

Checking balance	\$19,054.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,307.52
Scholarship	<u>\$5,155.28</u>
Working Balance	\$12,591.20
CD	\$5,210.22

## Membership Corner

A warm welcome to Pamela Cuff, who joined us at the Tangletown Tour. We look forward to seeing you at a club event soon, Pamela!

## Farewell to Dave Johnson (G.V.)



We were so very sorry to learn that distinguished member Dave Johnson (of Golden Valley) passed away on August 7 at the age of 89. Dave joined the club in 1965, and his gardens were legendary. He was one of the very few members who won the Lehman trophy for Best Garden on Tour more than once. Dave was an Honorary Member; served as president of the club in 1971; and was awarded the Bronze Medal (now known as the Bachman Award) for outstanding service to the club in 1975. He also won both the Foley and Blackbourn trophies for vegetable and flower sweepstakes at our FFF Show; and he won the President's cup in 1992. The only trophy that doesn't have his name on it is the Smith Trophy for best first-time exhibitor at the FFF Show – and that's because the trophy didn't exist until 1986. He was an active and involved member until almost the very end. Dave is survived by Delores, his wife of 21 years and fellow member of MWGCM. Our sincere sympathy goes out to Delores and the rest of Dave's family. We will miss you, Dave.

--Photo by MWGCM photo directory project

## Marketing and Publicity News

*Judy Brooke, Marketing and Publicity Committee Chair*

Volunteers who staffed a club table at the Tangletown Art & Garden Tour at the end of July were Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Lynda Carlson, Judy Berglund, Tami Hagen and Judy Brooke. One new member was recruited. Several club brochures and bookmarks were handed out. Also, several people signed up to receive the club's newsletter for September, October and November.

After months of reviewing and revising the logo ideas, the Marketing & Publicity Committee will be recommending its selection to the Board at the Board's September 3 meeting. Stay tuned.



## AND THE WINNERS ARE... Photo Contest Recap

-- Lloyd Wittstock and Chuck Carlson

The 2013 Photo Contest is over, and many were winners. One hundred sixty-eight images were received by Chuck Carlson, and they were delivered to the judges, Andy Marlow and Phyllis Stromberg, by way of the Dropbox software service.

Photos were captured at members' gardens, from a farmers' market, during trips to public gardens and at the Minnesota State Fair. The coverage was broad, and the talent well-distributed – ten entrants received recognition, eight people each had one or more blue ribbons awarded, and three different people received reserved champion. The only negative was that only seven members entered photos. The results can be seen today at the club website by clicking on "Photo Show Winners" on the top banner.



Fifty-nine photos from this year are featured, which was the total of winning entries at first, second or third levels in the various categories. There you will see the best in show, "Tulip Yellow" by David McKeen, who also had a reserved champion, the stunning image of a bicolor rose. And you can view Janelle Erickson's "Echinacea with Bug" and Jill Swenson's "Snowy Valley."



The jury is still out, or at least the verdict has not been announced, for the People's Choice, the section of the contest decided by the 234 ballots cast at the Flower, Food and Foto show for chances to win gift cards of \$25, \$15 and \$10 value. Chuck constructed that photo board from prints sent in by members only, and there were some nice photos. Look for answers at the September meeting.

*Photos by Dave McKeen, Janelle Erickson and Jill Swenson*



## FFF Flower and Vegetable Recap

Mary Maynard for Judy Berglund

This year's Flower and Vegetable portion of the Flower, Food and Foto Show was outstanding. Our thanks to the 22 exhibitors (who brought in more than 300 exhibits) and the committee members who made everything possible. We had many, many visitors at the show, due in part to perfect weather for the weekend. And maybe seven weddings at the Arboretum on Saturday might have had something to do with it!

Here's a summary of the main awards:

**Champion Flower and Best in Show:** Oxalis 'Iron Cross' container by Lynda Carlson

**Champion Vegetable:** Herb container by Judy Berglund

**Reserve champion flower:** Coleus 'Mint Mocha' by Judy Berglund

**Reserve champion vegetable:** Lettuce 'Sea of Red' by Chuck Carlson

**Featured flower:** Snapdragon 'Montego' by Lloyd Wittstock

**Featured vegetable:** Pepper 'Sangria' container by Judy Berglund

**Best first-time exhibitor:** Alan Gallaher

**Flower Sweepstakes:** Judy Berglund

**Vegetable Sweepstakes:** Judy Berglund



--Photos by Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow, Lloyd Wittstock



## Summer Tour Recap

-- Bob Olson

This year's Garden Tours were blessed with great gardens and good weather. It was a nice combination of gatherings: the first was the drive-yourself to two near-neighbor MWGCM members' homes for dessert and garden appreciation in the evening; and the second a bus trip for members and friends to three fine NW Metro gardens and a picnic dinner.

The NW Gardens were championship caliber. Each was different, each was remarkable. Lloyd and Patti Weber had preened their normal-sized but truly distinguished garden to perfection. It was a photographer's paradise with collections of carefully presented and named hostas & daylilies, vistas of selected lilies & annuals and artfully arranged perennial borders. Lloyd gave an impromptu talk on composting and mulching, neighbors with fine gardens of their own invited us to visit and the festive visit was all too brief.

Lloyd and Patti then jumped on the bus and rode with us to Don and Gail Dean's place in Ramsey.

Don, President of the American Hosta Society and a noted hybridizer, has an impressive garden filled with the finest cultivar hostas from around the world as well as his own exquisite introductions – and even some he is considering culling from his breeding program (which shocked-members thought outstanding specimens, and offered to buy – unsuccessfully). Don buzzed around like a Dervish, answering questions, giving tours and directing to places of interest on his spacious property.

He and Gail then joined us going the short distance to Len & Jan Brenny's gorgeous garden, where we could have spent the entire afternoon admiring the extensive conifer collection laced with rivers of alyssum; banks of golden hostas, walkways lined with raspberry cream colored annuals, and naturalized walk-to-the-river. (We didn't have time to visit the huge vegetable garden).

All was capped by a catered picnic on the Brenny patio with classical music and wine.

What could be finer?

### Gardens Wanted for 2014 Public Tour!

The Tour Committee is always looking for good gardens to share, and ask your help in choosing some gardens for a public tour next July. If you have suggestions of member gardens for such a tour, please contact either Sandra Abraham (651 452-0858 or [sandabra@hotmail.com](mailto:sandabra@hotmail.com)) or Denise Rust (763 560-7747 or [dkkrust@hotmail.com](mailto:dkkrust@hotmail.com)) ASAP. A good public tour takes lots of planning and a great deal of time to put together. Thanks!

-- Denise Rust

See next page for photos from the August Tour



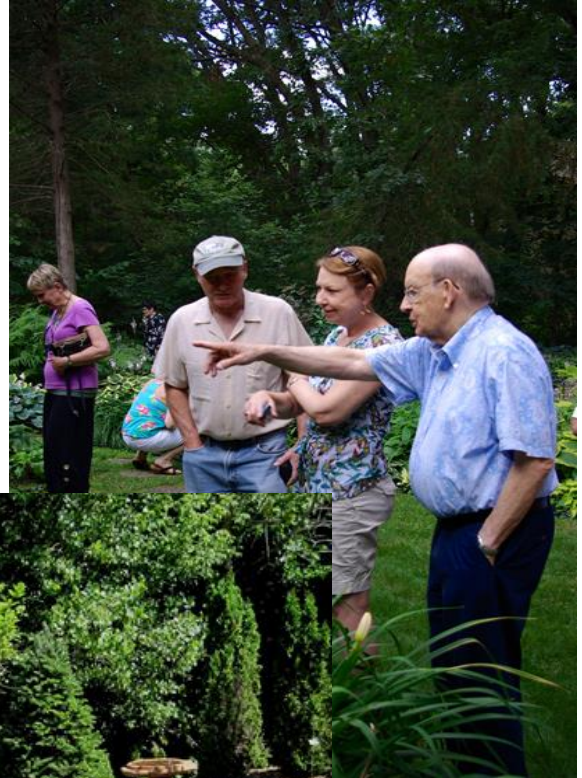
## Photos from the August Tour

*Photos by Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow, Denise Rust*





## More Photos from August Tour





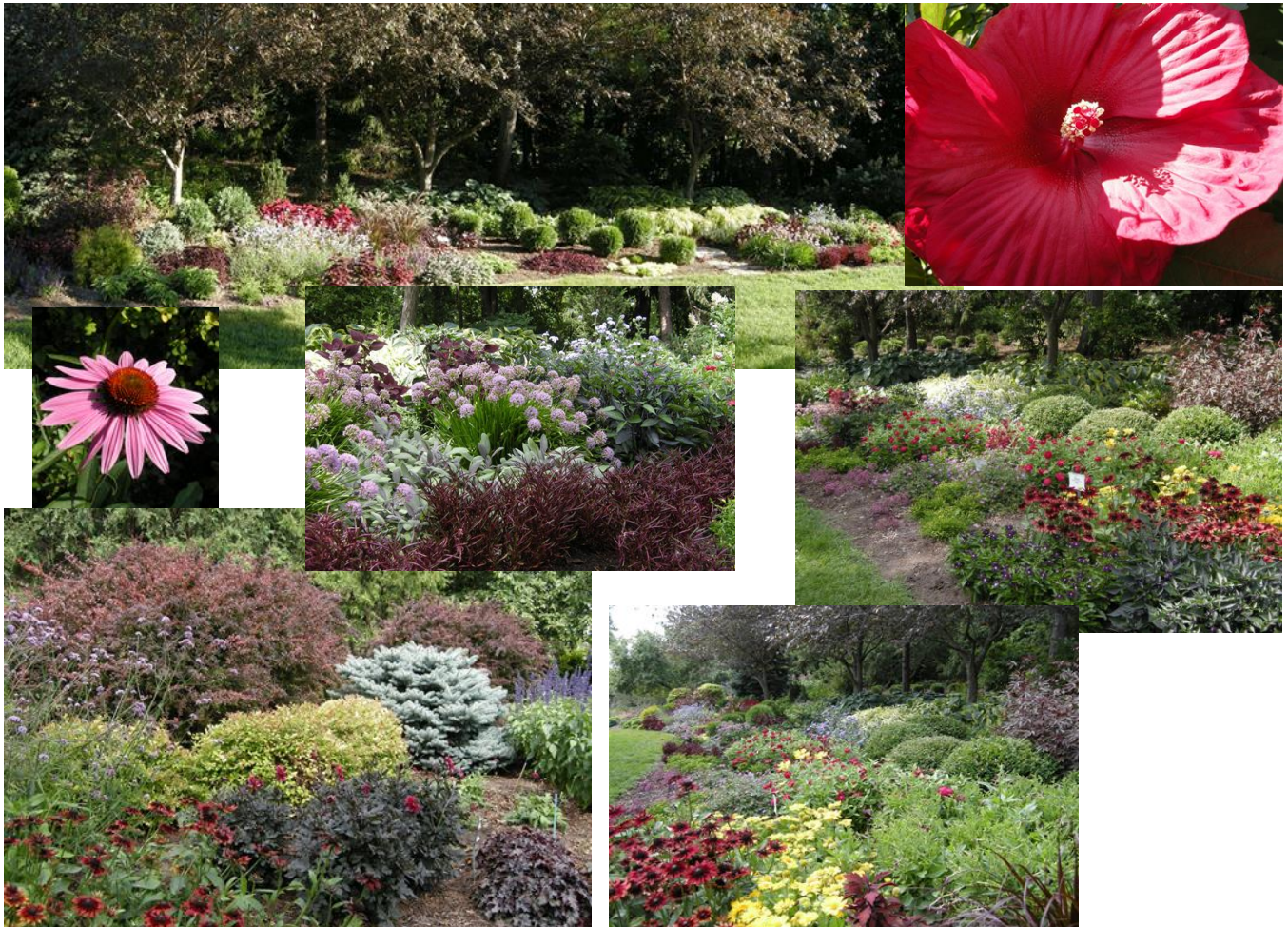


## Photos from our Park Garden – And an Invitation

*Photos by Kay Wolfe and Ada Hegion*

The Lyndale Park Perennial Mixed Border (we call it the Display Garden) is at its peak! Take time to walk there amongst the beauty. Or contact Kay and join a work crew. We do spend some of our time in admiration!

For more information contact Kay Wolfe at [mgcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mgcmgarden@q.com).



### **An Invitation to All Garden Club Members**

Please join us to view the Lyndale Park Garden at Lake Harriet on Saturday, September 7th and/or Saturday, September 21st at 10:00 a.m. The garden is particularly beautiful this year. We will provide donut holes and tours of the garden. You can just enjoy the garden and watch the Saturday crew work or you can pull a weed if you are so inclined. Please call Carol Schreier at 612-925-8673 if you have any questions or comments.

*Park Garden Committee.*

**The Garden Spray Page 9**

<http://www.mwqcm.org>



## Getting to Know Your Board Member: Laurie Levin

Mary Maynard



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock. Arrow by Mary Maynard.

Laurie has shown herself to be an extremely modest Board member! She suggested that we fill this space with some nice photos of flowers instead of anything about her. We do have a lot of nice photos this month, so maybe we'll use part of this page for them. But we do need to know a little bit about Laurie, who joined the club last year at the invitation of Jean Strande. In just her second year in the club, Laurie agreed to serve as Recording Secretary, which suggests that she is an extremely good sport.

Laurie lives in Golden Valley, where her husband Jim is the primary gardener in their household. Laurie only helps out when outdoor conditions are favorable (which would rule out most of the past week). For a few years, Laurie and Jim raised vegetables in Eagan on Martin Diffley's family property, where the original Gardens of Eagan started, which stated them down the organic gardening route. And Laurie's father was a stalwart member of the Men's Garden Club in the Chicago suburb where they lived; won ribbons, grew fruit trees, lots of flowers, had a huge vegetable garden--he was the ideal club member.

Laurie says she never would have thought of joining a garden club if it hadn't been for Jean's invitation. But she enjoys it, and appreciates how warm and welcoming everyone has been.

Thank you, Laurie, for serving on the Board!



A few more photos of the Display Garden at Lyndale Park by Ada Hegion and Kay Wolfe

**The Garden Spray Page 10**

<http://www.mwqcm.org>



## Calendar of Events for Rest of 2013

### September 7

“Open Garden” at our Lyndale Park Garden  
10:00 a.m. north of Lake Harriet

### September 10

Tomato & Pepper Festival  
MWGCM members  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

### September 21

“Open Garden” at our Lyndale Park Garden  
10:00 a.m. north of Lake Harriet

### October 8

“Winter Hardy Cactus & Succulents”  
Craig Johnson  
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

### November 12

“Planting for Fall and Winter Color in Your Garden”  
Terry Yockey  
Dinner 6:15, Speaker 7:30  
Lake Harriet Methodist Church, Mpls.

### December 10

Holiday Party  
Embassy Suites, Bloomington

### This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Chuck Carlson, Margaret Hibberd, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Mary Maynard, Bob Olson, Denise Rust, Carol Schreier, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe

Photography: Chuck Carlson, Janelle Erickson, Ada Hegion, Andy Marlow, Dave McKeen, Denise Rust, Jill Swenson, Lloyd Wittstock, Kay Wolfe, Park Seed

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



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## Inside:

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Page 1	Coming Events, Sept. Program
Page 2	From the Pres., Editor
Page 3	Treas., Mbrship., Dave Johnson, Publicity
Page 4	Photo Show Recap
Page 5	FFF Recap
Page 6	Summer Tour Recap
Page 7-8	Aug. Tour Photos
Page 9	Park Garden Info
Page 10	Board Member: Laurie Levin
Page 11	2013 Calendar, Contributor

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### Club Officers:

**President:** Sandra Abraham Eagan

**Vice President:** Randi Larson Minnetonka

**Recording Secretary:** Laurie Levin Golden Valley

**Membership Secretary:** Jean Strande Golden Valley

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

Falcon Heights

**Past President:** Robert Kean Minneapolis

### Directors:

**Judy Brooke**

Minnetonka

**Don Trocke**

Bloomington

**(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**

*September*  
*2013*