



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

**2014, Volume 72, Number 11
November**

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Nov. 11	LHC	Taking Better Pictures of Your Plants
Dec. 9	ES	Holiday Party

LHC = Lake Harriet Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Avenue South, Minneapolis

ES= Embassy Suites, 2800 American Blvd West, Bloomington

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$13. Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Nov. 7 – **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.

Menu for November Dinner Meeting

- Rigatoni Bake w/Marinara, Sausage, Mozzarella
- Antipasti Platter
- Tossed Salad Garlic Toast
- Pumpkin Bars

Schedule for Tuesday, Nov. 11

- 6:00 Social time
- 6:15 Dinner
- 7:00 Business meeting
- 7:30 Program

**November Program
How to Take Better Photos
of Your Plants**



Every gardener loves to show off their plants. The problem is that not everyone can come to the garden to see them. The good news is that they can be shared at a distance using photographs. The better the photos look the more enjoyment the gardener and the viewer will get from them. That means sharing the best pictures we're capable of taking.

Andy Marlow, MWGCM member and Photo Editor for *The Hosta Journal* will share his knowledge at the November meeting.

More about Andy and his talk on Page 4.

Send in some digital photos in advance and Andy will lead the group in evaluating them (anonymously, of course)—both the good points and not so good ones. Email photos before the meeting to Andy Marlow at ajmarlow@comcast.net. Or bring them to the meeting on a jump drive. But send some photos. This could be pretty boring without your entries!



Holiday Party on December 9!

More info and reservation form on Pages 6-8.

Reservations are due by December 1.

Notes from the Prez:

-- Randi Larson

I have to admit defeat. Mother Nature has won again, earlier in the year than usual. The growing season is over and the dying season is here. Some annuals are still hanging in there. However, the many showy large, showy coleus I love are done for. As someone who likes to plant in pots that means I must redo my planters a month earlier than I ever have in the past. I guess I will forego the mums I've used since I don't think they would still look good for Thanksgiving. Like the retail stores, I will skip the fall holiday planting and prepare for winter. YUCK!!!

I hope I can trim enough branches from the yews and spruce to fill the containers next to the front door. Every year customers would come into Bachman's in early November looking for spruce tops. I thought they were nuts! It's too early for spruce tops! I'm trying not to be one of them. I think I'll use birch branches. Some friends of ours have to trim their birch trees because of storm damage this past summer. I told them they could get good money for the branches. I should have bought them!

I might use orange and rust colored decorations, pumpkins, gourds and bittersweet with hydrangea flowers, cotoneaster, winterberry, and snowberry branches will hold their berries well into the winter which adds natural color. Pampas grass or other ornamental grasses can add height and texture to a container arrangement as well as red twig dogwood and curly willow stems.

I'm trying to be upbeat about the change of seasons but the colored leaves quickly blew off the trees and into the yard. They look like a lot of work to clean up and not beautiful lying there on the ground. Another yuck!!! Oh well, enough of this kvetching! I'd better go do some raking.

Randi

Lyndale Park Garden Committee Fundraising Status

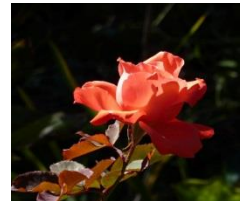
Mollie Dean

The Lyndale Park Garden Committee fundraiser is off to a very successful start. Remember you can still contribute at the November meeting by visiting the membership renewal table or by giving your donation to Carol Schreier who will be at the meeting. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. We will have a full report in the December Spray.

Editor's Note

Mary Maynard

Hasn't this been a glorious October? The light just begs us to get outside with our cameras, and the fact that many of us have not yet seen a killing frost means that we have a lot of subject material. Several of the roses are still blooming in my garden. Here is a photo of 'Intrigue' in the slanting autumn light. I hope to learn more about photography from Andy at the November meeting.



Despite the fact that I have not yet dug any of my tender bulbs, preparations for winter are well underway. Last weekend I cruised the neighborhood and scored 45 bags of clean, dry oak leaves. You will be interested to know that, if one is sufficiently motivated, it is possible to get 9 large bags of leaves in a 2007 Toyota Camry.

Then my teenaged nephews came over and helped transfer those leaves to plastic bags for the winter. There are nice leafy "pillows" ready for winter protection. Does anybody need 45 gently used paper lawn bags?

I look forward to our November meeting. My thanks to the members who have agreed to serve on the 2015 Board.

Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 10-21-2014

Checking balance	\$18,486
Designated Funds	
Lyndale Park Garden	\$ 1,401
Scholarship	\$7,750
Working Balance	\$ 9,335
CD	\$5,260

Membership Corner

It's **Membership Renewal** time for 2015. If you haven't already, please renew your club membership now. See the renewal form on Page 5 or go to the club website and renew on line, then mail \$20.00 to Membership Secretary, Judy Brooke (address is on the form)..... or renew at the November 11th club meeting (don't forget your checkbook). And thanks to all of you who have already renewed in the past month!

Getting to Know Our New Members

- Judy Brooke, Membership Secretary

Dan Conlev works in technology management. He grew up around horticulture, working in his grandfather's Wisconsin greenhouse. Later, he went on to live in New York City for 14 years. He missed the Midwest so moved back eight years ago, buying a home in South Minneapolis. Since then, Dan's interest in gardening has been renewed, especially perennials and shade gardening. He'd also like to learn more about garden design.

Wendy McKinnis lives in the Lynnhurst neighborhood of South Minneapolis and is a member of the Lynnhurst Garden Club. She had seen our Lyndale Park Garden, and arranged with Kay Wolfe to bring some of the Lynnhurst garden club members to tour the Park Garden and attend our club's September program. She found us to be a welcoming club. She does flower and herb gardening. She describes herself as a better cook than gardener, but finds gardening to be an enjoyable pastime.

Donald Doeksen found out about us through the StarTribune's gardening events calendar. He has loved plants for a very long time, but described himself as a novice gardener. He began gardening when he was given plants from a friend's garden. He's most interested in native plants as well as those that attract birds (he was especially intrigued after reading the book *Birdscaping in the Midwest*). Donald resides in St Paul.

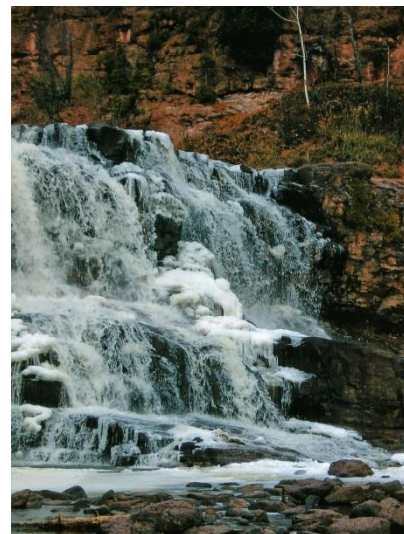
Theresa Rooney is our newest member. She was one of the presenters at the club's October program. After learning more about us during dinner, she thought we seemed like a "great group" and agreed to join our club. She's also a member of the MSHS and a Master Gardener. Her gardening interests/specialties include edibles, trees, shrubs, natives, permaculture, rain gardens and sustainability. She also raises chickens

November Program *Continued from Page 1*

Andy has been taking pictures since he was a kid and has been gardening nearly as long. Combining the two came together when he was enticed by Bob Olson to become Photo Editor of the Journal in 2003. His job is to collect, evaluate and select photos for the magazine. He's also in charge of the AHS/Hosta Journal annual photo contest.

He'll talk about taking and evaluating photos, and touch on things like lighting, composition, techniques and equipment. He'll also review some ways to share photos over the internet.

For inspiration, here are the **Winners of the People's Choice** section of the 2014 Photo Contest. First place: Mushrooms by Judy Berglund; Second Place: Rose 'Betty Boop' by Andy Marlow; Third Place: Waterfall by Dave McKeen.



Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors for 2015

Sandra Abraham, 2014 Nominations Chairperson

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of candidates for the 2015 ballot to be presented at the annual membership meeting on November 9, 2014 at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church.

President: Tom McKusick
Vice President: Judy Brooke
Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin
Treasurer: Alan Gallaher
Past President: Randi Larson

Directors: Steve Shubick
Judy Berglund
Bonnie Haehn

Thank you all for your service to MWGCM.

Membership Renewal Form: Men's and Women's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Date: _____

Annual dues are \$20. Make your check payable to **MWGCM** and mail with this form to the Membership Secretary: Judy Brooke, 4728 Temple Rd., Minnetonka, MN 55345

If you wish to make an additional donation to the Club, make your check payable to **MWGCM** or add the amount to your dues check and indicate the fund below:

General _____ Scholarship _____ Lyndale Park Garden _____

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Email address: _____

I am a Master Gardener: yes no

I am willing to be listed as a mentor gardener in the club director (enter specific gardening topic/s such as perennials, roses, propagation): _____

Committees: I am currently serving on, or am willing to serve on the following committees:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbor Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Awards/Trophies | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower & Veg Show |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Spray/Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Party | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lyndale Park Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing/Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale & Auction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tours (club) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunshine |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Tours (public) | <input type="checkbox"/> On committees as needed |

What would you most like to learn about this year?

My gardening interests are: _____

Other horticultural affiliations: _____

Other experience/knowledge that could help the club (please circle): writing, accounting/financial, computer skills, public relations/marketing, leadership, fundraising, legal, public speaking, other:



The Holiday Party is Here Again!



Larry Larson, Holiday Party Chair

Make your plans now to attend MWGCM's holiday party **Tuesday, December 9** at the Embassy Suites motel in Bloomington. The address is 2800 American Blvd. West, Bloomington. (Note: this is the Embassy Suites near Southtown, NOT the one near the airport!) There will be a map in next month's Spray. This is the same location as last year's party, so those of you who attended the 2013 event will know where to go.

The party begins at 6 pm in the banquet hall. Please turn left after entering Embassy Suites and follow the hall around to the right to the hall. Dinner will be served at 7 pm.

There is major renovation taking place at the motel. But the renovation will not affect the banquet hall where our party takes place.

The dinner this year will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner salad, desert, coffee, milk and/or water. The meal will cost \$23, same as last year. There will be punch and cheese and crackers inside the banquet hall; there will also be a cash bar inside the hall. The cash bar is necessary because the Embassy Suites bar will be closed.

A silent auction will take place in the same location as last year. Bidding will be open from 6 pm until 7:30. An announcement will be made when there are five minutes left in the auction and when the auction is over. Holiday committee members will circle the winning bid in red pen at that time to make sure the winning bid is secure.

Winning bidders can pick up their bid sheet after the program and bring them to our cashiers. There will be four cashiers this year to make it easier to check out. Please have the correct cash amount ready to give to the cashiers. We will not be able to make change on large bills. Checks made out to MWGCM will be accepted.

Silent auction items can be brought to any home of a holiday committee member prior to the party, and it is highly recommended you do that. You can also bring them to the motel the evening of the party beginning at 5:30 pm. Please contact Elaine Spiegel, silent auction chair, at 952-927-9539, or Larry Larson, 952-949-9668, with questions concerning the silent auction. A list of recommended items to bring to the auction is listed below. People making silent auction donations should include a value on the Description line of the reservation form and a minimum bid for each item donated.

Please fill out the form below and send to Larry. He must receive this form by December 1. Enclose a check for \$23 for each person attending. See you there!





RSVP Form for the MWGCM Holiday Party and Silent Auction 



**Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:00 pm at Embassy Suites
 2800 American Boulevard West, Bloomington**

To RSVP and to donate items for the silent auction, please fill out this reservation form and enclose a check made out to MWGCM. Please send reservation form to ARRIVE BY Monday, Dec. 1, 2014.

Mail to: Larry Larson
 15225 Wild Wings
 Minnetonka, MN 55345

Phone: 952.949.9668
Email: daddu777@msn.com

*For questions about the Silent Auction please contact Elaine:
 E-mail: ELspiegs18@comcast.net (preferred) Phone: 952-927-9539*

Member & Guest	
Names: _____	
Total check enclosed (\$23 per person): _____	
Item(s) for the Silent Auction:	
Description: _____	
Size (space required for display): _____	Minimum Bid: _____
Submitter/contact: _____	
Description: _____	
Size (space required for display): _____	Minimum Bid: _____
Submitter/contact: _____	
Description: _____	
Size (space required for display): _____	Minimum Bid: _____
Submitter/contact: _____	

Need ideas or suggestions for the silent auction? See next page!



Suggestions for Silent Auction Contributions for Holiday Party:

- Tickets (movies, theater, opera, or sporting events)
- Homemade or hand crafted items (crafts, note cards, embroidery, quilting)
- Tools, plants, statues, books, bird feeders, bird baths
- Gift certificates (for hotel, resort, garden center, bookstore, restaurant, or membership in a specialty garden club)
- Time, talent or services (garden consultation, custom art/craft, teaching a craft or skill, make a meal, host a theme party)
- Homemade baked goods, candies, etc.

Holiday Committee Members (Accepting Auction Items)

Larry Larson - Chair	Sandra Mangel
Jan Johnson	Carol Schreier
Nona Johnson	Jane Sheedy
Janet Langfield	John Sims
Randi Larson	Elaine Spiegel



Photos from the October Club Meeting.

Chuck Carlson

Many thanks to Master Gardeners Kate Netwal and Theresa Rooney for their "Evolving Garden" presentation. There is hope for gardeners like your Editor who are not getting any younger!



MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden Receives Two Awards!

Tom McKusick

The MWGCM has been cited with two recent awards for its efforts at the Lyndale Park Garden. It is the recipient of the 2014 Minnesota Recreation and Parks Award, sponsored by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society (MSHS), and was honored at an awards ceremony that was held October 25th at Bachman's in Minneapolis. The club will also receive a 2014 Metro Blooms Garden Award for its efforts at the Lyndale Park Garden in beautifying our community. That award will be presented November 6th at an event to be held at Columbia Manor in Minneapolis. Congratulations to the Lyndale Park Garden Committee – their hard work is being recognized and appreciated by the community!

The garden was spectacular again this year. Here are a couple of photos from last month's Spray. Worth repeating!



In Praise of the Whopper

by Andy Marlow

No, this is not about the ginormous Burger King flame-broiled sandwich. And it's not about the Dish Network DVR system called The Hopper. It's about an extra-large fibrous-rooted begonia developed by the Ball Seed Company and released in 2012.

I was introduced to the Whopper by Bob Olson, who had grabbed some up at the Minneapolis Farmer's Market in 2013 and was growing them in pots. They were gorgeous, tall begonias with bronzy leaves and large pink flowers. (Turns out they are available with green leaves, too, and two flower colors, red and rose.) I knew I had to have some.



And there came the only draw-back. They are patented and not available everywhere. Plus they are expensive. Bob got a bargain at \$4.00 a plant in 4 inch pots at the Farmer's Market, which was sold out when I checked. I paid \$6.00 at my favorite local nursery—well worth it, but pricey. This spring I ordered them in the MWGCM plant sale pre-order for \$4.50 a pot.

And they have done spectacularly well. I am growing them in the shade a mature oak tree. They are 15-18 inches tall and have been covered with 3 inch blossoms from when I planted them in late May until at least October 8, when I took this photo. People stop and stare. They are surprised to learn they are fibrous rather than tuberous.

They are not very demanding as far as cultivation is concerned; regular watering and a little liquid fertilizer from time to time. Bob grows his in containers; mine are in a garden bed. You can grow them as specimen plants, as a mass planting in the landscape, or behind shorter plants in a flower bed.

I used to grow masses of impatiens where I wanted flows of color in my shady yard, but downy mildew has put an end to that. Regular size wax begonias are okay, but the flowers are just too small. Next year I may mortgage my house to buy enough Whoppers to put some real pop in large parts of the garden.

Our pre-sale grower had both "Whopper" and "Big" begonias available in 2014. "Big" begonias are very similar to "Whoppers". I had some of each in my garden this year, and they are both excellent growers. I'll be ordering more in 2015. – Editor.

Calendar of Events

November 11

"Taking Better Pictures of Your Plants"
Andy Marlow
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

December 9

Holiday Party
Embassy Suites American Blvd
Bloomington, MN

January 13, 2015

Gardening for Bees and Butterflies
Heather Holm
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

February 10, 2015

New Plants for 2015
Meleah Maynard
Lake Harriet Methodist Church



Happy Thanksgiving!

Calendar for rest of 2015 will be in next month's
Spray

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Sandra Abraham, Nancy Bjerke, Judy Brooke, Mollie Dean, Bonnie Haehn, Margaret Hibberd, Larry Larson, Randi Larson, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick.

Photography: Judy Berglund, Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow, Dave McKeen, Microsoft

**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.

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First Class Mail

November
2014