

MEN'S & WOMEN'S



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# GARDEN CLUB

## OF MINNEAPOLIS

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November 2018

**The Garden Spray**

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**A SUBHEADING CAN HELP CLARIFY THE MEANING OF THE HEADING**

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# November Meeting Preview

Anne Spenningsby, Chair

## "MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM GRASSES" WITH DR. MARY MEYER



Dr. Meyer develops and coordinates statewide multi-media educational programs in environmental and consumer horticulture. She is the Arboretum Professor of Applied Research and Consumer Horticulture and was the State Coordinator for the Master Gardener program in Minnesota for 13 years.

**Tuesday, November 13**

**Location: Lake Harriet United Methodist Church, 4901 Chowen Ave. S.  
Minneapolis**

6:00 Social Time  
6:15 Dinner  
7:00 Business Meeting  
7:30 Program

### **Menu**

Apricot turkey  
Baked squash  
Wild rice blend  
Cranberry relish  
Apple crisp

- Permanent reservations are in effect. Dinner is \$13.00.
- Reservations or cancellations are required no later than Friday, November 9.
- Email Sharla Aasang at [resmwgcm@juno.com](mailto:resmwgcm@juno.com), or call (612) 623-9341 and leave a message.
- NOTE: For last-minute cancellations contact Sharla. If she can sell it, you won't be billed.

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**From the President**  
Mary Barsness

Fall is my favorite time of year. I love the crisp air and gorgeous colors. Fall also makes me think that soon we will begin a new year. With that in mind I have a serious issue to discuss.

As of now, the club does not have a VP candidate for next year and hence no president in 2020. For our club to survive and grow, we need members to step up each year and take their turn at fulfilling a leadership role. As I look at the membership roster I see that many members have supported the club by holding leadership roles, filling club positions, or being in charge of major club events. However, there are many members who have not supported the club in these ways. We are now in need of creating a new website which will require a significant financial investment. As a board member I find it difficult to approve a significant financial investment at a time when we are unable to obtain a member volunteer for VP. A few years ago we also experienced this same dilemma.

This is a great club and we all want it to thrive, but in order for that to happen, all members need to contribute. As I have said before, being VP and then President has not been extremely time consuming. I can honestly say that fulfilling these roles has made me feel much more connected to the club. I have gotten to know many more members and have come to appreciate all the work that committee chairs and others do in order for us to have a vibrant club. At the November meeting, I ask all of you to please consider volunteering for VP.

## **THE BENEFITS OF BEING VP**

One of the best things about my experience serving as VP/President/Past President was working with the Board of Directors. I was honored to be part of a team of dedicated individuals who approached their responsibility to the club with seriousness of purpose, wisdom, and a sense of humor. I believe we produced good work, and the sense of accomplishment that provided was enormously rewarding.

-- Tom McKusick

I served as president in 1998, so it's been a while. But I remember how everyone in the club wanted me to succeed. It was a privilege to work with the talented and dedicated members on the Board. And, in the 20 years since, things have gotten even better. For example, the VP now has the support of an active Program Committee. And I think we have fewer Board meetings these days.

I have always said that I could never give back as much as I have gotten from this club that I love so much. I was happy to serve and I encourage you to stretch a little bit and volunteer your talents.

-- Mary Maynard



## The flower for November is chrysanthemum

Chrysanthemums or "mums" are one of the most widely cultivated flowers. Native to Asia and northeastern Europe, their name comes from the Greek words "chrysos" meaning gold and "anthemon" which means flower. They are a member of the daisy family, which includes asters, zinnias and coneflowers.

### Chrysanthemums in history

As early as the 15th century B.C., the chrysanthemum was cultivated as a flowering herb in China. It is one of the four plants known in Chinese culture as "The Four Gentlemen," which were depicted in much of the art beginning during the Song Dynasty, 960 to 1279. The flower was used to represent autumn in this style of paintings.

### Colors, symbolism and fun facts

- The chrysanthemum is a traditional flower to give on Mother's Day and symbolizes optimism and joy.
- Red mums express true love, yellow refers to a wounded heart, and white to the virtue of honesty.
- The chrysanthemum is the official flower of the city of Chicago.
- In China chrysanthemums are considered a symbol of stateliness and are a popular subject for many poets.
- Chrysanthemums are the flower of choice for the 13th wedding anniversary.
- Chrysanthemum tea is popular in parts of Asia. In China the leaves are eaten steamed and boiled. In Korea chrysanthemum flowers add flavor to wine known as gukwaju.
- A study by NASA found that chrysanthemum plants helped reduce indoor air pollution.

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: BACHMAN'S GALLERIA FLOWER SHOW

Recently KARE 11 had a nice feature on Dale Bachman's career as he retires from Bachman's ([here's a link if you missed it](#)). This was followed by news that Bachman's and Galleria have agreed to team up for a spring flower show for the next three years. Next year's show begins March 24. Great news for all of us who look forward to this "spring-is-almost-here" ritual.

-- Nancy Felice

## Holiday Party

Larry Larson, Sandra Mangel, Co-chairs

### HOLIDAY PARTY IS HERE AGAIN



Tuesday, December 11  
Embassy Suites, Bloomington  
2800 American Blvd. West (Off Penn. Ave. & 494)

6:00 p.m. - Social Hour  
6:00 p.m. - Hors d'oeuvres table opens  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Silent Auction  
6:00 p.m. - Hotel bar is open down the hall from the party room  
7:00 p.m. - Dinner followed by awards

The annual MWGCM Holiday Party is here again! Yes, it's hard to believe but pretty soon the snow will be falling, the temperatures will fall with the snow, and we'll all turn our attention to the annual Holiday Party.

### DINNER MENU

Turkey and dressing  
Dinner salad  
Mashed potatoes  
Sweet carrots  
Dessert

If you need a vegetarian meal or other meal considerations, please contact Larry Larson at (952) 949-9668 or indicate special dinner preference on your reservation form.

**COST: \$25 PER PERSON**

Pre-dinner entertainment will once again be provided by Benny Weinbeck playing jazz favorites and holiday music on his electric piano. Benny is happy to take requests.

We will once again have the popular ring toss game, which allows guests to try to throw a ring around a bottle of wine. Good luck!

Masters of Ceremonies will once again be the duo of Andy Marlow and Bob Olson, who will hand out their traditional special awards.

Following dinner, the club will announce the winners of this year's special awards, including the President's Cup, the Lehman Trophy, Blackburn Trophy, Foley Award, Smith Trophy, photo award, rookie of the year award and the Bachman Award.

Make your dinner reservations before Tuesday, December 4. Why so early? Because Embassy Suites must know how many guests are coming so they can plan the dinner!

Please send your completed reservation form to:

Larry Larson  
15225 Wild Wings  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

See you there!

-- *Larry Larson*

[Print your Holiday Reservation Form](#) or use the form below.

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## Silent Auction

Becky DeLaCruz, Chair

An exciting component of the Holiday Party is our Silent Auction, with bidding occurring during the social hour and dinner. Until last year, the Silent Auction was supported only by member-donated auction items, with all proceeds going into our General Fund. Last year, the Silent Auction Committee tried something different and asked Twin Cities businesses to donate products, services or gift cards, with those proceeds being directed to the MWGCM Scholarship Fund. We raised almost \$2,400 for the Scholarship Fund in 2017. Seeing this great success, we will offer business-donated items again at the 2018 Silent Auction. So, bring a little extra money to the Silent Auction to bid on these higher-dollar items.

We will also continue the tradition of members contributing items for the Silent

Auction, as many of us look forward to homemade baked goods/candies, handcrafted items, wine, etc. You will find space to list your Silent Auction donations on the [Holiday Reservation Form](#). (If you do not know the specific items you will be donating when you send your RSVP, you can provide that information up until the night of the Holiday Party). Suggestions for member-donated items include:

- Homemade or handcrafted items (crafts, note cards, embroidery, quilting, artwork)
- Homemade baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, etc.
- New tools, plants, garden statues, planters, books, bird feeders, birdbaths, bird houses)
- Tickets (movies, theater, opera, or sporting events)
- Wine or specialty beers
- Gift cards/certificates (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)

No "white elephant" items please!

Additional details will be communicated to members over the next several weeks. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted for Silent Auction purchases. Please contact [Becky DeLaCruz](#) with any questions.

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## HOLIDAY PARTY & SILENT AUCTION RESERVATION FORM

### Reservation Form

# MWGCM 2018 Holiday Party and Silent Auction

*Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.  
Embassy Suites, 2800 American Boulevard West, Bloomington*

To RSVP for dinner and/or donate items for the Silent Auction, please complete and mail this form.

For dinner reservations, enclose a check made out to "MWGCM."

**Send your completed form to ARRIVE BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2018, to:**

Larry Larson  
15225 Wild Wings

**Dinner Reservation**

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed (\$25.00 per person) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Member-donated Silent Auction Item(s)**

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate retail value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum bid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate retail value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum bid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate retail value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum bid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Use the back of this form for additional Silent Auction items.**

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**Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden Committee**

Kay Wolfe, Chair

**IT'S A WRAP: PREPARING THE GARDEN FOR WINTER**

Our committee has literally wrapped up the



garden for winter. There are two good reasons to "wrap" up shrubs: 1) to protect conifers from winter burn, and 2) to protect shrubs from deer or rabbit damage.

The conifers in Lyndale Park are particularly sensitive to winter burn. There is a lot of direct sunlight as well as light reflection off snow, plus harsh winter winds. Many conifers were damaged after last winter. The best

protection that we have found to prevent winter desiccation is to build a screen with either stakes alone or stakes wrapped with chicken wire, and then attach burlap over the top of the chicken wire. We usually attach burlap on the three south facing sides of the shrub to screen from the sun. We do not wrap the conifers in burlap directly. If the burlap touches conifer needles, it can pull moisture from them. Making a screen is a better method of protection. We always protect newly planted conifers. Once established, they can usually handle winter on their own. We always protect fragile fine-needled arborvitae such as 'Fire Chief' and 'Mr. Bowling Ball' and chamaecyparis.



Many shrubs need to be protected from deer and rabbits. The amount of damage from critters varies widely from year to year. They eat the evergreen foliage and twigs of shrubs in winter when food is scarce. The deer particularly like the young serviceberry planted in the back. Deer have even stripped the yew branches of needles and then devoured (we think) the branches. One Norway spruce has been a particularly favorite spot where the deer rub

their antlers. This spruce has lost some middle branches and one year the deer even tore through the chicken wire in an attempt to reach the tree.

We also build a fort of stakes and snow fence around the "cloud-pruned" hedge of boxwood. When the snow has been deep, either deer or humans have walked right over the snow-covered boxwood and broke off numerous branches.

Drive by the garden and see the winter wraps. Hopefully they will be snug until spring. All are invited to join our committee next year. Working at the park is a great way to learn and share knowledge. We work Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Contact me with questions: [mgcmgarden@q.com](mailto:mgcmgarden@q.com).

-- Kay Wolfe

Photos: Kathy Lenarz

## HOW TO KEEP TALL PLANTS FROM FLOPPING



Kathy Lenarz worked her camera magic in early October when club volunteers began to prepare the native and shade gardens for winter. If you'll look closely, you'll see three bamboo poles slanting to the left and two slanting to the right. There are several more stakes that don't show, but you can get the idea of the method Nancy Felice saw in a magazine and developed for her own use. We're finding it useful with the tall native plants. After

pushing a couple bamboo stakes firmly into the ground at one angle, simply push a couple more in so that they cross the first ones. Tie off at the places where the stakes intersect, for stability. That's it!

On our final day of work in the park for 2018, the Joe Pye was still standing tall and proud. Nancy has used this system in her own gardens for two years with great success. We will pull the stakes when we cut the plants down in the spring.

Fiona Lennox suggested another system when she spoke on natives at the October club meeting: she likes to use raffia to tie clumps of natives together with bows. We did that with mid-height native turtlehead at the end of October, as well as with taller anise hyssop and a couple even taller plants. Not having raffia on hand we used loops of jute or sisal, 3 or 4 lengths folded together, and simply tied them around the gathered stems and finished with bows -- a two-person job, for sure. As we worked Kathy thought about using holiday-themed ribbon to tie around similar clumps of tall stems in her own gardens, a delightful new idea. One of the secondary benefits of tying the stems into clumps is that when we cut them down to make way for new growth in the spring, the clumps will be tied and ready to go into the compost, and the twine will decay along with the stems and foliage, and whatever is left of the seed heads.

-- Kirky Otto

The nominating committee of the MWGCM must present a slate of Officers and Board of Directors nominees for confirmation by the membership at the November 13, 2018 annual meeting.

The ballot is incomplete as we were not successful in obtaining a member who is willing to run for the VP position for 2019 and then would progress to president in 2020.

The members who have who have consented to run on this ballot is:

President - Anne Spenningsby

Vice President -

Recording Secretary - Sue Clark

Membership Secretary - Kathy Lenarz

Co-Treasurers - Alan Gallaher, David Voss

Directors - John Cooke, Linda Thompson, Suzanne Holt

Past President - Mary Barsness

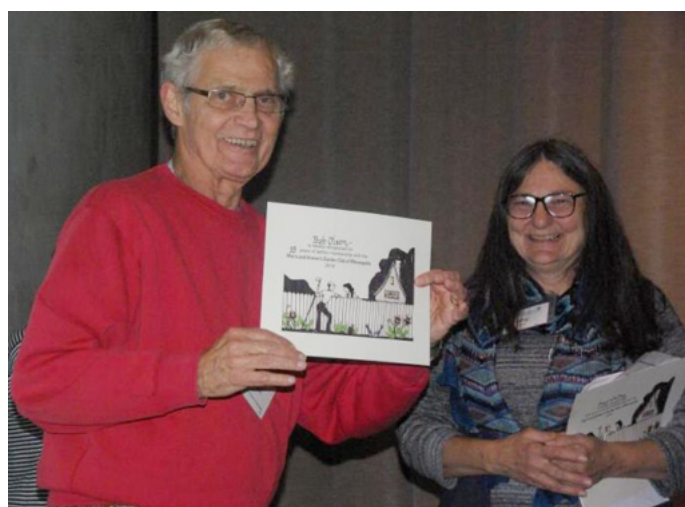
There will be opportunity to nominate from the floor, so please consider this and get the approval of the person you may wish to nominate before the meeting.

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## Membership Corner

Kathy Lenarz, Chair

### RECOGNIZING MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



*Kathy Lenarz presented Bob Olson with a certificate recognizing his 35 years as a MWGCM member.*

The Membership Committee, with the support of the Board, designated October as the month for our official Membership Anniversary Celebration. At our October meeting we recognized members who have been with the MWGCM starting at the 10-year mark, and then in 5-year increments. We plan to make this an annual event. This year certificates were awarded to the following:

35 years, Bob Olson

30 years, Peter Olin

25 years, Doug Whitney and Kay Wolfe

20 years, Denise Rust

15 years, Sharla Aaseng  
10 years, Sandra Abraham and Jane Sheedy

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

[Print your Membership Renewal Form](#)

If you haven't already, it's time to renew your membership. You can renew at the November 13 meeting, or mail your form along with your \$20 check to Kathy Lenarz at the address on the form.

Thank you to all for renewing on time. It helps the Membership Committee if we do not have to call you after the due date to remind you. We depend on our great members, and your dues enable us to keep the club running all year. Thank you for renewing for 2019.

## **WELCOME MARSHA THEIS**

Marsha's husband, Paul, joined MWGCM a year. When she handed in her membership form at the meeting this past June, Marsha said, "I'm here with him all the time anyway. I thought I'd better join!"

However, in talking with Marsha, it's obvious that she is a dedicated gardener in her own right. Growing up in Robbinsdale, some of her early childhood memories are of laying out the garden area with her parents. She and Paul have enjoyed garden activities together over the years. She recalled how, when they were first getting started, they met Leon Snyder at the Arboretum and got some great advice and recommendations on shrubs for their yard. They are now members at the Arboretum, and volunteer at the plant sale.

Currently the Theis garden includes a raspberry patch, and a variety of flowering annuals and perennials, with a goal of having something blooming at all times during the growing season. It seems that Marsha's favorites are the peonies, including some that she grew up with, and moved from her parent's home when it was sold. She estimates that they have over 52 different varieties. She hosted her girls group, about 35 guests, to show them off early last summer.

Marsha is a speech pathologist, and taught in the Hopkins School District. She and Paul have been married 47 years.

*Photo: Andy Marlow*

*Every member bring a member.*

# Treasurer's Snapshot

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

**AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2018**

<b>Checking Balance</b>	<b>\$ 30,964</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>	
Lyndale Park/Mixed Border Garden	\$ 1,631
Scholarship	\$ 4,493
Deane Fund at RCU	\$ 62,528
<b>Working Balance</b>	<b>\$ 24,840</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>
<b>MWGCM 19-month CD at US Bank</b>	<b>\$ 5,424</b>

## Meeting & Event Calendar

### November 13

Mary Meyer: Minnesota Landscape  
Arboretum Grasses  
[Lake Harriet United Methodist Church](#)

### December 11

Holiday Party

## 2018 Officers & Directors

### Club Officers

**President**  
Mary Barsness  
Prior Lake

### Directors

John Cooke  
St. Louis Park  
  
Dave McKeen

**Vice President**

Anne Spenningsby  
Minneapolis

St. Louis Park

Linda Thompson  
Minneapolis

**Membership Secretary**

Kathy Lenarz  
Richfield

**Recording Secretary**

Laurie Levin  
Golden Valley

**Treasurer**

Alan Gallaher  
Edina

**Past President**

Sandra Abraham  
Eagan

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*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.



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