

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

2015, Volume 73, Number 4 April

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Mar. 31	Macy's	 Macy's/Bachman's Flower
		Show
May 12	SMG	Plant Sale and Auction
June 9	LWC	Martagon Lilies

LWC= Lakewood Cemetery, 3600 Hennepin Ave. S, Minneapolis

SMG= St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave S, Minneapolis

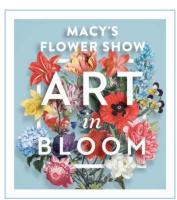
More calendar information on Page 11

Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect. Reservations for dinner at Macy's Oak Grill must be received by Monday, March 23. If you haven't sent in your reservation yet, call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) to see if there is still space. (Reservation form was in the March Spray.)

Remember!

Plant pre-order forms are due to Mary Maynard by Tuesday, March 31. Email Mary if you have questions. maynard4375@yahoo.com

April Program in March: Macy's Flower Show with Gardens by Bachman's



Our annual trip to Macy's flower show will take place on March 31. Macy's 8th floor auditorium will be featuring individual gardens representing the connection between art and nature. Dale Bachman will speak to us about the plants following a dinner at Oak Grill on Macy's 12th floor.

Timetable (we will need to follow this schedule closely):

5:00 - Gather, be seated, order beverages

5:30 - Dinner is served

6:30 - Dale Bachman will speak

6:50 - Proceed to 8th floor to view flower show

8:00 - Macy's store closes (must exit store by 8:20)

Space for dinner is limited. Reservations must be received by Monday, March 23. Reservation form is on Page 5 of the March *Spray*.

http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Events_files/Spray 0315_1.pdf

(Graphic: Business Wire)

The Garden Spray Page 1



Notes from the Prez

-- Tom McKusick

At our March meeting we received quite a few questionnaires from you with your ideas of how the club should use the \$62,000 estate gift — thank you very much. The results have been tabulated and placed in a spreadsheet for the board to evaluate. As I reviewed them, I noticed a wide variety of opinions, but a couple of dominant themes have emerged that the board will take into consideration. And if you have further thoughts, or haven't sent anything yet, please get to those me or to another board member and they will be added to the mix. This will not be a hasty process, and there is no immediate deadline.

Theodore Roosevelt coined the term "bully pulpit" to describe the unique opportunity his role as President afforded him to make his opinions known and to advocate for them. Well, I'm going to use my bully pulpit as this club's president to advocate for something I think everyone in the MWGCM should do: become a member of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

Back in 1942 when we were founded as the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, members were also required to belong to the Hort Society, and that relationship continued for many years. Times may have changed, but today there are still many of you who are MSHS members. And for those who are not I'd like to take this opportunity to mention the exceptional value offered by MSHS membership at the Garden Club level of only \$37 a year. For that low price, Garden Club members receive nearly all of the great benefits of a regular membership. Six issues of Northern Gardener - the only magazine published in Minnesota that's exclusively about gardening in Minnesota. Our writers only cover plants that are hardy here and are available at local garden centers. And though as publisher of Northern Gardener I admit to a

certain bias, I really do think it's a great resource for all gardeners – both expert and beginner.

Members also get a discount card good at over 100 garden centers and nurseries, including places like Bachman's. If you're an active gardener and you're out there buying plants, how long would it take you to save the cost of membership with your purchases? I know it wouldn't take me long...

There are other great benefits like a \$25 merchandise credit with White Flower Farm mail order nursery, discounts on gardening books, tools, and gifts at our store in Roseville, discounts on our classes and tours, and more. Plus you're helping to support our mission of providing resources to gardeners throughout the state and the region, something MSHS has been doing since 1866. As we head toward our 150th anniversary next year, I hope you will join us as a member of MSHS. For more info go to www.northerngardener.org or call 651-643-3601

Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

This is another very full issue. Thank you to all of the members who provided photos and printed material.

I particularly appreciate the "non-business" articles members have submitted. Club business is important, but sometimes it's nice to learn something about gardening as well. This month, Kay Wolfe and Kirky Otto have articles. There will be a new article by Theresa Rooney next time.

May I ask a favor? I'm not going to be able to be at the Macy's/Bachman's show this year. If you get some good photos, can you email them to me? I'd be most grateful.

Have a great time at the Show!

http://www.mwgcm.org



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 3/16/2015

Checking balance \$85,461

Designated Funds
Lyndale Park Garden \$4,810
Scholarship \$10,915

Working Balance \$69,736

Petty Cash \$100

CD \$5,260

Membership Corner

Welcome to new member, Kathy Lenarz. More about Kathy in our May Spray.

See introductions for other new members on Page 4

Every Member Bring a Member

Looking Ahead: Plant Sale and Auction Tuesday, May 12

More information on Pages 5-7

Gratitude *Mary Maynard*



Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that the Club sent for my sister's funeral. It lifted my spirits to see them, and the arrangement is still looking very good many days later.

Spring Kick-Off Meeting MWGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee

(MPRB Park Stewards Volunteers)
April 14, 2015 Tuesday
7:00 to 9:00 PM
Lyndale Farmstead Park Recreation Center
3900 Bryant Ave S, Minneapolis 55409
For more info contact Kay Wolfe mgcmgarden@q.com

A Coniferous Opportunity

Got travel plans for the summer? Club member Bob Livingston recommends traveling to the Central Regional Meeting of the American Conifer Society in Green Bay, Wisconsin July 10-11. According to Bob, there will be good opportunities to learn about conifers for our region, along with tours of local gardens and opportunities to purchase all the best conifers. Here's a link to the ACS website:

http://central.conifersociety.org/events/event/central-2015-annual-meeting-green-bay-wi/



Welcome New Members

Judy Brooke, Membership Chair Photos by Lloyd Wittstock

Alyssa Janilla. Six years ago, Alyssa attained her bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Prior to graduating, she interned at an Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts and later at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. where each of the museums had their own unique garden. She now resides in Stillwater and works at the Sunrise Nursery in Hudson where they pot or repot every plant (even perennials) so they're fresh each spring. In addition, Alyssa and



a fellow gardener are business partners in <u>"Two Gals in a Garden"</u>. They're hired by clients who need help in their own gardens. This includes everything from garden maintenance, to teaching the garden owner about planting, pruning etc. They also help with garden design or redesign. Alyssa learned about us thru MSHS and is looking forward to talking with and continuing to learn from others in our club.

Martha Joy. Martha's home is in Southeast Minneapolis. On this city lot she has incrementally enlarged her plant and flower gardens over the past 25 years. These gardens are mostly shade or semi shade. For the past three years she has also raised vegetables in a 20 x 20 plot in a neighborhood community garden. Examples of what she has in this garden include tomatoes, broccoli, strawberries, lettuce and spinach. Last summer Martha attended one of our club's garden tours. Subsequently, she attended the February dinner program and then joined at our March program. As a member, she's looking forward to gaining gardening knowledge. Not only is she interested in vegetable and flower gardening but would also like to learn more about medicinal plants. Martha is a retired medical scientist.

Jo Batty-George. Jo grew up on a farm in Iowa where she helped her mother with a large vegetable and flower garden. Flash forward to her present home in So Minneapolis where she maintains a boulevard garden with plants and flowers. Because of a significant black walnut tree in her yard and learning one shouldn't intermingle the soil of that tree with growing vegetables, Jo has been raising her vegetables and herbs by straw bale gardening. Each year she learns a little more about the straw bale process and tweaks her methods. Jo also gardens at her cabin up north.



She's looking forward to learning more about plants that grow well in our zone and also at cabins, especially plants that are "deer proof". Jo learned about our club through friend Nancy Felice who is also a new member, joining in February.

Naomi Golden. Naomi believes that gardening is in her blood. Her mother had an extensive garden and both grandmothers gardened, and an aunt owned a winery. Naomi and her husband reside in Northeast Minneapolis. She describes her garden as a tiny oasis in the city. She incorporates edibles such as kale, tomatoes, herbs and other vegetables in with Minnesota native plants as much as possible. Last year she tried growing dahlias for the first time. They did pretty well and now she's hooked. Naomi learned about our club last year when reading an article about us in the Star Tribune. Since then she's Googled various garden clubs, checked out our website and decided our club would best fit her needs. She looks forward to learning from our experienced gardeners. She can contribute with her experience in fundraising through silent auctions as well as her considerable social media knowledge.

http://www.mwgcm.org



Mark Your Calendars: Annual Plant Sale and Auction Tuesday, May 12

Gary Geister

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church 3450 Irving Avenue South Minneapolis, MN

Again this year we will be having our annual plant sale at the wonderful St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church in Minneapolis. The "Country Store" will be open to the public from 3 to 6 on this day. Please mention this sale to friends, relatives, co-workers and neighbors.

A few reminders for our plant sale:

- 1. Have pre-order forms back to Mary Maynard by Tuesday, March 31 (a slight extension from the original date)
- 2. The Country Store will be open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- 3. If possible, bring in contributions (annuals, perennials and bulbs/tubers) for the plant sale before 3pm.
- 4. **We will not have a silent auction this year**, trying to make the plant sale more public friendly. Specialty plants that have been in the Silent Auction in previous years will most likely be part of the regular auction.

Some plants at the plant sale

- 1. Hostas, including Hosta of the Year 'Victory' (see Steve's article on Page __ for more hosta info)
- 2. A variety of Marigolds---FFF Flower of the Year
- 3. Perennial of the Year: Geranium 'Biokovo'
- 4. Grass of the Year: Sporobolus 'Giant Sakaton'
- 5. Shrub of The Year: Cephalanthus occidentalis button bush
- 6. A variety of succulents
- 7. Pots and containers filled with plants
- 8. A number of coleus
- 9. Plus hundreds and hundreds of annuals and perennials for your gardening pleasure



Photo from last year's sale by Alan Gallaher



Specialty Hostas Available at May Plant Sale

Steve Shubick

For the plant sale this year we have twelve different hostas of different colors, sizes and shapes. Of the twelve, three are repeats from last year. They are H. 'Blue Mouse Ears' (mini/small), H. 'Frosted Mouse Ears' (mini/small) and H. 'Rainforest Sunrise' (small). We also have again, The American Hosta Growers Association 2015 Hosta of the Year which is H. 'Victory'. Some of the other hostas were on either or both of the American Hosta Society, Popularity Poll or the American Hosta Growers Association, Hosta of the Year.

2015 Hosta of the Year *H.* 'Victory'

(Zilis/Solberg 2003)

<u>Color - Variegated, Size - Giant (30"H x 70"W), Habit</u> - Upright, Bloom - White

Parent - sport of H 'Elatior', Shiny green center with a margin that changes from greenish yellow to creamy white by early summer. Smooth texture with thick substance. It has near white flowers on tall scapes in mid-summer. This vigorous plant makes an outstanding specimen or background plant.

Photo courtesy of Shady Oaks Nursery





H. 'Blaze of Glory'

H. 'Blaze of Glory' Medium, 20"T x 44"W. A bright lemonygold hosta that lights up in any garden...slightly wavy leaves are topped with near-white flowers in July. Great substance and vivid color make this a desirable specimen. Was introduced to the wholesale trade in 2004 by Q & Z Nursery, Inc. According to The Hostapedia by Mark Zilis (2009), "I remember being impressed with H. 'Blaze of Glory' the first time I viewed it in Ed Eldager's collection (Ann Arbor, MI). The very light gold foliage seems especially bright at dusk and on cloudy days.'

H. 'Silver Bay' Medium, 14"T x 38"W. Intense silver-blue leaves make a flat mound about 14" tall. Leaves are quite round with some cupping and good corrugation. Pale lavender flowers in July. This H. 'Blue Moon' seedling was registered by Don Dean in 1999. According to The Hostapedia by Mark Zilis (2009), "The intensity of blue coloration in 'Silver Bay' is quite impressive. Add to that intense corrugation, an unruly nature, and thick substance and you have a cultivar that should rank near the top of any list of best blue hostas. This plant also resists slugs. (Continued on next page)



Hostas at Plant Sale_ - Continued from previous page

- **H. 'Wheee!**' Medium, 15"T x28"W. Comes up in spring with the most amazing curly and twisty shoots and then, when it leafs out it continues to curl and twist. It's a vigorous grower, with borders that can vary in width from year to year. Has lavender flowers. According to The Hostapedia by Mark Zilis (2009), "Found by Bill Meyer, who recently theorized that H. 'Leola Fraim' might be its mother plant. Its extreme waviness puts it into a class of very unusual hosta sports."
- **H. 'Curly Fries'** Small, 11"T x 20"W. Extremely ruffled narrow leaves emerge yellow and slowly turn to near-white. This is one of the most popular hostas of the last couple of years. American Hosta Society Popularity Poll 2013 for mini, was number 8.
- **H. 'Raspberry Sundae'** Small, 9"T x 21"W. Bright white leaves with a wide green border are carried on raspberry-red stems that bring the red color right up into the leaf. Deep red scapes are topped with dark purple flowers. It's VERY SHOWY.
- **H. 'Praying Hands'** Medium, 16"T x 30"W. A little weird...elongated dark green leaves have a waxy sheen and a very thin yellow rippled border. The leaves are folded and wavy, giving a twisted appearance. Light lavender flowers. American Hosta Society Popularity All Hostas from 2010-2013 made the list four times and number 6 for 2010. The American Hosta Growers Association, Hosta of the Year for 2011
- **H. 'Whirlwind' Medium'**, 19"T x40"W. Narrow green leaves with a rippled yellow margin, very fast grower and does make a good groundcover. American Hosta Society Popularity for All Hostas from 1997-2010 made the list twelve times and number 15 for 2013.



H. 'Captain Kirk', Medium, 18"T x 36"W. H. 'Gold Standard' sport with a wider dark green margin and a gold center. A sport of H. 'Gold Standard', this cultivar was registered by Kirk Brill in 1999. Pale lavender blooms appear in mid July. According to The Hostapedia by Mark Zilis (2009), "Differs from 'Gold Standard' in having a much wider dark green margin."

March Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Highlights of the March Board meeting include

- Decision to utilize a suggestion box at Club meetings, to encourage members to provide feedback about Club activities and to make suggestions about future programming.
- Decision to solicit ideas from Club members regarding the recent financial gift the Club was so fortunate to receive
- Decisions regarding the passes the Club has received from the Arboretum as part of our membership contribution: VIP passes (single day passes) will be raffled at the Plant Sale, and a procedure has been developed that will allow members to use the sustaining passes that can be used throughout the year.
- The Member Handbook is being revised.

The full minutes are available to any member who'd like more information after the minutes have been approved by the Board. Please get in touch with Laurie for a copy.

The Garden Spray Page 7

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MWGCM Perks at the Arboretum

Alan Gallaher, Treasurer

Last fall in the process of making a \$500 donation to the Arboretum, their staff advised us to take out a Sustaining Membership instead (for the same cost). This level of membership comes with two perks: 16 one-day, one person **Adult VIP Passes** and 2 reusable **EZ Passes**, each pass admitting up to 8 adults each time it's used.

At the March meeting, the MWGCM Board of Directors decided to use these perks in the following way:

The 16 **VIP Passes** will be offered in pairs in the silent auction at the Plant Sale and Auction in May. Even though many of us have a membership at the Arboretum, these passes would allow for a larger group for a day's excursion.

The 2 **EZ Passes** will be available for Club members to check out for a specific day. Each member can reserve one pass (admits 8 people) for a 3 day period on a first come, first served basis by contacting me, Alan Gallaher at 952-933-1713 or gallahaj@uwec.edu. You will need to pick up the pass from me one day, use it the next, and then return it by the third day. Specific arrangements can be made when you make the reservation for an EZ Pass. I live in Edina only 1.5 blocks from highway 169 at the Bren/Londonderry exit.

Additional use of an EZ Pass will be on a "standby" basis. If no one has reserved a pass for the next day, you can use it again. No limits are placed on how many times you can use it on a "standby" basis. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me and I'll try to field them. We're happy to offer this valuable option from the Arboretum and hope that you will take advantage of this added benefit to your MWGCM membership.

Announcing the 2015 Floral Design Division Classes for our FFF Show on August 15 & 16, 2015

Judy Berglund, Committee Chair

This years' design theme is "The Garden". The design classes are as follows:

- **New Sprouts:** miniature design less than 6"x6"x6"
- **First Blooms:** floral design using spring colors / pastels
- **High Summer:** floral design using hot colors
- The Mature Garden: tall floral design
- The Harvest: floral design using earth colors / incorporating vegetables
- The Garden in Winter: floral design using whites and cool colors

The materials used in the design do not need to all come from only your garden. The materials used only need to be garden grown and may come from a friend's garden or materials you might find at a farmers market.



This division often has very few entries each year but last year's response was **wonderful**, so get your creative juices flowing and keep up the great work with floral arrangements to this year's FFF Show.

We look forward to seeing your creative floral designs!



Why Natives? Kirky Otto

There's great news from the Minneapolis Parks and Rec Board – our organization is being granted 10-20 feet at the extreme east end of the Lyndale Park Garden near Lake Harriet to develop an area of plantings for pollinators. In April, we'll discuss space and plants with those who manage the area, and then we'll acquire the plants, and install them this spring and summer. Plans are to use plants native to Minnesota. So – why natives?

In her beautifully-photographed, clearly-written "Pollinators of Native Plants," Heather Holm explains that "Pollinators have evolved with native plants over thousands of years, developing unique and interdependent relationships." (Preface, page V)

Dutchman's breeches, *Dicentra cucullaria*, has only one effective pollinator, queen bumble bees, who can access the nectar and transfer pollen due to their size, strength, and long tongues. (Holm, p.8) Since we'll be trying to attract and support many kinds of pollinators, we'll use plants which attract "generalist" pollinators, rather than "specialists" like Dutchman's breeches. We will concentrate on 'wild bees' as they're called by the U of MN's Bee Lab in an on-line article on "Native Bees, solitary bees, and wild bees" by Joel Gardner. There are nearly 400 varieties of bees in this state, with only about 2% of them being honey bees and bumble bees. There are also wasps, beetles, butterflies, moths, and flies which do the job of pollinating local plants, and collecting the nectar, pollen, resin, or oils offered to them for their work. (Holm, p. 8) The goal will be to provide plants for a wide variety of local pollinating insects, since all of them are being hurt by loss of "forage plants and nesting habitat, the spread of pathogens and the use of pesticides." (Holm, preface, p. V)

In addition to providing natural forage for local pollinating insects, native plants have a number of advantages over cultivars. Unless they are specifically wetland plants, they require less water once they're established, and this may be a very important strength if snow drought of this winter continues to be a rain drought in the warm months. They require less care that most hybridized cultivars – native grasses require "mowing" only once annually, in the spring, when last year's growth should be cut back. Many require little or no fertilizer, and most are not susceptible to disease. Therefore, there is less dollar and time input. ("Native Plants for Sustainable Landscape," Vera Krischik et al, SULIS website) All you really need is the site, the plants, and mulch.

Of course there are some downsides to native plants. They're not perfect. They don't bloom all summer, as do annuals, and they can be tall and rangy or so short you have to be standing right next to them to see them. But we'll try to select ornamental ones that bloom for as long as possible, and will experiment until we find ones whose mass plantings will entertain human viewers as well as support native pollinators. Let's see what happens.



News from the Lyndale Park Garden: Designing the Garden Kav Wolfe

It is that time of year again — time to think about designing our gardens. The Lyndale Park Garden border has evolved over the years. We started out with the first 6 feet being reserved for the perennial trial plants. Behind them we planted larger perennials, and then we added shrubs. As time went on, we realized that using shrubs with interesting form and foliage color really added pizzazz to the garden. As less space has been needed for the trial plants, we have planted more and more colorful and uniquely shaped shrubs. Now we surround these shrubs—or "bones" of the garden—with perennials, some grasses, and annuals. It is a "mixed border."

We use a simple color scheme—one that can work well in any garden. Plant foliage comes in 3 colors besides green—red, blue, and yellow—the latter being closer to gold or chartreuse. These three primary colors are opposites on the color wheel—and using them makes for brilliant gardens. We try and plant the 3 colors in a grouping—then plant some green for the eye to rest—and then use the colors again. It is like designing a quilt. (I wonder if our editor agrees?!) We buy annuals in the same color schemes—both foliage color and flower color. The red category includes burgundy, magenta, and hot pink—blue includes purple—and there are many gold and chartreuse leaves and flowers. We don't use any pastel shades or white—just not bright enough for a park garden. We also aim to mix up shapes—cones next to round shapes—tightly clipped shrubs next to fluffy airy grasses. Plant opposites next to each other—in either shape or color—and both will stand out.

Have a great time dreaming and designing your colorful and soon to be planted garden! If I can answer any questions about the varieties we use at the park or how they perform—just write to mgcmgardne@q.com. Or join our committee! We learn a lot from the park garden!



This photo from July 15, 2014 views the border to the west. In the very front are Ninebark 'Little Devil,' to the left purple angelonia, blue oat grass; in the center are masses of red Knautia macedonia; and a variety of a MN hybrid lily to the right. Dwarf blue globe spruce are in the mid-distance backed by 'Rose Glow' barberries; then proceeding left a 'Flamingo' willow; two tall 'Yellow Ribbon' arborvitae; more 'Little Devil' at their feet; and on down the border.

Taken on August 19 of 2014. Again looking west we see six varieties of red and gold coleus with the green of boxwood to the right; the tall blue ageratum near a group of round 'Little Giant" arborvitae; on their right Hakonechloa aurea and hostas drift back into the shade; and further in the distance golden globe shapes of 'Fire Chief' arborvitae (the small one) and 'Golden Carousel' barberries. The short burgundy patches near the front are 'Burgundy Threads' Alternanthera.



Another view from August 19, 2014, this time looking east. 'Crimson Pygmy' barberry with Taunton yew in left front; 'Yellow Mesa' gaillardia with Profusion Cherry Zinnia; bergenia and Lysimachia 'Aurea'; geranium, grasses, ageratum, and alternanthera; Blue spruce, golden barberry with echinacea, red drifts of coleus; and the colors repeat themselves continuing down the border.

The Garden Spray Page 10 http://www.mwgcm.org



Calendar of Events

March 31, 2015

Macy's/Bachman's Flower Show Macy's

May 12, 2015

Plant Sale and Auction St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Minneapolis

June 9, 2015

Martagon Lilies Frans Officer Lakewood Cemetery

July, 2015 (Date TBA)

Garden Tour?

August 15-16, 2015

Flower, Food and Foto Show U of M Landscape Arboretum August, 2015 (Date TBA)

Garden Tour?

September 8, 2015

Laura Schwarz of Tangletown Gardens Gardening in the Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District **Lakewood Cemetery**

October 13, 2015

Roses Return: New Hardy Shrub Roses for the North

David Zlesak

Lakewood Cemetery

November 10, 2015

Hostas

Bob Olson

Lakewood Cemetery

December 8, 2015

Holiday Party

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Judy Berglund, Judy Brooke, Alan Gallaher, Gary Geister, Laurie Levin, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kirky Otto, Steve Shubick, Kay Wolfe.

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



Inside:

Page 1	April Event
Page 2	Notes from the Pres., Ed.
Page 3	Treas., Mbrship.,
	Announcements
Page 4	New Members
Page 5-7	May Plant Sale Info
Page 7	Board Meeting Highlights
Page 8	Arb Perks, FFF Design
Page 9	Why Natives?
Page 10	Park Garden Design
Page 11	2015 Calendar,
-	Contributors

Club Officers:

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Recording Secretary: Laurie Levin

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The Spray

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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

April 2015