

The Garden Spray

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

2014, Volume 72, Number 8

August

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
July 31		Photo contest entries due
Aug. 5		Club Garden Tour
Aug. 16-17	Arb	Flower, Food & Foto Show
Sept. 9	LWC	"Know Your Soil"
Oct. 14	LHC	Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle

More info on Page 11

ARB = U of M Landscape Arboretum

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

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

Note: Permanent reservations are NOT in effect for August Tour.

See the reservation form on Page 7. Reservations must be received by **Saturday, August 2.**

September Preview

5:15 Lyndale Park Garden Tour
6:15 Club dinner and meeting at Lakewood Cemetery

More information about our September meeting on Page 9.

Double the Fun in August!

Garden Tour Tuesday, August 5

The MWGCM invites you to attend the third and final tour of the summer season. This will be an informal "progressive" event (like in past years) featuring two member gardens and lots of time to socialize and talk gardening.

More information on Page 5

Flower Food and Foto Show Saturday and Sunday, August 16-17 At U of M Landscape Arboretum

Saturday, Aug. 16

7:30 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, Aug. 17

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



Photo by Andy Marlow

All of the details on Page 4

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<http://www.mwgcm.org>

Notes from the Prez:

-- Randi Larson

Recently, I was thinking about the concept of the upcoming October program on evolution and revolution in the garden. I wanted to volunteer our garden for a makeover (Larry would probably object, however). I envisioned a garden designer/landscaper coming in and solving all our problem areas, replacing some of the old, boring plants with exciting new ones and maybe installing a water feature.

This would be like one of those home improvement TV shows where all the hard grunt work is done for you and would feature views of before and after to show how well the project went. (I have quite an imagination, don't I?)

We have had to make quite a few dramatic changes already, of course. Several years ago we noticed a huge Aspen tree had come down in a storm and landed in the middle of another tree. Both of them had to be cleared out. Larry wasn't unhappy about it because he thought the loss of the trees would bring more sunlight into the backyard. Well, this was fine for some of the plants, but the hosta and fern gardens he had planted had been happy in the shade but were now frying in the sun. Larry made a trip to the garden store and bought maple and lilac trees but ultimately, he ended up moving every one of the 14 hostas he had planted to another location. He put up a large table umbrella to shade the ferns. Very colorful. Now, the ferns are shaded by a large Buckthorn bush that is covered with a large vine. Hey, whatever works!

Well, years went by, and suddenly I noticed last year that the side of our yard had become a haven for large buckthorn bushes. Ugh! So we cut them all out, about 50 feet of Buckthorn, and then, another problem. The 12 foot Buckthorn had hidden the ugly woods behind it, and now we had exposed it. So we bought a bunch of

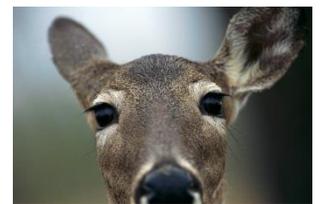
shrubs to cover up the woods and now the deer are feasting on the Ninebark! I wish our cats, Ole and Lena, could keep the deer population down just as they keep the bunnies away!



Of course, this mythical designer must include a large space for Larry's Dahlias, but he would have a hard time hiding those 8 foot tall iron rebar stakes that eventually hold up the Dahlias. I know these stakes are important but looking at them for months is not pleasant (sorry, Larry).

At this point, I don't know if my would-be project is influenced more by changing lifestyle, as much as invasive plants and hungry animals and pests.

If anyone knows of a TV show, garden store or landscape service which would like to take on our yard to advertise their skills (free, in other words) and products, let me know. But I won't hold my breath. In the meantime, I'll keep spraying the plants to help keep the deer away, staying alert to encroaching Buckthorn and hope that the only trees we lose are 'junk' trees. Anyway, I am looking forward to the October program, now titled 'Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle.' Our changing lifestyle means getting older and wanting gardening to be simpler, easier and free of disaster. Maybe we should incorporate a yard similar to the house located about a block from Tonkadale - dozens of large, plastic plants "planted" all over the yard. Heck most of the people driving past probably don't even realize the plants aren't real! And just think, the deer won't eat any of them!



Randi

Photos courtesy of Microsoft

Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 07-15-2014

Checking balance	\$17,042
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$ 681
Scholarship	<u>\$7,660</u>
Working Balance	\$ 8,701
CD	\$5,260

Membership Corner

No Membership news this month.

Every Member Bring a Member

Editor's Note

Mary Maynard

Robert Kean is a very dangerous man. He seems like such a nice guy. But when he calls you and asks if you'll be on a garden tour, it's very difficult to say no. And so my garden is on the August tour.

My garden is not a showstopper like Bob Olson's. Tangletown will not be begging me to be on their next tour. Maintenance is not my strong suit. I believe that, after seeing my place, you will feel better about yours. I look forward to seeing you on August 5.

Also in August: the Flower, Food and Foto Show. My favorite event of the year! And I am going to miss it, just because my mother is having her 90th birthday party 200 miles away. If you've never participated, please consider giving it a try. The "old hand" exhibitors are always happy to help you with all the details. My adage has always been, "When in doubt, bring it in!" In my first year at the show, I almost didn't bring a little spray of roses that ended up being Best Flower in Show. (As I recall, the Best Vegetable in Show and overall Best in Show that year were awarded to another rookie, the Dangerous Robert Kean.)

Finally, I have notified the Board that next year (2015) will be my last year as editor of the *Spray*. I have enjoyed being involved with *Spray* production since 2005, but I think it's time for someone with new ideas, new tools and a fresh perspective to take the *Spray* forward. I look forward to doing a little more writing in the future. "Confessions of a Lazy Gardener" could return.

If one of you would like to take over before the end of 2015, I'm sure we can find a way to make that happen!

Flower, Food and Foto Show
August 16-17
Judy Berglund

Calling all members and their friends to action, the time is coming soon to gather in all of those award winning flowers and vegetables to exhibit at our Flower, Food and Foto (FFF) Show. We hope all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers, vegetables and floral designs to the show.

If you have not exhibited at the show before, never fear - experienced exhibitors will be on hand to help you!

Go to our website (www.MWGCM.org) and hit "Links" where you will find the show schedule with rules, entry classes and an example of how to fill out an entry tag. (If you do not have access to the internet, give Judy Berglund a call at 952-975-1960 and she will send you a paper copy of the show schedule.)



Our featured flower is Zinnias, 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.

Beans are this year's featured vegetable, bush or pole, in green, yellow or purple. For exhibit, do not trim stem or end of pods. There should be 7 pods uniform in size, color and quality.



Please do not forget to bring your "FARM THEME" floral designs.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

Photos courtesy of Park Seed

Photo Contest Entries due by July 31!

Don't be modest! It's easy to enter!

Winners will be revealed at the FFF (Flower, Food and Foto) Show on August 16-17

Take a look at the rules at this link at our website:

http://mwgcm.org/MGCM/Links_files/2014%20Photo%20Contest%20Rules.pdf

August 5 Tour: A St. Louis Park Study in Contrast

Robert Kean, Mary Maynard

Bob Olson and Mary Maynard welcome you to their gardens! The main thing these two gardens have in common is that they are both in St. Louis Park. More about the gardens below.

Schedule:

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Beverages and appetizers while touring Bob Olson's Garden (2840 Glenhurst Ave.)

7:00 - 7:15 p.m. party moves to Mary Maynard's Garden (4375 Dart Avenue)

7:15 - 8:15 p.m. Desserts and touring of Mary's Garden

Cost is just \$5/person.

Appetizers, Desserts, and beverages will be available.

See below for garden descriptions, directions, and registration details.

Note: The cost is kept low through food donations. Contact Robert Kean (keanr@netzero.net, 612-827-7216) if you would be willing to bring an appetizer or dessert.

Thanks.

Garden of Bob Olson 2840 Glenhurst Avenue South, St. Louis Park.



Bob is a big name in hosta circles, but his garden is about much more than that. He does have some huge, remarkable hostas, but his garden also features many more perennials and annuals for sun and shade.

Bob grows many perennials in containers and we'll see the best of them on his gracious patio, which gives way to a lush lawn and wide borders of meticulously maintained specimens.



Bob's garden has already been featured on a couple of tours this year, so he is undoubtedly ready for us.

Bob will be presenting a talk on Hostas at our November club meeting.

Photos from Bob's Blog on our website.

Garden of Mary Maynard 4375 Dart Avenue, St. Louis Park



Mary comes by her “Lazy Gardener” nickname honestly and has the garden to prove it. It includes hostas, roses, tropicals, daylilies, dahlias, and many other perennials ~~all jumbled together~~ arranged informally. She plans to get rid of the most annoying weeds before you get there, but there are no firm guarantees. Tomatoes have replaced foundation plantings in front of the house, and peppers grow in

partial shade. Beans are growing in a window box. Rabbits abound. Her one accomplishment is a huge Hosta montana ‘Aureomarginata’ (pictured). Mary has no pride and is always happy to welcome visitors, no matter what the garden looks like.



Photos by Mary Maynard

P.S. Don't look at the “lawn”.

Directions for the August 5 Tour

by Andy Marlow

Caution: This is Minnesota's other season: road construction. I drove this route on July 20 and there were no detours or closures, but be alert to changes.

1. Find Bob Olson's house on your own at 2840 Glenhurst Avenue South, St. Louis Park. (Glenhurst is one block west of France Ave. 2840 is 1 ½ blocks north of Minnetonka Blvd.)
2. From Bob's house, go north half a block to 28th Avenue Street or south half a block to Sunset Boulevard.
3. Turn right at 28th Street or left at Sunset Boulevard go one block to France Avenue South. Turn right on France.
4. Go to the stop light and turn right on to Minnetonka Blvd, but be prepared to bear left almost immediately on to Hennepin County 25 (formerly MN Highway 7).
5. At the first stop light turn left on to Belt Line Boulevard.
6. Belt Line Boulevard will end at a T with West 36th Street. Turn left and follow W 36th Street to Excelsior Boulevard.
7. Turn right on Excelsior Boulevard. Go to the second stop light (Quentin Avenue) and turn left. Follow Quentin Ave until it intersects with Wooddale Avenue South.
8. Turn left on to Wooddale and follow it to West 44th Street.
9. Turn right on 44th Street. Go one block and turn right on to Dart Avenue South.
10. Mary's house is on the right about half way up the block: 4375 Dart Avenue South. (Brick house with white pergola). Parking is allowed on both sides of Dart Ave, on the north side of 44th Street west of Dart Ave or on the west side of Wooddale Ave.

Bonus: notice all the beautiful boulevard gardens along Mary's block.

Reservation form is on next page

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<http://www.mwqcm.org>

Tour Reservation Form for August 5

Return this portion with your check made out to MWGCM, to be received by Saturday, August 2.

Name(s) _____

Payment enclosed (\$5/person) _____

Send payment to:

Denise Rust
 7933 Girard Court N.
 Brooklyn Park, MN, 55444

Would you be willing to provide an appetizer or dessert for this tour?

Circle one: Yes No

If so, what will you bring? _____

Appetizers should arrive at Bob Olson's by 6:00 PM and desserts at Mary Maynard's by 7:15.

Thank you!

Wrap-up of June's Public Tour

Denise Rust

This year's public tour is in the history books. The gardens were amazing and diverse and the weather was good unless you got caught in the rain while touring one of the gardens in the more western part of the tour area.

I am happy to report that those of us riding the bus did not see rain until we were headed back to the Park and Ride.

Attendance was not huge, but those who went were pleased with what they saw. This year's profit stands at \$1,835 for the Scholarship Fund. A big thank you goes out to our gardeners, the tour committee and all of you who came out.



Photos by Denise Rust

Lyndale Park Garden News

Kirky Otto

Wednesday, July 9, was a bright, sunny day at the Lyndale Park Gardens, and that was ideal. Four members of the MWGCM met with 20 students from Minneapolis Public Schools who were spending a week earning graduation credits by learning about work in the "green" industry. They spent time with the National Forest Service, Wilderness Inquiry, and Wednesday with Minneapolis Park Board employees -- and an hour with us -- learning about and trying out work in those areas.



In this photo, new member James Empson is giving the students an outline of what plants need to thrive. Kay Wolfe introduced the MWGCM and our role in the gardens, and Kirky Otto outlined their task: take the information they'd gotten from James, divide into groups, and follow the above mentioned, Steve Shubick, or one of the MPRB staff gardeners to a spot in the garden. There each group critiqued what was planted in "their" section (James's idea), came up with suggestions for changes, and put together a verbal report on their ideas, which they had to defend. Steve was happy to challenge ideas, and the kids got a kick out of explaining themselves.

The kids did a great job, and had some fun ideas (although we will probably not replace a mid-sized Norway pine with a giant cottonwood tree, as one group suggested), and got a bit of experience with designing, as opposed to physical labor. Everyone, students and adults, seemed to have a good time, and to come away with positive responses. It's entirely possible that some of those kids will wind up as MWGCM members, given 10 or 20 years of gardening. They all have a bit of ownership in the Trial Gardens now.



Photos by Sherry Brooks, MPRB

September Program at Lakewood Cemetery

Tom McKusick

Prior to gathering at Lakewood, there will be a tour at Lyndale Park Garden at 5:15. Kay Wolfe will be showing us what's new in the garden, with tours starting approximately every 15 minutes.

Presentation at Lakewood's Garden Mausoleum Reception Room.

"Know Your Soil" by Rene Lynch, President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Minnesota. Rene will test up to 30 soil samples of club members for pH at the presentation. Bring your soil sample in a Ziploc bag

Board Meeting Highlights

Laurie Levin, Recording Secretary

Topics of interest from the July board meeting included:

- Continuing discussion about moving all of our Club meetings to Lakewood. Members have enjoyed the location at the meetings we've had there, and we are working out details related to parking and finances that will make this change a worthwhile one for us.
- Review of this summer's tours
- Approving additional monies for the Lyndale Garden Committee so that their work can continue to be funded at an appropriate level. Funding for the Garden from outside sources is no longer available at the level we have had in the past (through no fault of ours!), so additional support is needed.
- Encouraging members to become Board members: the Nominating Committee has already begun looking for a Few Good People to step up and serve. Contact Sandra Abraham if you are interested!

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.

Getting to Know Your Board Member: Alan Gallaher

Alan Gallaher



As the King of Hearts advised Alice: "Begin at the beginning," the King said, very gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop.", so shall I.

I was born and grew up in Appleton, WI, went to college in Madison and then moved to Minneapolis to do my master's degree at the University. After working for a few years in St Paul, I moved to Evanston, IL to get one more degree. As I'd been educated and trained as a speech-language pathologist, I worked in hospitals, rehab centers, and universities. I lived and worked in the Toledo, OH, region as well as State College, PA, but ended up in Eau Claire,

WI, teaching at the University there. After retiring, I decided that there wasn't a whole lot to do in Eau Claire, so I moved to Edina and here I am.

My father grew up on a farm before WWI and as a consequence had no use for farming or for yard work. My mother, on the other hand, loved gardening raising flowers and some vegetables, so at a young age, I was drafted to assist in the garden duties. For much of my early working years, I lived in apartments with no possibility of outside gardening but always raised houseplants, some getting to monstrous proportions. The *ficus benjamina* I bought at the supermarket in 1980 as a two foot sapling is still with me but now I have to trim it down from the ceiling. When I bought my first and second houses, I plunged into landscaping and establishing flower gardens. I tried my hand at vegetables but I wasn't very good: things kept happening like getting the insect spray confused with Round-Up.

In 2009 I bought my townhouse in Edina and decided my days of gardening were over. When I moved, I got rid of all of my gardening tools. A few years later, the resident who had been managing the townhouse grounds wasn't able to continue and I volunteered, and as I was the only volunteer, I got it. Soon afterward, Mary Oelke and Audrey Grote, my neighbors, suggested I come along with them to a monthly meeting of the MWGCM. The MWGCM seem to fit the bill for me perfectly. I needed contacts in the gardening world to keep me up-to-date and to give me ideas for our grounds.

With 6 acres of land to manage, it certainly has kept me busy. Slowly the number of garden tools in my garage has grown and grown. My knowledge of tree diseases like oak wilt and emerald ash borer management as well as what flowers deer will and won't eat has also grown steadily in the last 3 years. Through our club last year I was able to explore my interest in flower arranging and entered the FFF Show. I was pleased to make a respectable first showing and am already planning my entries for this year's show. Last November I got a call asking me to run to the Board. I was reluctant as I still feel like the new kid on the block but decided I'd give it a try. Joining the Board has been a good experience for me, getting to know the other Board members and to understand better the challenges we face in trying to grow and to offer great experiences every year for our membership. So I guess I'm at the end of my tale. I'm very pleased that I got connected to the MWGCM at point in my life that I really needed that contact.

Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

Calendar of Events for Rest of 2014

July 26

Member bus tour

July 31

Photo contest submission deadline.

August 5

Club Garden Tour

August 16-17

Flower, Food and Foto Show
U of M Landscape Arboretum

September 9

Guided tours at Lyndale Park Garden
"Know Your Soil"
Renee Lynch
Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis

October 14

"Evolving Gardens for a Changing Lifestyle"
Hennepin County Master Gardeners
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

November 11

Hostas
Bob Olson
Lake Harriet Methodist Church

December 9

Holiday Party

This Month's Contributors: Thank You!

Printed Content: Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Alan Gallaher, Margaret Hibberd, Robert Kean, Randi Larson, Laurie Levin, Mary Maynard, Tom McKusick, Kirky Otto, Denise Rust

Photography: Sherry Brooks (MPRB), Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Bob Olson, Park Seed, Denise Rust, Lloyd Wittstock

Check out Bob's Blog!

Bob hosted the Lily Society at his garden recently. To read about Bob's lily strategy, go to our website (<http://www.mwgcm.org>) and click on "Bob's Blog" at the top of the page.

**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.

Mary Maynard, Editor

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First Class Mail

August
2014