

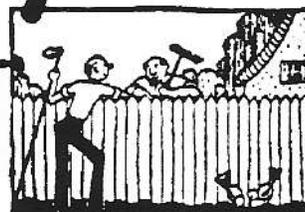


The Garden Spray

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

Affiliated with Gardeners of America and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

June 1998, Volume 56, Number 6



June 9th Dinner Meeting...

Bob Livingston on Dwarf Conifers

The Subject

Dwarf Conifers: those cone bearing plants that give color and form to a garden all year around—even in Minnesota. The program will cover Bob's Top Ten picks, what site considerations you should make and, most importantly, where to get these beautiful plants.

The Speaker

Our own Bob Livingston, a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis since 1971, will provide us with an evening about Dwarf Conifers. Bob has had the patience to grow these interesting and wonderful evergreens, and has accumulated a great deal of knowledge about them. He has grown them at his home in Edina and has studied them for many years.

Added Attractions

Mini Auction for milk bottle collectors.
Surveys to be handed out.
Photo Schedule and Rules to be handed out.

Date: Tuesday June 9, 1998

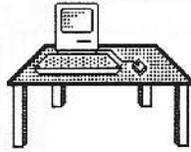
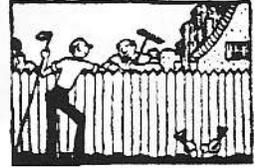
Time: Dinner 6:30 PM
Business 7:00 PM
Program 7:30 PM

Place: Lake Harriet United
Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Avenue South

Cost: \$7.50 if reserved in
advance
\$8.50 at the door if meals are
available

Important Note about Reservations

The 1998 permanent reservation list will remain in effect for this meeting. Check your mailing label. If it has a "p" in the corner, you are on the permanent list. If there is no "p" on your label, you are not on the permanent reservation list and must call Director Kay Wolfe by Friday, June 5, to be assured a place at dinner. If you are on the permanent list and will not attend, you must notify Kay by the same deadline or risk being responsible for the cost of your dinner. Kay can be reached at 922-0762. Leave a message on her voice mail if you can't reach her in person or send her an e-mail at opperwolfe@worldnet.att.net.



The Editor's Desk

Chuck Carlson
Managing Editor

We had a terrific auction and plant sale. I hope all who were there enjoyed it and purchased something. I purchased more than I intended but that may be because I will have some additional flower beds to fill and there were some plants available that have been on my want list. We will have full details of the sale at a later date but here are a few statistics. The profit is around \$3,000. 97 people had dinner, 68 bought at the country store or the auction and seven nonmembers bought at the auction.

Our Fridley abode is getting a new road and curbs so I thought it was a good time to eliminate our second driveway. It was getting pretty well cracked and the front entry should look much better. I remember one of the programs we had on landscaping which talked about front entries. This helped to get me going on the project.

Projects just seem to grow and one thing leads to another. The driveway is gone but a brick walk is replacing it and flower beds are expanding on each side of the walk. Since I am doing the work myself I am behind in getting the planting done. I guess that takes care of the two weeks we gained because of our early spring but with the hail we received I am glad I hadn't planted the plants I have been nursing and hardening off. I was lucky that my instincts told me to put them in the pickup and drive them in the garage

Four things are coming up on the summer schedule: the June dinner meet-

(continued on page 10)

Coming Attractions

Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Tim McCauley's house

Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 PM
MGCM Dinner Meeting
Lake Harriet United Methodist Church
49th and Chowen Ave. South

Tuesday, July 7, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Ritchie Miller's house

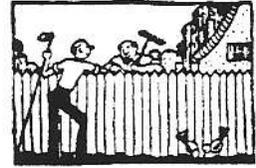
Saturday & Sunday, July 11 & 12
MGCM's Biennial Scholarship Tour
Gardens of Distinction

Tuesday, August 4, 7:30 PM
Board of Directors meeting
Kay Wolfe's house

Sunday, August 9
Members' Garden Tour

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., for its members and friends. The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is a not-for-profit, equal opportunity organization.

Managing Editor Chuck Carlson
Production Manager ... Andy Marlow
Staff Tim McCauley,
Mary Maynard, Margaret Hibberd
Howard Berg, and Bob Stepan.



Mary's Meanderings

by Mary Maynard, President MGCM

The Scandinavian in me has always worried that we'd pay for the mild winter and outstanding spring, and pay we did on the 15th of May. Sounds like most people got at least some hail damage. I



Photo by Lloyd Wittstock

was feeling bad about the holes in my hosta leaves until I took a look around me and discovered that nine of the thirteen houses on my block lost at least one tree. We don't have trees big enough to lose on our lot: all the major trees on our property died since Phil and I got married in 1990. Hmmmm.... When I see all of the neighbors working together to help each other out, my faith in humanity gets another boost.

Aside from having vegetation reduced to strings and stumps, a little major property damage and landscapes changed for the foreseeable future due to the loss of 40-year-old trees, it's been a fabulous spring. Things are growing like nobody's business, and I have seen very few winter fatalities so far. I was a little worried about the hypericum that I bought at the silent auction last year, but I see timid little shoots now, which means I didn't kill it after all.

The Plant Auction was a success once again. Thanks to everyone who worked hard to get the variety and quality that we've come to expect. I don't think

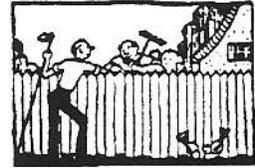
I've ever seen so much stuff in the Country Store. Marvelous contributions from our members, and careful purchases by the committee. My garden is studded with things I've gotten at the Auction over the years — the coveted hostas that I paid more than retail for, the azalea that finally got enough protection from the rabbits to bloom this year, red rhubarb that someone brought to the country store a while ago, 'Robusta' shrub rose that is immense this year after dying to the ground last year, a willow 'Golden Curls', and much more.

By the time you read this, we'll have planted the Perennial Trial Garden at Lake Harriet. Behind the 300 or so perennials in the trial section, we're planting a permanent collection of shrubs, grasses and perennials. There will be a lot to maintain, so it's a good thing we have a large committee.

Other committees are hard at work as well. You should have gotten your envelope of tour tickets by now. Please do what you can to sell these tickets. As you know, these public tours have not only funded scholarships—they have also brought in many new members over the years. The Flower, Food and Foto Show committee is moving along. You should see show schedules for both flowers, vegetables and photography soon.

I'm looking forward to June's club meeting, too, especially since we're tapping into the expertise of our own membership. Bob Livingston will talk about dwarf conifers. I'm not very brave when it comes to conifers, so I'm hoping that more information will instill confidence!

(continued on page 6)



April Program Report

by Maury Lindblom

Erika Jensen gave a very interesting talk at the April meeting on vegetable growing. Erika worked at the Minnesota State Horticultural Society for four years and now is involved in Community Supported Agriculture. This is a partnership between the farmer and members. Members purchase a share and receive fresh produce weekly, which they pick up at centrally located sites in the Twin Cities. The members get fresh produce and the farmers get a capital base for their operations. All of the farms



(Photo by Lloyd Wittstock)

grow their produce organically, or nearly so. Erika founded the Plowshare Community Farm in Prairie Farm, Wisconsin.

Organic farming is also defined as farming without chemicals, or as *natural* farming. Organic matter is essential in this process. Organic matter feeds the soil and the soil feeds the plants. It is a system of agriculture that utilizes the techniques of soil building, weed control, cover cropping, mulching and the use of only organic fertilizers.

Organic farming also relies on Integrated Pest Management for pest control. This utilizes the natural resistance of plants, eliminating or reducing stress to plants, and the use of organic pesticides. chemical pesticides are used only as a last resort. Biological controls such as *Bacillus Thurengiensis* are also used.

Vegetables grow best in full sun, with exception of lettuce that prefers some shade. Sandy loam with organic matter incorporated and a south-facing slope are also important. Plants should be on alternate centers to help with weed control. It is better to plant in beds than rows. Crop rotation was stressed and Erika gave us a handout that described this process.

Soil amendments should be various types of manure because of its slow release of nutrients. In addition to nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium much attention is being focused on micronutrients which help vegetables grow and pass on these benefits when they are eaten. If necessary, foliar feeding may be done by using fish emulsion or Nettle Tea. (Ed. Note: I didn't think there was anything good that ever come from Nettles)

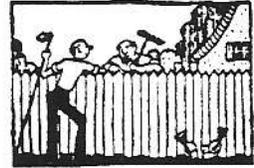
Following the presentation Erika showed us a series of interesting slides of various vegetable varieties. She urged us to buy heirloom type of vegetable seeds and to use short season varieties.

Classifieds

Wanted

Buyers and sellers

Reserve July 11, and 12 for the MGCM Biennial "Gardens of Distinction" Tours. There will be a drive yourself tour and a bus tour. See details on page 10. Besides being great fun, these tours raise money for our horticulture scholarships, so encourage your friends and family to accompany you or go on their own!.

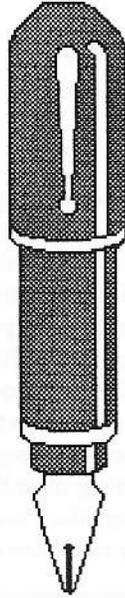


Survey: Forms will be distributed at the June meeting and should be filled out and returned to Tim McCauley.

New Business

New members: John M. Dahl and Charles E. Griffith were approved as members on a motion by Howard Berg and a second by Maury Lindblom.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 P.M.



Board Meeting Minutes

Walt Muehlegger, Secretary

April 28, 1998

Present: All officers and directors were present except Kay Wolfe

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Maynard at 7:37 P.M.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the April 7, 1998 Board Meeting were approved..

Treasurer's Report:

Corrections to Feb. 28, 1998 cash report, corrections to March 31, 1998 cash report and the new April 26 report were approved.

Vice President's Report: Eldon Hugelen reports that Bob Livingston will talk about conifers at the June meeting.

Committee Reports

Arbor Day and Perennial Garden: Tim McCauley reports that Arbor Day and the Perennial Garden planting will be combined on May 16.

Flower, Food and Foto Show: Mary Maynard reports she has the ribbons.

Tours: Mary Maynard reports gardens are picked, working on bus pickup.

Old Business

Arboretum Education Fair: Went quite well. There will be more exposure next year.

Committee Documentation: Maury Lindblom reports committee documentation is proceeding.

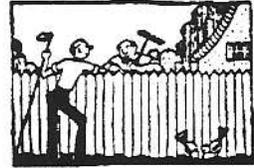
New Members

John M. Dahl
4144 13th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407-3246
Phone: 822-4410

Chuck E. Griffith
7979 Jonellen Lane North
Golden Valley, MN 55427-3425
Phone: 513-9269



June 14 is Flag Day



Contributors... Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

By Chuck Carlson

The following is a list of firms and people that made contributions to the auction, the raffle, the Country Store or the silent auction. Thanks to all. Make sure you consider them when making your future purchases.

Firms

Bachman's
Borbeleta's (Dave Campbell)
Diamond Lake Hardware
Dundee's
Edina Hardware
Gertens Nursery
Guse Hardware
Hennepin Co-Op
Kliers Nursery
Landscape Plant Development Center
and Dr. Harold Pellett
Linder's Garden Center
Lyndale Garden Center
Lyndale Hardware
Magnuson Sod
Malborg's
Outback Nursery - Tennant
Landscaping - Tom Tennant

Members

Barb Berosik
Lee Gilligan
Walt Muehlegger
Patti Lee
Andy Marlow
Henry Orfield
Kent Petterson (Terrace Horticultural
Books)
Clyde Thompson
Don Trocke
Bob Voigt
Lloyd Weber

Many members brought in plants from their garden. For this we thank you one and all. We have listed a few members who provided either plants or other items above and beyond our expectations. If anyone was missed who fits in this category please let me know and I will gladly add a correction in the next *Spray*. Missing someone is my biggest worry when I start naming members. Wasn't that bird feeder on the silent auction fantastic? It was crafted by our own Don Trocke.

President's Column

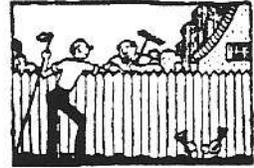
(continued from page 3)

At the June meeting, we'll also distribute a member survey. The Board is interested in opinions of Club members on a number of topics, including our primary activities and affiliations. Please take a minute to answer the questions honestly and openly. If you are not able to attend the June meeting, we will mail the survey to you. Thank you in advance for filling it out and returning it to us.

See you at the June meeting!

Weed...

any plant that will survive at least one week with out being watered, fertilized, pruned, sprayed, staked, mulched, misted, dusted or wrapped for winter protection.



Flower of the Month... **Dianthus**

By *Chuck Carlson*

This flower is sometimes called Carnation, Sweet William, Clove Pink, Maiden Pink, Cottage Pink and Cheddar Pink. The name "pinks" is not because of color but because of the scalloped, crimped edges of the flower. This is where the name pinking scissors came from. *Dianthus* comes from the Greek *dios* meaning divine and *anthos* meaning flower; in other words *divine flower*. They can be annual, biennial or perennial. They originated mostly in Europe but some came from Asia, Asia Minor and Japan.



They are surface feeders, so the roots hardly ever go deeper than three to five inches. Because of this, mulch may help in those sunny spots. *Dianthus* like light soil and in nature mostly grow on limestone outcroppings. Thus, pH in the 6.0 to 7.5 range is desirable.

Propagation is by seeds, stem cuttings or dividing. Plant seeds inside eight to ten weeks before the frost free date, divide in the spring or make stem cuttings in the summer.

Many bloom in the spring, some in the summer and a few in the fall. The flowers can grow on one to two inch stems up to the tall 12 to 15 inch 'Superbus' and to the very tall 30 inch 'Allwoodii'. Some of my favorites are *Dianthus x allwoodii*, *D. alpines*, *D. delitoides*, *D. 'Superbus'* and *D. 'Tiny Rubies'*.

Ageless Hero

Blue Cross Blue Shield honors our own Phil Peterson as an ageless hero in the Vitality category. An article in the Blue Cross Blue Shield newsletter said that Phil is an avid gardener (we knew that) and that he single-handily landscaped and planted the grounds at his senior condominium. At age 83 Phil remarried. He has had hip replacement, participates in many activities at the condo, drives other residents to various events and attends most or all MGCM meetings and events. Our congratulations to Phil and our hope is that the vitality he has continues for years to come.

Let the Sun Shine

No one is known to be hospitalized at this time.

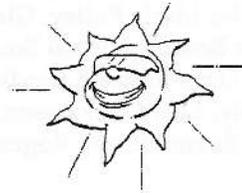
Jack Kolb has been making trips to Mayo for treatment of chronic leukemia which is presently under control. No bone marrow transplants are anticipated. He

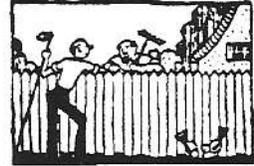
felt good enough to take a trip to Italy and he expects to be active for years to come. We wish him well and let's pray for his continued

success with his treatments.

We also extend good wishes and prayers to Patti Lee for her recovery from surgery.

Please call Phil Peterson at 949-3433 if you know anyone who is sick or hospitalized. We can only give a little sunshine if it is reported. Don't leave it to someone else to report.





Perennial Garden & Arbor Day

By Bob Redmond

ATTENTION !!!!! Perennial and Arbor Day Committee Members



(Eldon Hugelen helps direct the planting on Arbor Day. Photo by Chuck Carlson.)

On May 16 planting was done for Arbor Day (17 bushes) and the perennial garden (100 new plants). Since this is a joint project which involves about 500 feet of garden plantings I am setting up 3 teams of members to maintain the garden area for the summer. Each team leader will set up program for the necessary work—weeding and watering. I will furnish each team leader a detailed map showing the area of responsibility with information on water availability, etc. We may also be doing more planting as the plants become available.

Team 1 – Dave McKeen, leader
Chuck Carlson, Dave and Renada Moehnke, Merle Pulley, Glen Bartsch, Charles Benson, Vinton Bouslough, James Evans, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Jerry Kennedy, Lloyd Mikkelson, Jeff Pearson, Duane Reynolds and Roger Sefelt.

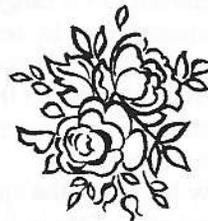
Team 2 – Don Trocke, leader
Eldon Hugelen, Walt Muehlegger, Howard Berg, John Moon, Keith Monjak, Kent Petterson, Carol Brekke, Stan Crist, Gary Geister, Robert Keen, Bob Livingston, Tim McCauley, Warren Nordley, Phil Peterson, Bill and Lee Strang, and Mary Wahl.

Team 3 – Bob Redmond, leader
Henry Orfield, Kay Wolfe, Margaret Hibberd, Mel Anderson, Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Mary Cunningham, Sher Curry, John Groos, Walt Gustafson, Bill and Nancy Jepson, Janice Johnson, Patti Lee, Katherine LoSapio, Jackie Overton, and Lloyd Wittstock.

If anyone was missed and wants to work on this project please contact Bob Redmond at 822-4109.

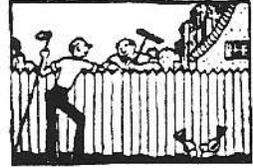
Blackspot

The Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M is working to develop blackspot resistant roses. Blackspot is caused by a fungus called *Diplocarpon rosae*. It is the scourge of most roses, and without chemicals the rose eventually succumbs to the disease.



There are a number of wild rose cultivars that are resistant and these are the ones Texas A&M is using in their program. It will take years to eliminate the undesirable characteristics by crossing them with some of the prize roses that are not resistant to blackspot.

While waiting for these to be developed, you can use a few that are available with some resistance. Select one of these and use a little fungicide. A few varieties are: Meidiland shrubs, 'William Baffin', 'The Fairy', and 'Crimson Glory'. There are others, so when you select your roses make one of the criteria blackspot resistance.



Pickles

By Mel Anderson

I grow my cucumbers in an area six inches wide by 14 feet long—a total of 7 square feet. This is an area south of my garage, between the garage and a walk. Raspberries are planted south of the walk. To adapt this small area to pickle production, I covered the back of the garage with chicken wire and train the cucumbers to climb on the wire. I also replace the soil every few years since I only want to grow cucumbers in this area.

I like to grow the picklers—hybrids like 'Liberty' and 'Calypso' do very well. I usually put some 20-20-20 fertilizer in the soil when I sow the seeds. The cukes are in competition for light with the raspberries across the walk. Some years they get a good jump up the wire and other years not, depending on the weather and when I sow the seeds. Watering is critical, especially when the cucumbers are forming. So I try to water every other day.

The cucumber beetle is a big problem. If all your cukes look good, except one vine is drooping and looks like it needs water, it probably doesn't—it's the cucumber beetle and the plant is gone. Spraying with Seven is the control needed. I try to spray the garden with a combination of Seven and Zineb. The names are easy to remember but it's harder to remember to spray for the beetle early in the season. It's too late when you see the droopy plant. Be sure to carefully read the labels and follow directions exactly when you use pesticides. Failure to do this is not only dangerous but illegal.

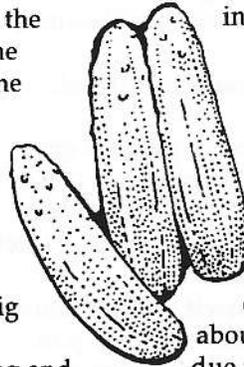
I harvest cucumbers each evening at supper time and put my harvest in the

refrigerator crisper at once. All cukes over three inches long will be picked. I process pickles each night in the basement, between 9:00 and 10:00 o'clock. It could be only one quart but it could be five. I follow the recipe below, being careful to boil everything – lids, gaskets and jars – so they are squeaky clean. I scrub the cukes with a vegetable brush and snip the ends.

Dill Pickles

1 quart vinegar (5% acidity)
3 quarts water
1 cup pickling salt

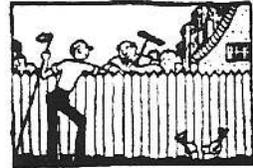
In addition to the cukes, I put into each jar two dill heads, a clove of garlic, and a small onion or pepper. Pack these and the cukes in a jar. Bring water, vinegar and salt to a boil and pour immediately into jar. Seal and let it cool.



The finished pickles are stored in our vegetable cellar. Some years I have canned as many as 60 quarts. Many different pickles can be made by varying the amounts and types of peppers, onions and garlic. If dill is not available, canned dill seed will work. Use about one-half teaspoon per jar. Now, due to the health fad, I have reduced the salt to two-thirds cup and nobody has noticed.

I get satisfaction from efficiencies of my pickle operation, such as the very small space to grow them and the little time required to process them. I love to get praise for my unusual and crispy pickles. And, in the dead of winter, I love to eat my pickles and think of next year.

Speaking of next year, I think I will start my cukes in a cold frame rather than sowing them directly into the garden. Maybe they will get a good jump on those raspberries and I will have a longer production period.



Fundraiser for Horticultural Scholarships... **MGCM Biennial Tour in July**

By Mavis Voigt & Chuck Carlson

Saturday and Sunday July 11 and 12 will be the MGCM *Gardens of Distinction* Tour. This biennial tour is open to the public and is to raise money for our scholarship fund.

The tour focuses on MGCM members' gardens. Included are a waterfall garden, a quaint cottage garden, an orchard garden, an expansive city garden, a raised bed garden and more.

Members' gardens that are on tour are: Carole Ann Brekke, Archie Caple, Gary Geister, Lee Gilligan, Delores and Dave Johnson, Gerry and Lee Shannon, and Lynette Uzzell.

Two types of tours are offered:

- A bus tour of six gardens on Saturday July 11 only from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., includes a Wayzata estate European garden and lunch. Tickets are \$28 in advance only.
- A drive-yourself tour on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. includes seven metro gardens. Tickets at \$10 can be ordered in advance or purchased at any of the gardens.

Advance tickets for either tour can be ordered through July 3 by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope and a check payable to "MGCM" to: Men's Garden Club Tour Tickets, 13782 Guild Ave., Apple Valley, MN 55124. For information or tickets after July 3 call 822-4109 or 835-5785.

All MGCM members have been sent tickets to use or sell. We hope all will participate and make this a success.

Please return all sales and unused tickets by July 3 to Jim Evans, 13782 Guild Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124.

All proceeds from the biennial tour fund scholarships in horticulture and landscaping. Since the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis started the tour program in 1992 it has awarded sixteen \$1,000 scholarships to Minnesota students.

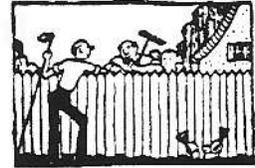
See you and your friends on the tour.

Editor's Column

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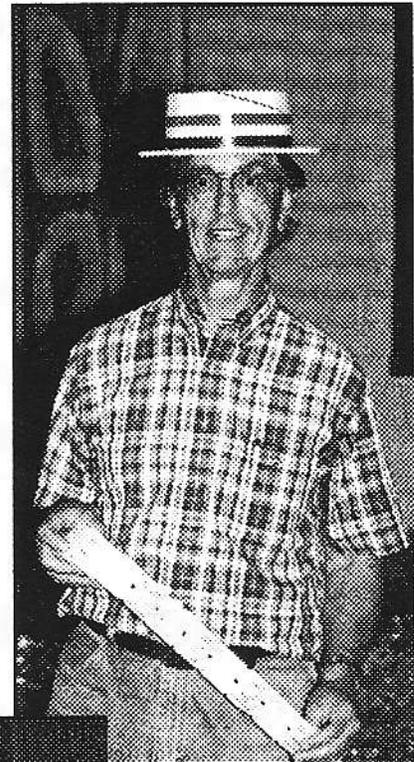
ing: the biennial tour in July; the August members' tour; and the Flower, Food and Foto Show. Make sure you put them on your calendar and attend. I am sure you will enjoy each of them. Take photos and grow flowers or vegetables to enter in the Flower, Food and Foto Show. And please sell those tickets for the Gardens of Distinction tour. It is the source of income for our scholarship program.

Part of the reason MGCM exists is to promote gardening and educate each other about it. One way to do this is to invite members to your garden. Don't be afraid to extend that invitation—one of our former members, Charlie Proctor, once said, "Gardeners are a hell of a lot nicer than most people". You might even develop a new friendship.



Plant Sale and Auction Photos

(all photos by Joe Stenger)



*(clockwise from top)
Marilyn Brummer and Mary Maynard compare their purchases. Bob Voigt uses his best techniques to sell raffle tickets. Bob Stepan readies plants on the auction table. Dave Johnson and auctioneer Gary Rosin decide which plants to put up for auction next.*



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Treasurer: Howard H. Berg
10107 Lakeview Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305
Past President: Maurice Lindblom
5219 Malibu Drive, Edina, MN 55436

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Ritchie Miller
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