



The Garden Spray

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

2005, Volume 63, Number 9



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Sep.	LHC	Flower Arranging
Oct.	LHC	Wildflower Gardening
Nov.	LHC	Landscaping Wildlife

LHC = Lake Harriet Church

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

MF = Marshall Field's Downtown

Arb. = U of M Landscape Arboretum

September Dinner Meeting September 13, 2005

Gathering and Conversation	-----6:00 pm
Dinner	-----6:30 pm
Business Meeting	----- Approx. 7:00 pm
Program	----- Approx. 7:30 pm

Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the September dinner meeting are in effect. Permanent reservations are shown by the "p" on the mailing label or by the email message for those receiving the newsletter by email.

Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Anne Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

For last-minute cancellations, call LeRoy Cech (952-435-7621). If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

September Speaker: Ardith Beveridge from the Kohler and Dramm Institute of Floristry

Ardith Beveridge is the Director of Education and Instruction at Koehler & Dramm's Institute of Floristry in Minneapolis. The Institute of Floristry has offered instruction in traditional, contemporary and European design since 1989 to students from all over the world. The goal of the Institute is to provide a high quality education in floristry to support the professional and personal goals of their students. Besides the prerequisite 40 hour basic Floristry I class, the Institute offers classes in advanced design, European and party design, sympathy and wedding celebration design and other seasonal classes. Courses are kept small so that students receive individual attention.

Ardith has been an active participant in the professional side of the industry and is a member of the American Academy of Floriculture (AAF) and the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD), as well as other noted organizations. She regularly contributes articles to the Minnesota Horticulturist magazine, as well as other trade publications. She is an instructor at the University of Minnesota with the Horticulture/Floristry design program. She stated that she enjoys teaching and especially likes giving presentations about floristry to groups such as garden clubs.

Ardith's presentation will be on floral design using garden flowers including selection of plant material and arrangement design.



A Word from the Prez

Greetings:

Wow! I forgot how nice 75 degrees and low humidity feels. How refreshing. I find it interesting how our bodies and plants both get tired and weary during the prolonged hot days of mid summer even though we get enough water. I think I've made it through anyway.

My thanks to the following members who opened up their yards for the August garden tour. Maury Lindblom, Don Stuewe, Robert Kean and Howard and Ruth Berg.

A great time was had by all who attended, and every garden was in fine shape. Please feel free to give the board your feedback on the way the garden tour were handled this year. Did you like the self driving, or should we go back to a bus tour etc.

Thanks also go out to the Flower Food and Foto show committee for putting on another fine show. I know Nancy Bjerke, Mary Maynard, Margaret Hibberd, and Marilyn Brummer worked hard to pull it all together. John Dahl received yet another top award for his roses. He also was an award winner earlier this year at a rose show at Bachmans. The highlight for me this year at the show was seeing Henry Orfield walk in the door for a visit and see the show. Many of you remember Henry because he was a member of the club for quite a while and his name is on many of the club trophies several times. He no longer lives in Arizona, but lives just north of Milwaukee in Cedarburg WI.

Congratulations to Nancy Bjerke for being voted volunteer of the year along with a couple other people at the arboretum. She puts in many hours at the arboretum volunteering doing all sorts of things, and always with a smile and a kind word. Also bragging up the MGCM while driving the tram.

Happy Gardening,
David McKeen

A Note from the Editor

by Mary Maynard

Editor's Note:

I am still resting up from another successful Flower, Food and Foto Show at the Arboretum. The FFF Show, which is generally held the last weekend before the State Fair opens, always seems to signal the end of summer. The seasons seem to fly by. Now we're coming up to autumn, which is one of my favorite times in the gardens. All the grasses are blooming, and the rudbeckias, perovskias, heleniums and tall sedums are making an excellent show.

If you haven't been down to our perennial trial garden and the permanent garden behind it, the fall is a great time to go. The grasses are looking great, and the large planting of the U of M's "My Favorite" mums will be making a great display in September and October. The permanent garden continues to expand and
(cont. on page 3)



Flowerbed on tee box



(cont. from page 2)

evolve. This large space gives us a chance to make use of large drifts of big plants. Most of us don't have the space to experiment with large plantings, but the permanent perennial garden is perfect for that.

Thanks to Robert Kean and Maury Lindblom and Don Steuwe for putting their gardens on tour in August. They were all unique in their own way, and I learned something from each of them. Robert uses a lot of unique annuals and unusual trees and shrubs on a small city lot. Maury has developed a new garden with distinctive plantings that the deer don't bother too much. And Don has created a dramatic backyard in deep shade. And, of course, Howard and Ruth weren't officially on tour, but we enjoyed their garden and hospitality as well.

I hope everyone who's been reluctant to have their garden on tour will read Bob Olson's excellent article. I don't pretend to have a showcase garden like Bob's, but I, too, remember the first time my garden was on a club tour. It was a very educational experience. I still remember a couple of things people said on that first tour. One person said, "I like your garden. It has weeds, just like mine!" And another person said, "Your garden seems possible." It's always interesting to see other people's gardens, even if they are still in progress.

I am really sorry that I'm going to miss our September meeting. I enjoy Ardith Beveridge's articles in the Northern Gardener, and I was hoping to learn something that could be applied next August when I am yet again struggling to put something together for the Design section at FFF. But, alas, it is not to be. Phil and I will be in England for the first two weeks of September. I got my own copy of Good Gardens Guide 2005 and I'm hoping to go to as many gardens as Phil will

MGCM Financial Report

As of August 17, 2005

Income - \$10,147 (full year budget is \$20,350)

Expenses - \$9,482.93 (full year budget is \$26,060)

Club Net Worth

Cash on hand - \$100

Checking account - \$7,474

CD's - \$10,000

Total - \$17,574

Total Membership is 112. 45 attended the January meeting, 51 attended the February meeting, 37 attended the March Meeting, 48 attended the April meeting, 53 attended in May. 44 attended in June, 31 attended the July tour and 46 members and guests attended the August tour.

put up with. For part of the trip, we'll be staying in the countryside not far from Powis Castle, so I'm pretty sure we'll get there. Visiting gardens in September was great when we were in Scotland a while ago. The gardens aren't as flashy as they probably are in May or June, but they are also much less crowded. Plus, it seems like it's easier to see the "bones" of the gardens in autumn, as things start settling down in preparation for winter.

Have a great September, and I look forward to seeing everyone in October!



August Garden Tour

Review submitted by Margaret Hibberd

The August Club Garden Tour the evening of August 9 found about 50 touring members and their guests getting the extra bonus of a temperate evening after the cool front moved rapidly south with rain in mid-afternoon. We expect the gardeners had worked hard in heat and humidity to get ready and we appreciate that. And we were impressed how good the gardens looked despite weeks of 90+ degree heat and little rain.

At Robert Kean's we saw his interesting choices of plants to grow from seed, including the Dahlia 'Bishop's Children', a seedling mix from the bronze flowered, red flowered 'Bishop of Llandoff' that genetically assorts into many different foliage and flower color and types. His black and golden raspberries had been trained and supported to fit their small urban spaces and his Shagbark Hickory was much admired.

Maury Lindblom's planting of 'Saturn' coleus with 'Marguerite' chartreuse sweet potato vine, 'Purple Majesty' millet, purple fountain grass, and 'Purple Wave' petunia was a striking greeting by his mailbox. The annuals he adds to his perennial beds provide a continuing color display in a plan to have several things always in bloom through the season. His friend dropped the hint that Maury has been drawing garden designs since he was a young teenager, so he's had time to work out these combinations of old favorites

and new introductions.

Don Stuewe had to spend most the tour time in his back yard taking comments on the amazing display of 100's of hostas up the steep hillside. He says he's quit dividing and moving them and will now wait for them to grow big. Beyond the hostas he inherited with the property, he's divided his newer choices like 'Guacamole' and the cheesy named 'Striptease'. They really pop out as do his wife Sue's collection of carved wooden bears. We saw his raccoon family peaking out of their tree hole – perhaps waiting for our departure to have some more fish snacks from the Don's pond. And the problem of those browsing Minnetonka deer eating hostas is solved by a high fence.

Ruth and Howard Berg, our non- garden tour participants, hosted the dessert with seating for all in their home, ready for any weather. But we did tour their gardens starting with the 'Janet' magnolia, with a few beautiful pink out-of-season blooms, and a blooming 'Pink Diamond' hydrangea in front and on to the compost bins 100's of feet back and all the planting in between. We saw how Howard keeps his running Miscanthus ornamental under control and could easily envision what could happen if not... Enjoying Berg's hospitality, tourers lingered long over dessert and good conversation.

Garden Tour Commentary by Bob Olson



The garden tour committee asked if they could come to our garden for the evening tour this year. It is an honor (and an obligation) which you shouldn't turn down without a very good reason. But my wife asked me, "Why are they coming here again?". A good question. In the past twenty years our garden has been on tour for the MGCM seven times. We have 130 members in the MGCM and if you spread things out evenly the tour should have been here only once. And there are members who have been on tour more often than me. We keep visiting the same places. I like going to see fine gardens, but I also like learning a bit more about the friends I have in the garden club.

Over the years there has been a change in the character of the members-only evening garden tour. Fifteen years ago the evening tour was for small gardens; three of long-time MGCM members and one garden of a new member. Actually, the famous Smith Brothers tried to get two old timers, one somewhat-new member and a rookie for the evening tour (The Sunday afternoon tour, where members brought guests, was for the heavy hitter gardens --those of Jerry Shannon, Dave Johnson, Stan Crist, Roger Koopmans and the like). I know, because in my first year in the club the evening tour came to my place. With brutal candor Russ Smith's brother Bob looked around my yard and said, "It won't be a long stop--and why don't you have some refreshments. There'll be enough time." I couldn't believe they would want to visit my house. I had some annuals by the back fence, four peonies that were done blooming and eight new hostas I had just planted. But the Smith brothers said that was the way the members get to know each other: they visit each other's gardens. So with that it was decided, my place would be on the tour.

I was as nervous as the mother-of-the-bride getting ready. But, the tour itself wasn't bad at all. These were my friends and they were out for an enjoyable evening of garden visiting. You would have to go way out of your way to keep them from having a good

time.

They didn't come to find fault, they came to discover neat things--some were things I wasn't aware of. Leon Snyder, the founder of the Arboretum, looked at my crab apple and told me matter-of-fact that it needed to be pruned, "And here's how you do it." Jerry Shannon helped me identify a plant whose label had been lost. Fred Glasoe admired my newly planted hostas and wanted to know where I got them. And no one said or noticed the weeds by the neighbor's garage. These were the people I had dinner with before the winter meetings and they had come to see my garden--and to learn a little more about me and what I was up to.

The evening tour wasn't about having a series of show-stopper, landscaping masterpieces to admire, it was about getting to know your gardening friends. Somehow this philosophy has gradually been lost over the years. And it is our collective loss.

I would like to see it come back. I think it's OK to see a garden-in-progress. And some of our new members can gain some wonderful hints and helpful suggestions from the veteran gardeners. I believe that almost everyone in the club should have us stop by at some time during their membership. I propose that we return to the idea of trying to visit more members rather than recycling the "good gardens". What do others think?

Bob Olson

Plenty of Winners at the FFF

by Mary Maynard



We have another successful Flower, Food and Foto Show under our belts. Thanks to everyone who made this show possible. Here are the winners:

Flower and Vegetables:

Champion Flower and Best in Show: Rose 'Bride's Delight' -- John Dahl

Reserve Champion Flower: Canna 'Cleopatra' -- Margaret Hibberd

Featured Flower: Coleus 'Big Chief' -- Bob Livingston

Flower Sweepstakes: Mary Maynard

Champion Vegetable: Tomato 'Sweet Chelsea' -- Mavis Voigt

Reserve Champion Vegetable: Tomato 'Sweet Cluster' -- Mary Maynard

Featured Vegetable: Winter Squash 'Delicata' -- Bob Voigt

Vegetable Sweepstakes: Mary Maynard*

Best First Time Exhibitor: None



John Dahl's
"Bride's Dream"



Delicata Squash



Judges in action

Photography:

Champion Photograph: Jean Doolittle

Photography Sweepstakes: Jean Doolittle

Best First-Time Exhibitor: Jean Doolittle

Wow! A clean sweep! Welcome to the show, Jean!
And thanks!

*Bob Voigt entered many terrific vegetables for "Exhibition Only", not to be included in sweepstakes calculations. There should be an asterisk on the trophy for 2005! Thanks, Bob, for providing all the great vegetables that made the vegetable table look spectacular.



New Member Spotlight

Brenda Becker, 5437 Woodcrest Drive, Edina 55424-1649, H 952 922.7608, brendab@visi.com, retired.
Hobbies: gardening, reading, arts & crafts, swimming, skiing, and biking.

How did you hear about us? Jan & Duane Johnson.
Activities checked - on committees as needed.

2005 FFF Flower and Vegetable Results

Entrant	Points Earned		Notes
	Horticulture	Vegetables	
Bjerke, Nance	13	2	
Brummer, Marilyn	39	11	
Buchanon, Anne	19	10	
Dahl, John	16		Champion Flower, Best of Show
Hibberd, Margaret	51		Reserve Champion Flower
Lindblom, Maury	29	3	
Livingston, Bob	6	6	Featured Flower Win- ner
Maynard, Mary	153	14	Sweepstakes: Flower and Vegetable
McKeen, David	11		
Spiegel, Elaine			
Trocke, Don	38		
Voigt, Bob		6	Featured Vegetable Winner
Voigt, Mavis	36	11	Champion Vegetable



Pictures from the August MGCM Garden Tours



Canna @ Robert Keen's



Don Stuewe with his hostas



Hanging out at Howard Berg's



Lyndale Park Garden News

Take a walk at Lyndale Park in Minneapolis and view the MGCM Perennial Garden in all its fall beauty. The Trial Garden and Perennial Mixed Border are looking great, and the Committee is proud of the work they have done this year. The Lyndale Park gardens are located near Lake Harriet and are marked on Roseway Road with a large sign that reads “Trial Gardens”. At each end of the 300 foot long border there are rain-proof Lucite boxes on posts containing brochures that credit MGCM for donations and efforts in this park over the years.

There are two brochures, or “guides”, that acknowledge MGCM. The first is titled “Perennial & Annual Display and Trial Gardens”. It describes both the Trial and the Perennial Mixed Border Gardens. The brochure states: The Trial Garden is “planted and maintained by volunteers from the Men’s Garden Club of Minneapolis (MGCM). MGCM members evaluate plants in these gardens for three years to determine their hardiness, flowering potential, and disease and insect resistance.” And about the Perennial Mixed Border: “Behind the six foot wide Trial Garden is a spacious border garden backed by the large evergreen trees. The border is being enhanced with an array of colorful perennials, shrubs, and ornamental grasses. The MGCM is donating plants and designing this garden to display new cultivars of low maintenance, hardy plants that homeowners can dependably plant in their own yards. The MGCM contributes to the beautification of Minneapolis through this effort at Lyndale Park.” The MGCM website is then listed.

The second

□
tory of the 1981 tornado, and how the “MGCM offered to assist with a new design for the Arboretum and funds for planting. MGCM member Ray Marshall, a landscape architect, created the new plan and organized the club’s efforts. Since 1982, the MGCM has annually sponsored an Arbor Day planting in the park to replenish and add to the Arboretum’s collection.” This is history many of us don’t even know!

The Perennial Garden Committee has worked hard over the last five years to create the Trial and Mixed Border Gardens. Finally our efforts are coming to fruition, even if we have a ways to go! The border is 300 feet long, and our committee has 20 active members. So take a drive to the park and view the autumn splendor. And give those Perennial Garden Committee members a pat on the back!

Kay Wolfe

Perennial Garden Committee ‘Cheerperson’



Summer splendor: cerise pink and purples



Board Openings for 2006

from Ellyn Hosch

It is the time of year that the MGCM Nominating Committee begins to put together the slate of Board candidates for next year. We currently know of two positions that will be open next year: Membership Secretary and Vice President. Serving on the Board is a great way to learn more about the Club and its very interesting members. The people who hold these positions help keep the club going each year.

I've taken the duties of each of these positions as outlined in our Handbook and summarized them below.

If you have an interest in either position, please feel free to contact me or the incumbents (Don Stuewe, Membership Secretary, and Kris Deters, Vice President).

Membership Secretary:

The primary responsibility of the Membership Secretary is to maintain and update the Club membership database. This includes:

- 1) Keeping all membership application and renewal forms
- 2) Sending out membership renewal forms in September and assuring their return by 1 November.
- 3) Entering all membership information in the computer database.
- 4) Working with other committee to prepare and distribute the MGCM Directory.
- 5) Receive new membership applications and send on to the Board of Directors to approval.
- 6) Send letters of acceptance to new members.
- 7) Pass on to the next Secretary all the details of the office.

There is a Membership committee to help with this position. We will also consider other possibilities to help lighten the load on this position during the fall renewal period.

Vice President:

The primary responsibility of the Vice President is to coordinate the programs for the monthly club meetings and serve as President in the year following the VP term. This includes:

- 1) Securing the location of the Club's monthly meetings for the next year and a contract for catering the monthly dinner meal.
- 2) Coordinating the programs with each speaker (date, time, location, etc) and providing necessary information to the Spray.
- 3) Serving one term as VP, one term as President and one term as Past President.



More Pics from
the FFF Show



John Dahl with his prizes



Coleus from Mary Maynard



Bob Livingston's 'Big Chief' Coleus



Sweet Chelsea Tomato



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

President: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park
Vice President: Kristine Deters
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights
Recording Secretary: Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park
Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe
3624 Robinwood Terrace, Minnetonka
Treasurer: LeRoy Cech
212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville
Past President: Ellyn Hosch
436 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis

Directors:

Rudy Allebach
3414 The Mall, Minnetonka
Elizabeth Hamilton
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington
Don Trocke
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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

Return To:

The Garden Spray

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First Class Mail

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