



The Garden Spray

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

2006, Volume 64, Number 9



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Sept. 12th	LHC	The Recycled Garden
Oct. 10th	LHC	Botanical Treasures of China with Jason Smith
Nov. 14th	LHC	Raingardens
Dec. 5th	LHC	HOLIDAY PARTY

LHC = Lake Harriet Church
 MF = Marshall Field's Downtown
 WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

THE RECYCLED GARDEN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

Join us on Tuesday September 12th, at Lake Harriet Church as award winning horticulturalist, Chuck Levine, shows how to create a fantastic and eco-friendly garden using free or "almost free" materials.

Chuck is a teacher of horticulture and botany at School District #287 and Hennepin Technical College. He has appeared on radio and television and published numerous articles in magazines and journals. Come join us in September for a few friendly hours of garden-based socializing and learning!

September Dinner Meeting: September 12th, 2006

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 June 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.



A Note from the Editor

by Mary Maynard

Well, we're moving into another splendid time of the year. Already the nights are cooler and the air has a crispness about it that reminds us that autumn is indeed right around the corner. And another sign of Fall is our club being back to its regular schedule with club meetings at Lake Harriet Church.

I am so very sorry that I am going to miss our September meeting. (I'm serving as an election judge for the primaries, and the polls don't close until 8 pm.) Chuck Levine is always an informative and entertaining speaker. I envy everyone who has a chance to go.

Thanks to everyone who made the FFF show a success this year. The judges again mentioned how much they enjoy judging our show because of the quality and variety of the entries. Although none of them seem to enjoy judging hosta leaves. I still remember Esther Filson saying, "I know if I end up going to Hell I'll be judging hosta leaves there."

And the August tour was wonderful, wasn't it? It was so exciting to see so many new gardens. Thanks to everyone who so generously opened their gardens, and especially to Larry and Randi Larson who opened up their garden and their house and served supper on top of everything else. Thanks thanks thanks to all the gardeners. Finally, I was saddened to learn that our old friend Harold Gulde died in August. I remember

many interesting and informative conversations with Harold over the years, especially about growing dahlias. He was always more than willing to share his knowledge and I couldn't have gotten started with my modest dahlia collection without his help and advice. Harold will be missed, and our condolences go to his wife Phyllis.



Bob Redmond funning it up with Kay Wolfe's bedecked garden hat at the August Garden Tour



Getting To Know Our Board

Sharla Aaseng

Hi there. So, about me. Hmmmmmm! Of course, I am a gardener. I think I would fall into the category of haphazard gardener. I love getting my hands in the dirt. I only recently started doing a better job of planning what would go where. I started with a pretty shady yard but loss of a big tree a few years ago allowed me to expand to some more sun-loving plants. I also like to have borders around my gardens so we have a lot of brickwork around. I hope to create a mosaic patio-the last major construction piece in our yard-using all the broken and torn up sidewalk stones, leftover bricks, etc. After that I have visions of just maintaining my garden with little effort on my part. Am I dreaming?? Probably.

Designing and building (with the help of my husband, Norm) things for the house and the garden challenges and energizes me. We are currently still working on a “23 year plus” project remodeling our house. We decided there was no hurry because we would just create new ones when the old ones were done.

I like having my hands busy. I do a lot of handwork like sewing, knitting, crosstitch, rug-making, and some silk ribbon embroidery. For many years I have also taken art classes off and on. I really like art that captures small moments in nature and especially birds. Norm and I have been birdwatchers for over 24 years. We take 3-5 week vacations driving around the country to various birding “hot spots” especially in the Spring and Fall during migration. Now with my digital camera I am able to get some pretty good

pictures—some of which are inspiration for some paintings.

I recently began an exercise program with Margaret Landry (Align for Ease) to help correct some rather severe posture problems mostly due to a soft tissue injury. I hit a tree “flying” out of control on a very slick, iced sled run we built one winter with our nieces and nephews at our cabin. It was great fun! One would have thought after three tries and barely missing the tree, I might have learned-HAH! However, the long struggle with this has helped me realize ways through specific exercises to not only correct my posture but also to alleviate other aches and pains I attributed to aging. I highly recommend this. It really works especially with those “gardening aches”!

Well, gotta go! Where to? The garden, of course! See you all soon! Almost forgot! My email is <nsaaseng@earthlink.net> It is wrong in the directory.

Financial Snapshot

Financial Snapshot as of Aug. 8, 2006

Checking account - \$5967.18

CD_s - \$10,345.42

Cash - \$100

Total - \$16,412.6

Meeting attendance (113 Members)

January - 48 members (43%) plus 3 guests

February - 35 members (32%) plus 7 guests

March - 31 members (28%) plus 18 guests

April - 42 members (38%) plus 6 guests

May - 38 members (34%) plus 12 guests

June - 42 members (37%) plus 1 guest

July Tour - 29 members (26%) plus 19 guests

Food, Flower and Foto Show

by Mary Maynard

We had another successful Flower Food and Foto Show this year. Thanks to everyone who participated. We always see great plant material and wonderful vegetables, and this year was no exception. While everyone who enters the show is a winner, here are the people who ended up with the big ribbons and trophies:

Champion Flower and Best of Show: Chuck Carlson, *Euphorbia millii* (Crown of Thorns)

Reserve Champion Flower: Dave McKeen, miniature rose 'Pierrine'

Flower Sweepstakes: Mary Maynard

2006 Featured Flower (collection of container plants):

Mary Maynard, Curry Plant, *Geranium sidoides*, *Calocephalus brownii* 'Silver Bush'

Champion Vegetable: Jim Dzandzara, Pepper 'Mariachi' in container.

Reserve Champion Vegetable and 2006 Featured Vegetable: Chuck Carlson, Mild Habanero chilis.

Vegetable Sweepstakes: Judy Berglund

Best First-Time Exhibitor: Judy Berglund



Dave McKeen's rose



Chuck Carlson's *Euphorbia millii* (Crown of Thorns)



Judy Berglund and Bob Livingston discuss...



John Dahl



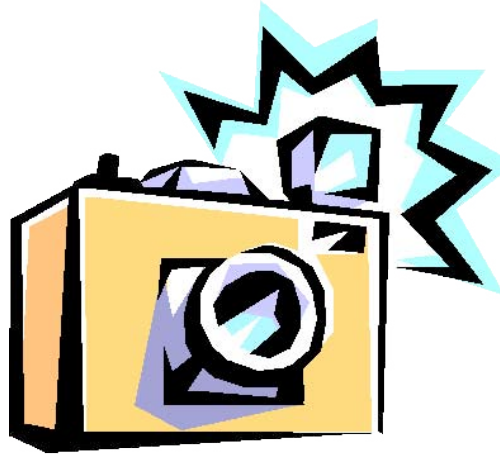
Tables of beauty!

Pun Times at the FFF

Bob Livingston submitted the twisted carrots in the picture below. Members took a shot at christening the tangled two. To the right are a smattering of their efforts.



Carrots in love
Brand X carrots
Carrots a long way from the restroom
Don't know which way to grow"
"I can't live without you!!"
For you I twine
Twisted Sisters
I do carrot all for you!
I like myself best when I'm with you.
Takes two to tango
Love knots
Orange you glad we're together
Carotene couple
Yin and Yang
You are one now
X-rated
Carrot shoestrings
Lover's tryst
Twisty



FOURTEENTH ANNUAL FFF PHOTO CONTEST

The judges have spoken and we have many winners. In fact, just about every contestant was awarded a first, second or third place. Leroy Cech, who was edged out by one point last year, came back to win the Sweepstakes.

New entrant Molly Rice had the single best photo of the show, a great view of a lady's slipper, while two others shared honorable mention as reserve champions—David McKeen (North Shore serenity) and Chuck Carlson (a flaming lily).

The photos are to be on show at the September meeting. Take a good look and think about entering your photos in 2007. Participation declined this year, so we will be discussing new features for next year. What do you think about having a separate category for travel photos, as long as they include plants? What about a separate contest with a small cash prize with a limit of one photo per person and the requirement that you also submit at least one photo into one of the other categories?

Thanks to the judges, Ada Hegion, Bob Livingston and Elaine Spiegel. They forgo their chance to enter the contest in order to judge, and we appreciate that.

New Member Spotlight



New member: Scott Loessin
3424 Sumter Ave. So.
St. Louis Park, MN 55426-4004
952-933-7567
Scott.Loessin@parknicollet.org

Renewing member: Clyde Thompson
4429 Dunham Drive
Edina, MN 55435-4139
952-922-1696
clydecwt@cs.com

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener: Front Yard Gardens

by Mary Maynard

I got a pedometer this year and have been doing a lot of neighborhood walking to try to undo the damage caused by many years of laziness. One of the best things about my rambles through the neighborhoods is seeing people's front yard gardens. My, how things have changed since my first experiments with gardening 25 years ago. Back then, all the fun gardening went on in the back yard, and only the rare, adventurous non-conformists had much of anything growing in the front beyond a few foundation plantings. I am so glad we're not there anymore.

As a pedestrian, I wish to thank everyone who does some gardening in the front yard. In a way, front yard gardens are gardens that we share with our neighbors, something we do for our little community. And there is such a variety! I've seen everything from modest containers at the front steps to rock gardens and terraces on difficult slopes to fences and courtyards and fanciful structures to dazzling displays on boulevards. And they're all wonderful in their own way.

If you're thinking about starting a front yard garden, here are some thoughts:

1. Start small and expand later. Almost every gardener I know has been overwhelmed at some point. When we get overwhelmed in the back yard, fewer people know it.

2. Containers need a lot of water. If your front yard is very sunny and hot, you need to be prepared to water flowerpots as often as every day. Plants in containers dry out more quickly than plants in the ground.

3. Think about runoff. If your gardens slope toward the street, it's especially important to find creative ways to minimize runoff of fertilizer or pesticides that you might use in the garden. Ideally, we should probably plant things that don't require fertilizer or insect management so we don't add anything bad to our water systems. Boulevard gardens should be concave, not convex – lower in the center than at the edges of the boulevard to hold rain water in. (This might be a little tricky if you're lucky enough to have a big tree in the boulevard. We should minimize impact to tree roots, since our boulevard trees have challenges enough just growing next to the street. Sometimes a concave boulevard is not possible.)

4. Check the rules on boulevard gardens in your city. Some communities have height restrictions for plantings on the boulevard, especially for boulevard gardens on corner lots, where visibility at intersections is a safety concern. Also, we should not plant shrubs or erect fences on the boulevard, because the boulevard is typically a public right of way and needs to be clear for snow to be pushed on it in the winter, among other things.

Thanks again to all of you front-yard gardeners. I still have a lot of damage to undo, so I'll be enjoying new neighborhoods and their gardens from some time to come – at least until my pedometer wears out!





~*~ GARDEN TRAVELS ~*~ THE CHIHULY EXHIBIT AT THE MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDENS

by Margaret Hibberd

Dale Chihuly's Glass in the Garden installations may just be the excuse you need to visit the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis before October, 31, 2006. According to the garden publicity, this is a custom-designed exhibit of more than 30 unique installations of the colorful glass sculptures valued at over \$10 million and placed in the lush Climatron Conservatory, the adjacent Temperate House and even in the garden itself. Beyond the large and beautiful glass pieces for which Chihuly has become known, he is credited with revolutionizing the Studio Glass movement by expanding it from the solitary artist in the studio to the idea of collaborative teams and division of labor within the creative process. This has led to the development of the complex multipart glass sculptures you can now see at the garden. In addition to the glass installations, there are videos showing how the pieces are created and actual glass parts to handle.

Ken and I visited the garden and installations in June and with our pictures try to give you some idea of the breadth of the glass you can see. From the yellow flames on the white gates, past the Walla Walla onions in the reflecting pools to the multiple pieces tucked among the tropics in the Climatron, it's all enchanting.

Founded in 1869, Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest botanical institutions in the US and a

National Historic landmark, but it continues to expand with new garden concepts within its 79 acre St. Louis location and is always worth a visit for itself. It's hard to describe how wonderful it is at almost all seasons – you can get an idea at www.MoBot.org. This site will give you times and prices for the garden and the Chihuly inside part for the exhibit, but if you call the phone numbers you also get to talk to helpful people. You can buy combination tickets for garden + Chihuly, or if you are an Arboretum member, you get free admission each day because is on the reciprocal garden list, and you can buy your Chihuly ticket separately.

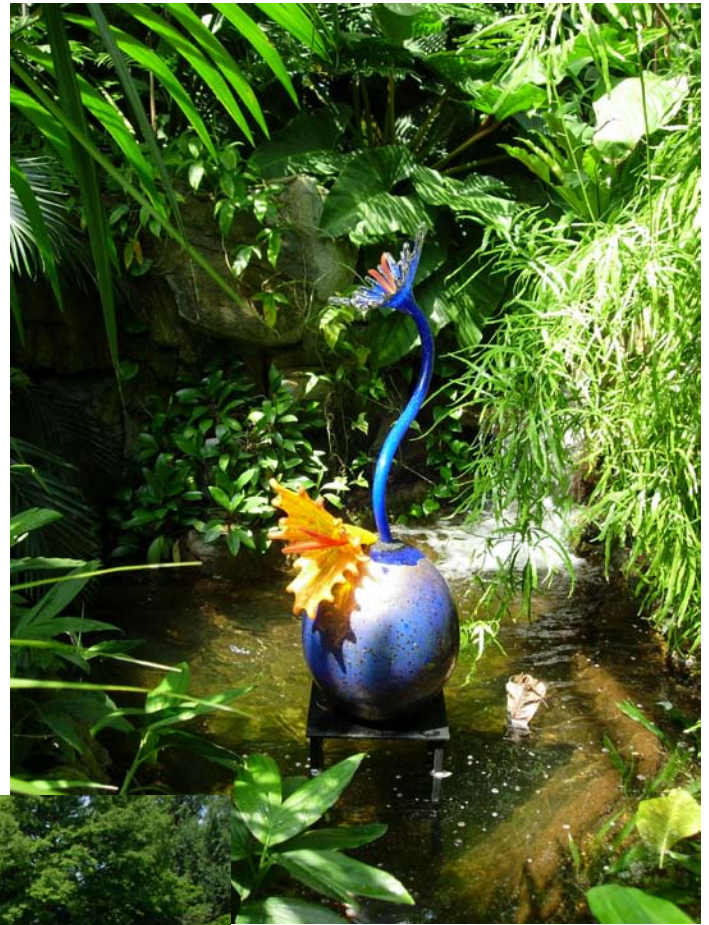
We got a really good Chihuly time of 11 am which allowed time for traffic and to walk leisurely to the





Climatron and then seeing this inside part takes 1-1 _ hours. If you are getting free admission, you might want to see the garden itself on parts of 2 days. The visitor center has an excellent restaurant and large gift shop with a huge selection of books, probably because this is also a famous botanical research institution. One last thing to consider is that on Thursdays they have Chihuly nights with glass blowing and lighting the sculptures that are filled with neon.

If you go: The stories of St. Louis having good and bad areas remain true. We enjoyed staying at the family owned Daniele Hotel with restaurant with a good AAA rate in the nice suburb or Clayton just outside the city of St. Louis, or you might look for motels that are south or west of the garden. In a farther suburb called Maryland Heights there are a lot of good hotels and restaurants in an area called West Port near the airport.



Having lived in the St. Louis area from 1979-1982, for me a visit to the Gateway Arch is not to be missed – especially the movie about the building of the arch in the museum at the base and the ride up to the top of the Arch. After this there are the museums and the zoo from the time of the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair in Forest Park.



THE AUGUST MEMBER'S GARDENS TOUR:

Thanks to the following members for volunteering to be on the August Member's Garden Tour:

- * Don Untiedt and Jim McKee
- * Nancy Devine
- * Don Morgenweck
- * Cari Tully
- * Elaine and Les Spiegel
- * Kathe Drake
- * Larry and Randi Larson

You couldn't have asked for a better day; member's basked in sun and pleasant temps enjoying the seven gardens on tour.

Everyone's garden was abloom in late season flowers - special thanks to Larry and Randi Larson for hosting and all those who chipped in to make for a fantastic meal (there were SIX desserts!)



Don Untiedt (in orange) tells the story of the creation of his garden.



Don Morgenweck's garden with "Love Lies Bleeding"



Kathe Drake's: with artwork



A border of Nancy Devine's creation



The magnolia holds center stage at Les and Elaine Spiegel's



Front walk @ Cari Tully's



Larry Larson's beloved dahlias





Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

President: Kristine Deters
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights
Vice President: Margaret Landry
3542 40th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Recording Secretary: Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park
Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Treasurer: LeRoy Cech
212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville
Past President: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park

Directors:

Elaine Spiegel
4814 West 41st. St., St. Louis Park
Elizabeth Hamilton
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington
Don Trocke
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Mary J. Maynard, Co-Editor
4375 Dart Avenue
St. Louis Park, MN 55424

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