



The Garden Spray

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

2010, Volume 68, Number 03



Water in the Garden, Doing more with less: Federal & State Water Conservation Programs & What Home Gardeners Can Do
by Tim Malooly, EPA Watersense Partner of the Year

Tuesday March 9th, 2010

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

The EPA's WaterSense® Program and Minnesota's water conservation programs will be the topic of the MGCM March meeting.

MGCM member Timothy Malooly, nationally-known irrigation expert and the EPA's first-ever, WaterSense Partner of the Year will present this information-filled program to help homeowners and gardening enthusiasts focus on what can be done to assure water-efficiency in the outdoor living environment.

Launched in 2006, WaterSense® is an EPA-sponsored partnership program that seeks to protect the future of the nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, programs and practices. The State of Minnesota has also enacted legislative measures toward conservation of water resources including increases in the costs of water.

Tim will give us an overview of:

- The WaterSense program
- Some of Minnesota's water conservation guidelines and ramifications to you
- An overview of irrigation systems of old and the new water efficient technologies available today
- How to evaluate your irrigation system's efficiency
- What to look for in a new system
- Actions you can take today for a more water-efficient outdoor living environment that makes the most of every drop!

Join us for this informative program!

Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the dinner meeting are in effect. 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.

Thoughts from the Prez:



by Don Untied

Jason presented a green seminar at our last meeting that took us around the world for a look at natural plant communities and how we can use some natural concepts for our own garden landscaping. What a remarkable presentation Jason. Thank you Jason for exposing us to the thinking of notable German and English authors and landscapers Oudolf, Darke, Kingsbury, and Ogden.

Katharine White, author of “Onward and Upward in the Garden,” wrote these words relevant to what many of us have been doing in recent weeks “For Gardeners, this is the season of lists and callow hopefulness; hundreds of thousands of bewitched readers are poring over their catalogues, making lists for their seed and plant orders, and dreaming their dreams.” Her comments were dated March 1, 1958. She also commented that amateur gardeners like herself either marvel or grumble at the achievements of the hybridizers and fret over the idiosyncrasies of the editors and writers who get up the catalogs. They are as individualistic – the editors and writers – as any Faulkner or Hemingway, and they can be just as frustrating or rewarding. I find it somewhat ironic, and special that fifty two years later we gardeners are experiencing similar thoughts.

How are you coming with your 2010 seed and plant selections? Keep in mind before you buy all those seeds that you want to try that through our Plant Auction Committee. Members of MGCM are fortunate to be able to buy a large number of plants that have proven themselves in member’s gardeners in years past. The eagerly awaited plant order form will be circulated around the time

of our March meeting. Doug will brief the club March 9.

Let’s help out MGCM and our fellow gardeners by inviting gardening neighbors, friends, and relatives to buy with you on your order sheets. Simply find out what they want to grow, collect the money, and combine their order with yours. More than 50% of the clubs revenue comes from our plant orders and the auction, scheduled this year for May 11.

Invite your friends to save the evening of May 11 to attend our plant auction. Members of Doug’s committee will be working to offer us the chance to buy selected new hybrids. Special thanks to Doug Whitney and his committee for making this possible.

TREASURER REPORT

CD	\$5,000.00
Checking	6,771.32
Designated funds	
Memorial/Park garden fund	1,301.21
Scholarship fund	120.00
Working balance	\$5,350.11



A Note from the Editor

By Jason Rathe

Lots of good stuff coming up in the club. Tim Malooly is speaking at the March meeting. I've heard Tim speak - there is no one more passionate about water issues than Tim. He is very knowledgeable on the current state of the irrigation industry as well as the future of water usage in general.

Sharla has started a new column called "Membership Corner" where she will highlight new members as well as other issues pertinent to the Membership Committee. There is nothing more important to the club than the energy and spirit of new members. Take time to seek out a new member at the next meeting and ask them about their interests, etc...

In this issue, Larry offers Part II of his article on dahlias. This is the featured flower for the Food, Flower and Foto show, so start sourcing your favorites and consult Larry if you have questions - he is dahlia aficionado.

Keep hoping for spring - its working!

Jason

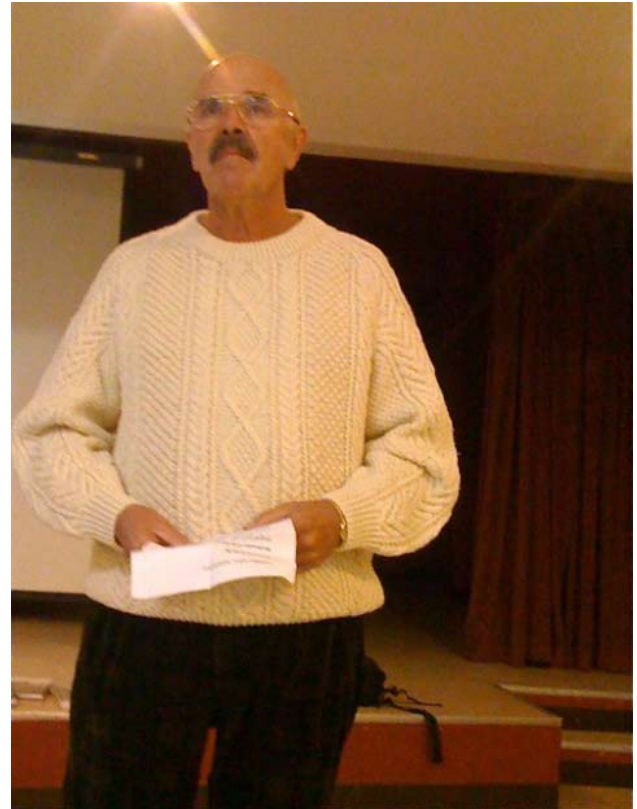
Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
March 9th 6:30 p.m.	LHC	Tim Malooly, Irrigation Consultants and Control
April 6th 6:00 p.m.	Macy/Bachman	Flower Show Dinner at Macy's Oak Grill
May 11th 4:30 p.m.		Plant Sale and Auction WLC
June 12th 1:00 p.m.	Outdoor Program Garden of Betty Ann Addison/Springbrook/Don and Jim's	
July 10 & 11		Public Garden Tour
Aug 7th		Club Tour
Aug 21 & 22 Sat/Sun	FFF/MN Arboretum	

FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Jason Rathe (with his wife, Sarah) gave presentation on naturalistic planting



President Don Untied



Vice President, Kay Wolfe

2010 MGCM Calendar

Chuck Carlson put together a calendar of club events, gardening hints and award winning pictures from past Food, Flower and Foto Show entries.

Go to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis website and print one off for yourself!

<http://www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org>



Minutes of the MGCM Board

Summary of MGCM Board meeting on Feb. 1, 2010

Present: Don Untiedt, Kay Wolfe, Maurie Lindblom, Jason Rathe, Andy Marlow,
Sharla Aaseng, Dave McKeen, Jan Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Don Untiedt and the agenda was approved.

Minutes of January meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was discussed, received and filed. Finances are consistent with the budget approved at the January membership meeting.

The Board welcomed Committee Chair Doug Whitney to discuss the Plant Sale. A caterer has been secured to serve the dinner. Doug stressed the need for people knowledgeable in plant identification to be on hand for the delivery. He also stated that it would be helpful to have a day to receive and organize plants before the sale. The possibility of changing the venue was also discussed. He was assured that the Board will help if needed.

Old Business

- The board discussed the possibility of electronically approving the minutes so they could get into the Spray in a timely manner. Jan agreed to get the minutes to the board within a week following the meeting, allowing board members to amend or correct them. Final electronic approval would then take place and Andy would summarize the minutes for the Spray and Web Site.
- President Untiedt appointed Denise Rust, Maury Lindblom and Dave McKeen to a committee to research and recommend a new caterer. Members strongly indicated a desire to continue the dinner format.

New Business:

- It was decided to send a plant to the current caterers after the March meeting.
- The Board began what will be a longer discussion of a bereavement policy for the club to provide some guidance to the Sunshine Committee.
- The Board will also continue the discussion of finding ways for new people to feel more welcome in the Club.
- Don reported that a busload of Iowa Master Gardeners will be in town the first weekend in August. Don is working with Denise and Dave W. to see how we can accommodate their desire to see club gardens.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, March 2.



The Club and It's Money Comments from the Vice-President

Where does the club get its money?

From three major sources:

1. Plant Sale: \$3000 or 54%
2. Dues: \$1700 or 30%
3. Silent Auction: \$600.00 or 11%

The remaining 5% of income comes in from donations and our dinner fees.

Where is the money spent? Programs: for speakers and church room rental; the Spray; Directory and liability insurance. And then all the committees: FFF, Park Garden, Arbor Day, Awards, Membership and Sunshine. The Tours and Holiday Party are self-supporting events. And only \$1.00 of the monthly dinner fee of \$11.00 goes to pay for the speaker and the room rental—which for each meeting costs the club as much as \$200. (Find all the numbers in the MGCM 2010 Budget, January 2010 Spray.)

If every club member donated just \$30, we would raise the \$3000—and not even need a plant sale. And think how hard the Plant Sale Committee works to put on this event!

So plan to attend the Plant Sale! Most of the Plant Sale income (60%) comes from the “pre-order” plant sale. If you order \$50 worth of plants, the club makes about \$14 from that order. If you don't want to attend the auction or buy plants, consider just making a donation. It does not have to be a large amount. You get back that money in all the events MGCM puts on throughout the year!

The Plant Sale Committee works very hard to make this event economical and fun for members, as well as a financial success for the Club. It all takes place in one day—the plants are delivered and orders are sorted and filled. Sometimes the grower does not deliver the plants you might have ordered—the seeds did not grow, or the count is off. The grower tries to substitute a similar variety if available, or missing plants can be obtained a day or two later. The committee wants an opportunity to get all orders straight, so let Doug Whitney know so he can seek a solution.

Anyone who is shorted or receives a substitute is welcome to a refund if they want it. Last year I was missing \$12 of ornamental sweet potato plants, and I just ignored it and gave the \$12 to the club. What better way to spend \$12??

In conclusion: Order plants. Make a donation. This club belongs to all of us! We do this event to have fun and keep Club spirit strong! Join us in making the Plant Sale a FUN and profitable FUNdraiser!-

Kay Wolfe
MGCM VP

THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We are starting a new section of the Spray. This is where you will find corrections or changes to members' addresses, emails, etc. We will also use this "corner" to introduce new members. How exciting if each month we could feature one or more new member!

Here are some corrections to the directories. First, the names listed for the Historian Committee should read Bob Olson, Andy Marlow & Kay Wolfe. Second, some names were mistakenly omitted from the MGCM-TV committee. The committee is as follows: (Mary, this is for you).

We have a new member whose name is Richard Carroll. Richard said he won't be around much in February or March but we will look forward to meeting him in April. He has been interested in gardening for some time and now has more time available to pursue it. He signed up for "On committee as needed" so add his name to the list in your directory. We will feature more on him in a future Spray.

Richard Carroll
4887 E. Lake Harriet Pkwy
Mpls, MN 55419
612-325-0317
email: rpcarroll1@hotmail.com (that is a number 1 after carroll)

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

MGCM on Facebook
by Andy Marlow

MGCM has entered the 21st Century social media world. The Club now has a page on Facebook and already has attracted 15 fans. If you are an internet savvy person, join the likes of President Unteidt, Vice President Wolfe and others in becoming a fan at <http://tinyurl.com/yzmhg9z>. Of course you'll have to be a Facebook member first.

I'm a big Facebook person. I got started to keep in touch with the student volunteers I worked with, but I'm finding more people in my age bracket on the site now. join in by going to www.facebook.com and fill out some basic info. When you do join, make sure to become a fan of MGCM and send me a friend request.



PREVIEW OF PROGRAMS FOR 2010!!

Happy New Year to everyone! It is the start of a new decade—and the theme for our programs for 2010 is “Gardening in the ‘10’s”! What is new in the gardening world? What challenges will we gardeners be facing in the next decade?

We will start the year with three very interesting speakers for our dinner meeting programs. In January we will hear from Tom Tennant of Outback Nursery, the feature article in this issue. In February, our speaker will be club member Jason Rathe. Jason has his own full-service landscape company. Jason is particularly interested in the planting and design philosophies of some of the European garden designers, like Piet Oudolf and Henk Gerritson. These designers work with diverse groups of perennials and plant in a naturalistic style. For winter fun, go to www.oudolf.com and watch the slides go by! Or check out their books from the library. And in March, we will hear club member Tim Malooly. Tim is an irrigation consultant, and can help us learn to do more with less water. Read about his company at www.watermotion.com. Tim designed the Waterosity exhibits at the Arboretum this past summer, and he received the 2008 WaterSense Partner for Irrigation Award from the EPA.

In April we will make our usual trek to Macy’s to see real flowers at the Macy-Bachman’s Flower Show. This year we are going to return to eating downtown! I am negotiating dinner plans with the Oak Grill restaurant on the 12th floor of the downtown Macy’s store. Mark that date on your calendars.

May will be our plant sale and auction, the date set is May 11. Please note that this is one week later than our usual calendar—it will be held after Mother’s Day.

And in June we are planning an outdoor program instead of an indoor dinner meeting. The June event will be held on Saturday, June 12, starting at 1 PM. We will take a tour of the personal garden of Betty Ann Addison, former owner of Rice Creek Gardens. Betty Ann’s new venture is called “Gardens of Rice Creek”. At her home she grows many of the varieties that she has developed over the years, and sells little plants as well. In mid-June, the lady slippers should be in bloom, as well as many of her rhododendron cultivars. Check out some of the specimens at www.gardensofricecreek.com. From her home garden, we will go visit Springbrook Nature Center, where she designed a new Meditation Garden. And to end the day, we have been invited to the home and garden of Don Untiedt and Jim McKee, where we will tour and have supper. It should be a beautiful day. Mark your calendars now—Saturdays in June get very busy!

This schedule of the first six months gets us to the summer tours season! Our new program committee will determine the next year of activities, so stay tuned!

Kay Wolfe
VP of Programs

It's Time to Plant Dahlias!



Now it's May 15 and you're ready to plant your dahlias outside. Do not plant dahlias if the soil is wet or cold or if the night temperatures are still dropping below 45 degrees. This can be tricky. In the Spring, it might be 75 one day, and 35 the next. Watch the weather forecast to make sure the temperatures are warm enough to plant. If you're transplanting dahlia plants from inside the house that are more than one foot tall, don't plant on a windy day. You might walk outside with your plant and have the wind blow it over in your hand, breaking it in half. This would not be a good way to start your dahlia garden.

If you're planting your dahlias in a large dahlia garden, you must till up your garden space, putting some humus on top of the dahlia garden before you till. Plan the location of the plantings before you plant. Put the larger dahlias in back, because they will grow taller than the shorter dahlias. Plant the dahlias about 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart. This seems like a big space for each dahlia, but later, I will tell you why you need this much space.

If you're mixing your dahlias in with other garden plants and cannot till the space, put some humus in the bottom of the hole, cover with a little potting soil, then put the tuber or dahlia plant on top. Pound the stake into the ground behind the tuber before you cover the dahlia with dirt. This

is very important. Don't plant the dahlia and try to come back later to put in the stake. More than likely, you will put the stake right through the tuber and kill the plant.

I always mark the name of each dahlia on a stake and either put it into the ground, or, I tie a tag onto the stake. I also draw a map of where each dahlia is planted. I do this for three reasons: first, I like to know what I'm growing and how successful each of the plants are; two, if you show off your dahlias when they're flowering, you're going to be asked the name of this one or that one. It's helpful if you can look at the tag and answer the question correctly. Finally, It's essential to know the name and kind of dahlia you're growing if you plan on entering some of the blooms in the FFF show.

Dahlias should be planted in full sun but they will tolerate some shade. Dahlias are very thirsty plants, requiring at least one inch of water per week or more, depending upon the size of the dahlias you're growing. In the summer, I water my dahlias every morning for about 20 minutes. Dahlias like to be kept moist, so water appropriately. I fertilize at least once a month, but more often later in the year when the plants are full size. Use a

(cont. on page 10)

(Dahlias, cont. from page 9)

fertilizer with equal parts nitrogen, for good growth, phosphorus, for development of flowers, and potassium, for root formation and disease resistance.

When the dahlia has at least five sets of leaves, the top growth, or main branch, should be cut off. This allows all five sets of leaves to become main branches, which allow the dahlia to become bushy and bear many extra stems that eventually produce dozens of more dahlias. This is why you need to plant dahlias 2 1/2 to 3 feet apart. A "clipped" dahlia bush will become a very large plant that can produce up to one hundred flowers or more in a season. If you don't clip the dahlia, you'll end up with one really tall plant that will produce a lot fewer flowers.

If you want to produce large, showy dahlias, you also must de-bud each plant. Dahlias grow in groups of three. The middle dahlia is the main flower, and will always be larger than the two flowers growing next to it. All three of these buds will turn into dahlias, so if you want to have lots of flowers and don't care how large they are, leave them alone. But if you want to grow larger dahlias, you must snip off the buds on both sides of the main flower. Use a small scissors to carefully move down the stem and snip it just above the first set of leaves. This ensures that the main flower on that stem will get all the water and fertilizer available, not



share it with two other flowers next to it.

Now it's fall and we all know what's coming: frost. The first frost will kill your dahlias and you must make a decision; do you want to save your dahlias for next season, or do you want to start over with new plants next year. I used to try to save dahlias, but I don't anymore. You need a basement with cool temperatures to store your tubers. You must dig them up, cut the tubers off, wash them, store them in perfect conditions, and hope they make it to Spring. I figure it this way: you pay \$50 for two annual hanging baskets, enjoy them all summer, then toss them out in the fall. You don't give it a second thought. So you have 10 dahlias that you paid \$5 each for, enjoyed them all summer, and . . . I throw them out and don't give it a second thought. If I want to grow the same dahlia next year, I re-order it and grow it again. Otherwise, I try dozens of new ones that I've never grown before. Either way, growing dahlias is fun and interesting. They are an extremely showy flower and your friends and neighbors will be awestruck when they see them. What more could you ask for?

Larry Larson



***Hibiscus moscheutos* ‘Turn of the Century’**

Common Name: Hardy Hibiscus, Rose Mallow, Swamp Mallow. Plant Type: Herbaceous perennial,

Zone: 5 to 9, Height 6 to 8 feet, Spread 4 to 5 feet

Bloom Time: July - September, Light requirements Full sun, Water needs Medium to wet

The one I purchased came from The Flower Factory in Wisconsin. My wife first saw it and it really stood out and yelled “Take me Home”. I am drawn to these flowers constantly, the coloration is unique, and eye-catching. I asked the person at the Flower Factory if she thought it would survive in the Minneapolis area? She thought it might but wasn’t sure. My solution was to plant it in a big pot which I could then winter over in the garage.

My garage is a basement type area and the temp goes down to about 35 to 40 degrees F. in the coldest part of the winter. I let it go dormant and give it a shovel of snow a few times during the winter. The stems die off and are cut to ground level. I am in my third winter so it seems to be working. I am planning to propagate it so I can try to grow it in the garden. Propagation methods are; by dividing the rootball, from herbaceous stem cuttings and from seed. I plan on doing this in March by cutting off part of the root ball and seeing if I can get a new one started.

Photo & words by Chuck C





Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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Club Officers:

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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

March
2010