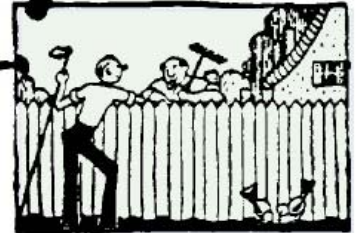




# The Garden Spray

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

2011, Volume 69, Number 4



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Apr 5	Macy's	Bachman/Macy's Flower Show
May 2	S. Aaseng	Board Mtg.
May 17	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 14	TBA	Outdoor evening Event
July 5	G. DeGrande	Board Mtg.
July	TBA	Club tour
August	TBA	Club tour
Aug. 20-21	Arb.	FFF Show
Sept. 5	J. Rathe	Board Mtg.

**Please note: our April event is a week earlier, and our May plant sale is a week later than our "normal" schedule.**

WLC= Westwood Lutheran Church  
 9001 Cedar Lake Rd S, St. Louis Pk  
 LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901  
 Chowen Ave S., Mpls. (Lower level)  
 Arb=U of M Landscape Arboretum

**Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the April event. Reservations for dinner at Macy's Oak Grill are limited. Reservation form on page 10.**

## April Event

### Dinner at Oak Grill and Macy's-Bachman's Flower Show

Macy's Flower Show with Gardens by Bachman's  
 "Towers of Flowers"  
 Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Join us at Macy's Oak Grill, on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor,  
 Downtown Minneapolis Macy's store.

Schedule: 5:00 Gather, be seated  
 5:30 Dinner served  
 6:20 Dale Bachman speaks  
 6:50 Proceed to flower show  
 8:00 Macy's closes

Reservations are limited. Details were printed on pages 6-7 in the March *Spray*. Reservations are due by March 29. See reservation form on **Page 10**.



Bachman's is growing grass for the show!  
 --- Photo by Sandra Abraham



## Notes from the Prez:

-- Kay Wolfe

Will spring ever arrive? Tonight we set our clocks ahead to Daylight Savings Time. That is a sign of spring! Yet there was once again a fresh coating of snow this morning. The April 5 club meeting is the Macy-Bachman Flower Show—and though all indoors, it will be a delight of fresh and growing flowers.

In May the club has its annual plant sale. Did you know that the club counts on \$3,000 of profits from the plant sale? If we did not have that income, dues would be an extra \$30 per person—how many members would we have if we charged \$50 each for dues? Without that income, we would have to cut a lot of programs and projects.

The plant sale pre-order forms have already been sent out and are due April 5. I encourage everyone to order plants. The list is long and sometimes the varieties are not familiar. Just look them up on the Internet—Google the name and numerous photos will pop up. The annuals are the best I have purchased in quality—healthy plants that are just the right size and not pot bound.

And on May 17, the night of the sale, there will also be plants sold in the “Country Store,” raffle tickets, a silent auction, and an auction. So come and shop. The plant sale needs everyone’s support—every single member benefits from the income.

Club committees are hard at work for the season. Remember that this committee work must be fun! Our club mission is to learn and share our knowledge of horticulture, but if working together on a committee is not fun, then we should re-think what we are doing, and make changes. Sometimes the committee work is stressful—so be kind to your fellow members, and make it fun!

Last week I was at a meeting with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) personnel. I chair the Lyndale Park Garden Committee, and have since 2002. The MPRB is renaming their program, and now we volunteers are “Park Stewards.” The MPRB staff say that our group is their model for volunteers in the parks. No other groups are as self-sufficient—we design the garden, buy the plants, and maintain them all summer long—and need almost no help from the park staff to do the work. They were impressed that our committee not only accomplishes the hands-on work in the garden, but that the whole club supports the project with budgeted and donated funds. So, thanks to every member for the support of this community service.

Join one of the many active MGCM committees—it is the best way to learn about gardening. Plant Sale, Arbor Day, Tours, FFF, Lyndale Park Garden, MGCM-TV and Photography are all gearing up for the summer season. Be cheerful, have fun, and nurture members that are new in the club!



## Looking Ahead: Annual Plant Sale and Auction May 17

-- Sandra Abraham

### Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

By the time you get this issue, Daylight Saving Time will be in effect. It's an odd year when Daylight Saving Time is one of the *earlier* indicators of spring, but this has been an odd winter. At least compared to recent years. But days are getting longer, and in no time flat the springtime panic will set in!

I haven't even looked through my seed catalogs, and even though a couple of my favorites that I used to have to start from seed (*Salvia* 'Coral Nymph' and *Ageratum* 'Blue Horizon') are now available on our MGCM plant order form, I always start a few seeds. And I need to get my cannas and elephant ears, and oh my gosh the dahlias going! Now I'm starting to hyperventilate!

Anyway, another sure sign of spring is the Bachman's Macy's flower show. There's probably still room to sign up for dinner, but even if you can't get to the dinner, why don't you join us at 7:00 to tour the show? It's always a highlight, and fun to visit it with friends from the club.

Our March program was inspiring and educational. We are lucky to have someone with Soni Forsman's expertise in our area. I am sorely tempted to get one or two of those little water lilies and try them out in a container. Not that container gardening is exactly my best thing, but maybe this year will be different!

You may notice that I am trying out some different fonts in this issue. Now that I have gotten into a little bit of a routine as far as actually laying the newsletter out, I'm looking at ways to improve readability. I've gotten some good advice, and can use more, so please let me know what you think of the layout, the fonts, or anything else about the Spray. My feelings will not be hurt if you suggest changes!

The annual plant sale and auction is set for Tuesday, May 17, 2011 and will take place at the Westwood Lutheran Church, 9001 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park.

This event includes a "Country Store" where members can purchase plants from other members' gardens and seed starting efforts. This year Gary Geister will be offering a few selections from Shady Oaks Nursery which include the 2010 Hosta of the Year, 'First Frost' and the 2011 Hosta of the Year, 'Praying Hands'. Gary will also offer 15 other new varieties of hosta as well as 6 new varieties of heuchera.

This is the day and event at which you pick up the plant selections from your preorders. There are more varieties and configurations of materials being offered this year, so study that preorder form and get it to Doug Whitney, 10005 Adam Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 by the **deadline** date, **April 5, 2011**.

There is a live auction and a silent auction at this event. Any donations you can obtain from your favorite nursery or gardening center would be appreciated for this portion of the evening.

If raffles are your interest, we offer that, too!

Most importantly, this is a large fundraising event for the club which helps to keep the membership dues in line so please plan on attending, donating, bidding, assisting at the event, or participating in some way. It is a wonderful way to start the 2011 growing season.

See you there!



## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 3/13/2011	
Checking balance	\$10,285.89
CD	\$5,000.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,605.18
Scholarship	<u>\$2,303.43</u>
Working Balance	\$6,377.28

## Membership Corner

### Welcome to New Members:

Paul Aarestad  
 Carrie Gilleland  
 Steve Gorman  
 Deb Revier

We extend our sympathy to Nancy Bjerke on the death of her husband Blair.

## New Members Inducted at March Meeting

-- Sharla Aaseng



**Carrie Gilliland** (on the left) is a gardener who has worked largely with perennials. She joined MGCM to learn to “experiment more effectively with gardening and make new friends.” She would like to learn about using annuals, possibly growing vegetables, naturalizing some of their lawn and using bulbs. The night she first visited she helped hospitality committee set up for dinner. What a great addition to our garden family! Welcome Carrie!

**Deb Revier** (on the right) is a Master Gardener with a specialty in native plants. She is currently the Program Support Coordinator for the Leadership Team for the Hennepin County Master Gardeners. She is also on their Garden Tour Planning Committee. She enjoys all aspects of gardening. Her garden was on the Master Gardeners' Tour last summer and will be featured in the April issue of Lake Minnetonka magazine. She also belongs to The Wild Ones. A hearty welcome to you Deb!

Here's contact info so far for our new members:

### **Paul Aarestad**

[paula@lakewoodcemetery.com](mailto:paula@lakewoodcemetery.com)

### **Carrie Gilliland**

10108 Abbott Ave. S.  
 Bloomington, MN 55431  
 952-820-0557  
 wk: 763-797-2785  
[billcarriegill@q.com](mailto:billcarriegill@q.com)  
 FFF, Hospitality

### **Deb Revier**

15010 Woodruff Road  
 Wayzata, MN 55391  
 952-476-2044  
 C: 612-799-0440  
[drevier@comcast.net](mailto:drevier@comcast.net)  
 Awards, Programs, Tours  
 (club)

### **Steve Gregory Gorman**

4226 Crocker Ave So.  
 Edina, MN 55416  
 952-927-7785  
 wk: 612-861-9208  
[steveg55416@gmail.com](mailto:steveg55416@gmail.com)



## New Perennials for 2011

-- Larry Larson

Randi and I attended the annual seminar at Tonkadale on new perennials for 2011. There were many new additions but I'm going to write about the ones that interested me the most.

First up is an Amsonia called **'Blue Ice'**, a compact bushy low growing border plant that features dark lavender-blue flowers that bloom in late spring. The blooms form clusters of 5-petaled star shaped flowers, grow about 15" high and prefers loamy, well-drained soil. They prefer morning sun and afternoon shade.

I really liked this Aster called **'Peachie's Pick'**, which featured fringed lavender-blue flowers with whitish centers. These are usually low growing (15") border plants that bloom in mid-summer. Another new introduction in this family is called **'Klaus Jelitto'**, a nice powder blue Aster also with fringed flowers.

I found some of these low growing Asiatic Lilies last year and put three of them in my garden. There are several new ones out this year, including **'Tango Passion'**, a gorgeous soft peachy-pink flower with yellow centers. These lilies only grow about 15" high and can be grown in pots but also can be planted outside. There are several other notable lilies in this series including **'4-You'**, a salmon speckled flower with a burgundy center, **'Push Off'**, a deep maroon red with white tips, and **'Crossover'**, a pure white flower with speckled burgundy centers.

If you like Coreopsis, you'll love this new yellow tipped, burgundy centered beauty called **'Cosmic Eye.'** They grow about 12-15" high and prefer full sun. They are considered a border plant.

A beautiful, low growing Delphinium is next up. Called **'Aurora Blue'**, this flower is blue with white centers and very showy. It only grows 36-42", not as tall as most other Delphiniums. They prefer well drained alkaline soils (add lime) and like humus in the soil.

There were several new Coneflowers featured, including **'Tangerine Dream'**, a showy light orange flower that stands about 22" high. This series of Coneflowers are disease resistant. They need full sun. Other varieties included **'Now Cheesier'**, a very large golden-yellow flower, **'Irresistible'**, featuring outer petals that open first to a bright orange, then mature to a salmon orange with a double pom-pom look, and finally **'Pow Pow Wild Berry'** (a 2010 all America selection winner) that features deep rose-purple flowers.

A new Gentian called **'Blue Cross'** caught my eye. Low-growing and meant primarily for rock gardens and borders, this plant features small blue-violet blooms that bloom all summer into fall. They are 9-11" high and require moist, well-drained soil.

*(Continued on next page.)*



## New Perennials -- Continued

All you daylily lovers will no doubt be interested in '**Calico Jack**', a spectacular bright yellow flower contrasted with a very pronounced plum-red eye. The edges are ruffled and the flower itself is 6" wide. It is about 22" tall and blooms early to mid season. Other colorful new daylilies included '**Cosmopolitan**', a rosy-pink flower with ruffled edges, '**Frosted Vintage Ruffles**', a pastel blend of creamy yellow and a pink blush, and '**Moses Fire**', a large 6" double bright red flower.

Several new Hibiscuses were represented, including '**Luna Pink Swirl**', a relatively short 24-30" plant with large pink and white swirled flowers. There was also '**Luna Red**', '**Luna Rose**', and '**Luna White.**'

One of the most spectacular new perennials we saw was the '**Gold Rush**' Shasta Daisy, a double white and pastel yellow flower with fringed petals. Can be deadheaded to encourage continuous blooming. It grows to 24"

Last on my list is another spectacular entry, the '**Grand Mum**' Monarda. This plant delivers clumps of aromatic dark green foliage and light pink-mauve flowers that are frilly. These flowers reminded me of the lacinated dahlias that I grow. They are disease resistant, grow to about 16", and can be deadheaded for more blooms.



Amsonia 'Blue Ice'



Aster 'Peachie's Pick'



Asiatic lily 'Ladylike'

*(More photos on next page)*



**New Perennials** – *Continued*



Delphinium 'Aurora Blue'



Daylily 'Calico Jack'



Shasta Daisy 'Gold Rush'



Monarda 'Grand Mum'



Hibiscus 'Luna Pink Swirl'

*-- Photos courtesy of Larry Larson*



## Getting to Know Your Board Member Robert Kean, Vice President



I grew up in a suburb of Buffalo, NY. My mother was an avid gardener, and I attribute my interest in gardening mostly to her. She grew mostly perennials at our house, but we had a summer cottage in the hills south of Buffalo, where we had a large vegetable garden every year.

We also grew a few fruit trees and several types of berries at our summer cottage, and that is where I developed my interest in tree planting and growing fruit. However, gardening there was a constant challenge. The soil was heavy clay, very acidic, and nutrient poor. The elevation made for harsh winters and a short growing season with generally cool rainy summers. There was also the constant battle with deer, rabbits, woodchucks, and raccoons for our hard earned produce.

Another gardening influence in my youth was Lockport NY (about 20 miles north of Buffalo) where my Dad grew up. Due to good soil combined with temperature moderation from near-by Lake Ontario, the Lockport area is a major fruit growing region in NY State. We used to go there in the summer to pick and/or buy cherries, peaches, and apples. My interest in nut trees started with my Dad showing me Black and English walnut trees growing in Lockport, and occasionally collecting nuts in the fall.

I lived in Buffalo until I completed college (with a degree in Chemistry) and started my westward migration by attending graduate school at Michigan State University. There I met my wife, Mary. She moved first to Minneapolis (for work) and I followed. I ultimately ended up at Cargill and she at 3M after a few temporary stints. We bought a classic old house in the Uptown area of Minneapolis. It met all our criteria except for a large garden space. Still, in most years it has taken more than enough work just to maintain my small space, especially while we have been raising our two children. Mary is still at 3M and I have recently moved to Cortec Corporation near White Bear.

Gardeners can be divided into two groups: those that seek primarily to have a beautiful garden; and those that like to collect a lot of different plants (the more unusual, the better). I definitely fall into the latter category. My urban yard does not have a lot of sun, so I am always looking for shade tolerant plants. I have sandy soil that dries quickly, so the shade tolerant plants also need to be drought tolerant. Still, I am able to grow quite a few things including several types of berries, a few tomatoes and other vegetables, and an eclectic mixture of perennials and annuals.

I have been a member of the MGCM since 1990. I have been chair of the Arbor Day committee for several years and have been heavily involved in the perennial trial garden project (Lyndale Park Garden committee); coordinating the collection of the perennial trial data for the last few years. This is my first stint as a club officer.

*-- Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*





## FFF 2011 Featured Vegetable: Beets!

-- Mary Maynard

As you probably know, each year the MGCM Flower, Food and Foto Show showcases one vegetable and awards a special ribbon for the best specimen. For the first time in my memory, we are featuring beets.

Beets are quite easy to grow in a sunny well-drained spot in the garden, and can be direct sown as soon as soil can be worked (though that might be a little early for beets to be ready for the FFF Show on August 20, since they take about 60 days to mature). Beets do best with even moisture.

Beet “seeds” are often dried pods containing multiple seeds, so it is not uncommon for beets to come up very thick and need thinning. When the plants are 4-5 inches high, thin them so that plants are about 4 inches apart -- and put the extras into a salad.

The FFF Show schedule calls for showing three specimens. Among other things, judges will look for uniformity, condition, and preparation. According to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society’s *Exhibiting and Judging Handbook*, beets “should be mature but not over-grown, pithy or coarse in texture.” Tops should be trimmed to 1 ½ inches, and side roots should be carefully trimmed off. The tap root should be trimmed to 2 inches. Beets can be washed carefully, but should not be scrubbed to the point that the outer skin is injured.

See you at the FFF Show!



‘Egyptian Flat’



‘Touchstone Gold’

-- Photos courtesy of Park Seed



We were so very fortunate to have Soni Forsman at our March meeting. Soni's garden will be on the Pond Tour on July 30-31. And at least one of our members, Gary DeGrande, will also be on the Pond Tour.

-- Photo by Chuck Carlson



Sandra Abraham got a behind-the-scenes look at a few of the plants that Bachman's is getting ready for the Macy's/Bachman's Flower Show. – Photos by Sandra Abraham

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### Reservation Form

#### MGCM April 5, 2011 Macy-Bachman Flower Show—Dinner at Macy's Oak Grill

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$30.00 each. Check to MGCM must be enclosed.

Dinner entrée choice(s): \_\_\_\_\_Walleye \_\_\_\_\_Chicken \_\_\_\_\_Mandarin Salad

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservation form with check to Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306.  
Reservations must be received by Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Sorry, no exceptions, out of respect for the Oak Grill staff. Thanks.



## Minutes of MGCM Board March 1, 2011

**Present:** Kay Wolfe, Robert Kean, Andy Marlow, Maury Lindblom, Jan Johnson, Gary DeGrande, Don Untiedt. **Absent:** Jason Rathe, Sharla Aaseng

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by President Kay Wolfe. The agenda and minutes of the February meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** The Audit Committee audited 2010 records and determined the books are in good order.

**President's report:** Randi Larson will chair the Holiday party, and Nona Johnson and Dave Johnson (Fridley) will co-chair the Tours committee.

**Vice President's report:** April will be the Macy/Bachman Flower show with dinner in the Oak Grill. Dale Bachman will speak. The Plant Sale will be May 17 -- one week later than usual. June meeting will be a field trip to Jerry Shannon's garden and Terrace Horticultural Books (Kent Petterson) with dinner in the neighborhood. July and August will be tours.

### Committee reports:

- Hospitality: The Gathering Table in February was well received.
- Plant Sale: Dave McKeen and Gary Geister have agreed to be co-chairs of the sale for 2012 as Doug Whitney is relinquishing the post. The plant sale orders and money need to be in to Doug by April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- FFF: Dates are August 20 & 21. The theme for the arrangements will be Sports.
- TV committee: 2 people are trained for small studio use.
- Tours: The committee is worried that there may not be enough gardens for two tours. It was suggested there be one tour and one garden/dinner fundraiser for scholarships.

**Old Business:** The Audit Committee recommended a second signer for the bank account. Vice President Robert Kean was selected as the second signer.

Growing Club membership: Bob Voigt and Tom McKusick will work with Gary DeGrande on publicity plans. It was suggested we develop a flyer that could be placed at garden centers in the Twin Cities area starting with Bachman's.

Photo Directory: Lloyd Wittstock will talk with his committee on how or if we will proceed.

Club Name: Two board members noted that the name (men and Minneapolis) often puts prospective members off and we should think about a more contemporary name that better reflects who we are now.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Johnson, Recording Secretary

# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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### Club Officers:

**President: Kay Wolfe**

2740 Florida Ave S, St. Louis Park

**Vice President: Robert Kean**

3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis

**Recording Secretary: Jan Johnson**

3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

**Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng**

1025 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minneapolis

**Treasurer: Andy Marlow**

10700 Minnetonka Blvd, Hopkins

**Past President: Don Untiedt**

12070 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. No, Plymouth

### Directors:

**Gary DeGrande**

4100 Oakmede Lane, White Bear Twp.

**Maury Lindblom**

6105 Lincoln Dr. #305, Edina

**Jason Rathe**

116 Cedar Lake Rd. S, Mpls.

## The Spray

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

Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Mary Maynard, Editor

4375 Dart Avenue

St. Louis Park, MN 55424

**First Class Mail**

*April*  
*2011*