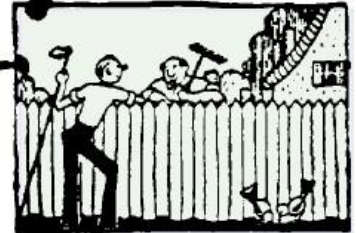




The Garden Spray

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

2011, Volume 69, Number 5



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
May 17	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 14	St. Paul	Dinner, Gardens and Books
July 12	East Metro	Club tour
August 7		TBA Club tour
Aug 20-21	Arb.	FFF Show
Sept 13	LHC	Moonlight Gardens
Oct 11	LHC	Apples (Talk, Tasting)
Nov 15	LHC	Winter Containers
Dec 13	LHC	Holiday Party

Please note: 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 May plant sale. Call or email Carole Ann Brekke at 952.435.6029 or numsix24@comcast.net by Friday, May 13 to reserve a meal.

Annual Plant Sale and Auction Tuesday, May 17 Westwood Lutheran Church 9001 Cedar Lake Road, St. Louis Park

This is our major fundraiser for the year, and always one of our most popular events. This is your chance to buy plants from fellow member's gardens and also to bid and purchase plants at our very popular plant auction. This is also the time we pick up the plants that we ordered ahead of time. Plus, a silent auction and raffle prizes. This event has everything! Here's the schedule of events:

- 3:00 p.m.** Pre-ordered plants are available for pickup.
- 4:15 p.m.** - All volunteers who are working at the plant sale and auction may buy plants at the country store.
- 4:30 p.m.** - Silent auction begins.
- 4:45 p.m.** - Country store opens to everyone.
- 5:45 p.m.** - Dinner is served.
- 6:15 p.m.** - Silent auction ends.
- 6:30 p.m.** - Dinner tables are cleared and put away and chairs are set up for the live auction.
- 6:40 p.m.** - Silent auction winners are announced.
- 6:45 p.m.** - Live auction begins.

NOTE: You can drop off donated plants for the Country Store anytime after 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday.

More about the Plant Sale and Auction on Pages 3 and 4



Notes from the Prez:

-- Kay Wolfe

As I write another 3 to 6 inches of snow is in the forecast for this week! And I just sent out a notice for Spring Clean-Up at the Lyndale Park Garden. We already postponed clean-up for Saturday April 16 due to snow and 30 degree morning temps. I am not sure this is what we call "Spring." Have faith, as they say.

Club committees believe the summer season will arrive eventually. The plant sale committee is hard at work; the sale will be on March 17.

The program committee is planning an outdoor event for the Tuesday evening June meeting. Dinner will be at a St. Paul restaurant, and then an "open garden" at Jerry Shannon's, and an "open bookstore" at Kent Petterson's Terrace Horticultural Books. Jerry and his wife Lee grow the most unusual plants. Lee has gotten seeds from international seed exchanges over the years, and they grow unique specimens from all over the world. In June many of their alpine plants will be in bloom. Kent has a renowned bookstore—it has been visited by Martha Stewart and Julie Moir-Meservy. It will be entertaining and educational to visit the sites of these two members' horticultural endeavors.

The Tour Committee is meeting, and two club tours are being planned, one for an evening in July, and one for August. The FFF Show is being planned. It occurs on the weekend of August 20 and 21.

The MGCM-TV Committee meets monthly, and is filming club luminaries Jerry Shannon, Nancy Bjerke, and Rog Sefelt. Past club TV stars have included Bob Olson, Mary Maynard, Margret Hibberd, Judy Berglund, plus many "extras"!

The Lyndale Park Garden Committee (which I chair) is busy designing, planting, and maintaining a garden in a Minneapolis Park.

If you want to learn more about gardening, join one of these committees. Attending the club's winter educational programs is only one way to gain garden knowledge. Many think that "working on committees" is not learning about gardening. That is simply not true. By serving on a committee, you get to know first-hand many experienced gardeners, you see their gardens, and learn what they grow. It is probably the very best way to gather new knowledge. And it is fun! Grow with us!

Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

Wow! We have a whole lot of information in this small issue. You will see on Page 1 that the schedule for the rest of 2011 has been finalized. And we're all set for this year's Plant Sale and Auction. Take a minute to read Doug's article on Page 4. I remember that year! Doug bought a ton of stuff!

Along with all the details about the plant sale, we have previews of activities in June, July and August, plus information about a possible off-leash dog park near our Trial and Perennial Gardens.

And we have more new members. Welcome, Leonardo and Stephan!

Is Spring coming? We have the heat on at our house.

See you on May 17th.



MORE PLANT SALE INFORMATION

- Continued from Page 1

RAFFLE!

The RAFFLE is a traditional part of the annual plant sale. We invite you donate something to the raffle, including non-plant garden-related items, such as books on how to, gardening tools, bags of special soils or fertilizers, grass seeds, vases, planting trays, pots, etc. Maybe you can get these at your favorite garden store or supplier. All proceeds go to the club. You can help by bringing donations to the annual plant sale on **May 17** at Westwood Lutheran Church. If you have questions, please phone Bob Voigt (612-823-4934).

Silent Auction!

Our silent auction features special plants, tools, garden accents and other unusual items. If you have something that would be a good addition to the Silent Auction, please let Elizabeth Hamilton know, especially if you need assistance transporting your contributions. Elizabeth can be reached at Elizabeth.hamilton@qwest.com or 952-881-1790.

Dinner Menu

Spring Mix Salad
 (Strawberries, Oranges, Gorgonzola, and Raspberry Vinaigrette)
 Parmesan Chicken with Apricot Chutney
 Supreme Potatoes Casserole with Hash Browns
 Roasted Asparagus
 Buns and Butter
 Blueberry Dessert



Hostas, Heuchera, Ligularia

Gary Geister has acquired the following plants for the sale:

Hostas:

Bridegroom	Coal Miner	Dancing Queen
Dance with Me		Dawn's Early Light
Fluted Fountain		First Frost
Fruit Punch	Guardian Angel (live auction)	
Marilyn Monroe	May	Praying Hands
Orange Marmalade		Spilt Milk

Heucheras:

Dark Secret	Tiramisu	Kassandra
Miracle	Bon Ton	Tara
Caramel		

Ligularia: Osiris Fantaisie

Plus there will be all the great annuals that Gary starts from seed, including Love Lies Bleeding amaranthus, Purple Hyacinth bean, Scarlet Runner bean, Jewels of Opar, Cotton, Coleus, variegated Nicandra and many more!



Doug and the Plant Auction

-- Doug Whitney

Note: This is Doug's last year as Chair of the Plant Auction Committee. We thank him for his service on this important committee and hope he continues to serve as Auctioneer when Gary Geister and Dave McKeen co-chair this event next year.

In late April, 1993 my friend Jack Kolb invited me to be his guest at a plant auction sponsored by his garden club at Lynhurst Community Center in Minneapolis. I was a neophyte gardener of only five seasons and I'd never been to an auction of any kind before. The weather had only just changed from cold and blustery to humid and warm. I accepted Jack's invitation, dragged my wife Jody along because Jack was bringing Rajah...and my life was forever changed.

We met Kay Wolfe and Mary Maynard over a box lunch in the courtyard at Lynhurst. While we munched we observed all these very animated men scurrying in and out of the building with plant materials unknown to me from their own gardens and various other mysterious sources.

At 6:30 a clap of thunder heralded a vigorous deluge ...and everyone who had been leisurely enjoying their repast took to jamming themselves through this little door into this hot, dank room filled with crazy Norwegians and stoic Swedes who were suspiciously eyeing each other and what appeared to be an inordinate supply of brightly colored and widely varied kinds of flowers and greenery.

Another clap of thunder and bedlam ensued within that little room. Golden Valley Dave Johnson was excoriating the crowd about what a prime stock of pansies was on the table and who would have the temerity to bid less than, I dunno, 50 cents a six pack for them...and everyone began jostling and

hooting and cracking outlandish jokes as money changed hands; competing claims to the choicest tuberous begonias were settled....and the faint of heart began to swoon.

I staggered out of there about two hours later soused in perspiration, totally overburdened with big plans and more varieties of annuals than I had ever previously imagined, Jack Kolb pumping my right hand up and down for joining the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, and my wife Jody glaring at me as if I had become deranged before her very eyes.

I had been thrust forward at the altar call and the faithful had not found me wanting in that spirit of adventure that captivates all gardeners every spring. I asked Jack if all the meetings were that given to mayhem. He responded, "Used to be, but since we started admitting women most of us have simmered down a little."

Well, it's 2011 and we've been through a few reformations in our annual Plant Sale and Auction...but the essence of that good old time religion remains. Our event every May trumpets the beginning of summer. It is the best time to bring a guest to a meeting because they get to see us laughing and having a lot of fun.

At first I thought it was all about the fun. Then I realized I was learning more than I ever could have done on my own by following these guys around every spring while they gathered plant materials from various commercial growers for the auction. Then I decided to follow the money and learned that this was the way the Club raised money for club activities, community service and scholarships. Then I noticed that each year the Club's net income from the event was growing each year. We made about \$800 in '93. Now we net over \$3000.



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 4/20/2011

Checking balance	\$ 9,816.21
CD	\$5,000.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,591.21
Scholarship	<u>\$2,303.43</u>
Working Balance	\$5,921.57

Membership Corner

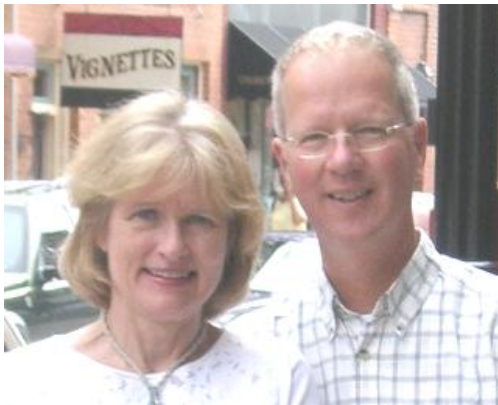
Welcome to New Members:

Leonardo Johnson

Stephan Shubick

More about Our New Members

- Sharla Aaseng



Pictured here is one of our newer members, Paul Aarestad, with his wife Debra. Paul is the head groundskeeper of the Lakewood Cemetery. If he looks familiar, he should. He gave a wonderful talk on his experiences and challenges working at Lakewood in November of 2009. He is looking forward to meeting other gardeners and seeing their gardens. His interests are container and greenhouse gardening, annuals, fruit trees and shrubs, landscaping and vegetables. Welcome Paul.

A reminder to everyone: New members' nametags will have a ribbon on them making it easier to recognize them and make them feel welcome. Also, committee chairs, please be sure to contact the new members on your committee and let them know what the committee is about.

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ljoh908693@gmail.com
on committee as needed

Stephan Shubick
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W: 651-696-0546
spsubick@aol.com



Coming Events

June 14th Outdoor Event: Dinner, Gardens and Books

This should be fun! Dinner at Shamrock's on West 7th St. in St. Paul, followed by "open garden" at Jerry and Lee Shannon's and "Open Bookstore" at Terrace Horticultural Books. Kay has more information about Jerry's garden and Kent's bookstore in her President's column and all of the details will be in next month's *Spray*.

July 12th Club Tour: Two New (to us) Gardens!

Keep your calendar clear for a club garden tour treat on our regular July meeting night - Tuesday, July 12th. The Tour Committee is trying something a little different this year, and we believe that you will find it to be a very enjoyable evening. There will be just two gardens on this tour with the schedule as follows:

- 6:30 - 7:30 Visit Gary DeGrande's garden
White Bear Township
- 7:30 - 8:00 Travel to southern Maplewood
- 8:00 - 9:00 Visit Nona Johnson's garden

There will be finger food, snacks, and beverages at each garden plus dessert. Descriptions of the gardens are as follows:

Gary DeGrande - 4100 Oakmede Lane, White Bear Township

Our site is fortunate to have a lot of variety: hilly and flat, dry and wet, sunny and shady. It also abuts a natural wetland where we can encourage native plants. One's focus is initially drawn to the 20' x 25' pond that abuts the patio where hand feeding of the many beautiful Koi is a daily pleasure. A gentle waterfall soothes the spirit while numerous water lilies attract the eye. Walking the path around the pond showcases a variety of perennials, most common, some unusual, and takes you to a lower 8' x 10' pond fed by a split waterfall and stream, surrounded by a variety of ferns. Other paths meander through the gardens where a wide variety of perennial plantings takes advantage of the particulars of that area. The front yard garden takes advantage of all day sun and a path down the hill to the backyard takes advantage of our kind neighbor's sprinkling system! Tons of Dresser trap rock and an upper deck looking down on the entire backyard further enhance the experience. Bring your camera!

Nona Johnson - 2513 Haller Lane E., Maplewood

From brambles and buckthorn to a country garden - that is what I would say best describes the work that has been completed in my garden. Over the years I have added new gardens to various parts of my yard and updated existing ones. You will enjoy walking through the grassy paths in the shadier part of the garden, sitting in a comfy chair in the screened gazebo or listening to the water running from the waterfall to the two fountains located in various parts of the garden. The best way I can describe my garden is "A Work in Progress".



FFF SHOW FLORAL DESIGN DIVISION

-- Judy Berglund, FFF Chair

Announcing the 2011 Floral Design Division Classes for our FFF Show on August 20 & 21, 2011.

This years' design theme is "Sports in Minnesota". The design classes are as follows:

Little League: miniature arrangement less than 6" x 6" x 6"

Swimming: arrangement with visible water

Golf: floral design using warm or hot colors

Hockey: floral design using cool colors

Pole Vault: tall design

Football: floral design using fall colors

We are looking for full participation of club members in the FFF Show this year and floral design entries are a way that even members with small gardens are able to participate. The flowers used in the designs do not need to come from only your garden. The materials used just must be garden grown, including many floral materials you might find at a farmers market.



This division usually has very few entries each year, so **the challenge for all of us this year is to get our creative juices flowing and bring a couple of floral arrangements to this years' FFF Show.**

We are eager to see all of your creative floral arrangements!!!

*A couple of winning designs from 2009 (I think).
- Photo by Judy Berglund*



The Other F in FFF: MGCM's Photography Contest

--- Lloyd Wittstock

The date to remember for entering photos in the 2011 Photo (Foto) Contest is **July 31**, which is the deadline for both parts of the contest: The juried contest—that just means a team of fine, upstanding judges look at the photos and make their choices; and the People's Choice Prints, a separate competition of prints decided by ballots cast at the Flower, Food and Foto show in August.

To compete in the Choice portion, you must be a member of the club—so join now if you are not currently one. That portion will give out three garden gift certificates this year, \$25, \$15 and \$10. For the juried contest, you can be anybody—just be yourself—and you can send in a maximum of 20 entries in jpeg format. We judge in 13 categories so there is something for your interests, from landscapes to flowers to vegetables to wildflowers.

All the rules are available at the club website, minneapolisgardenclub.org. The terms, procedures and how you submit your entries are all described in eloquent detail, thanks to Photo Committee co-chair Chuck Carlson.

We no longer have general photo tips in the contest rulebook, but you can find advice on picking perspectives, best times of day and so on, via the Web. Some sites:

photo.net—click on the learning tab and look for “gardens.”

diginfood.com—a brief but rare look at photographing veggies!

photographytips.com—short tips sections on both landscape and plant photography.

You can find many others with a little effort, although most of them seem to be reading each other's advice.

More specifically, we can tell you that some of the 13 categories attract fewer entries than others. (Of course, that doesn't mean the quality is low.) Among the least entered items are container-grown plants; vegetables, fruits and herbs; club activities; wildflowers in the wild; and miscellaneous. This last one can be educational subjects, drastically manipulated photos, a series of three to five shots as one related entry, or whatever doesn't fit elsewhere. One year, for example, a striking view of a big planter full of only weeds won a minor award tinged with irony and maybe some empathy. All photos, however, must feature a horticultural item to be accepted by the judges.

Chuck and I have been involved with this contest for 19 years, and that's about all the tips I'd like to give up right now—since I would like to come up a bit in the point competition this time. (I do have the middle rank firmly locked in.) But seriously, we have had very fine photos and extremely close point counts—just one point apart at the top in 2010!

So join in, send your photos for both or just one part. Come to the Arboretum on August 20 or 21. (And, of course, display some of your other two F's.) We can use one more photo judge in early August, or if you would just like to observe and learn our judging process, call Lloyd at 612-296-8148.

In just three very busy months it will be July 31. Do you know where your photos are?



Possible Dog Park near Lyndale Park

-- From Robert Kean

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is looking into creating an off-leash dog park in or near Lyndale Park, which is where our Perennial and Trial Garden is located.

One possible site is a wooded area shown in the photo below:



MGCM member Kristina Hughes (who lives nearby, has a dog, and volunteers at the gardens) is a member of the Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) that is reviewing potential sites.

If you have specific comments/concerns for or against a Dog "Park" (off-leash area), please feel free to forward them to Kristina (email address: kristina_hughes@hotmail.com). The CAC meetings are open to the public. The MGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee (keepers of the Trial garden) will be monitoring the situation and will initiate an official response from the club if we feel that the CAC is moving toward a recommendation that will be detrimental to the viability or enjoyment of the Trial Garden.

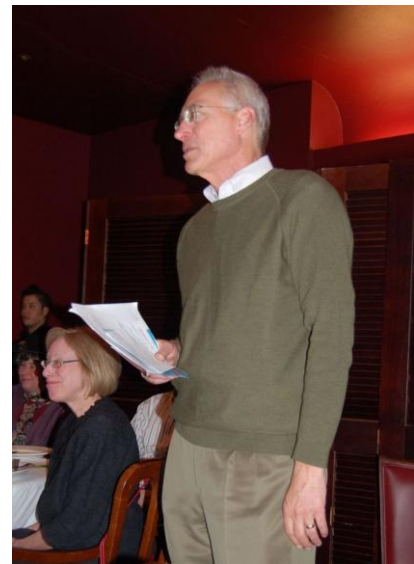
For more details on this issue, see the Dog Park Website:

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1266>



Photos from the Bachman's/Macy's Flower Show

By Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow and Lloyd Wittstock



Thanks, Dale!



Chuck's self-portrait in the Mirror Tower



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



Inside:

Page 1	2011 Events, Plant Auction
Page 2	From the President & Ed.
Page 3	Plant Sale/Auction Details
Page 4	Doug and the Plant Sale
Page 5	Treasurer, Membership
Page 6	June, July Events
Page 7	FFF Design Categories
Page 8	Photo Contest Info
Page 9	Possible Dog Park
P. 10-11	Photos: Bachman's/ Macy's Show

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President: Kay Wolfe

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Vice President: Robert Kean

3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis

Recording Secretary: Jan Johnson

3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng

1025 20th Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Treasurer: Andy Marlow

10700 Minnetonka Blvd, Hopkins

Past President: Don Untiedt

12070 48th Ave. No, Plymouth

Directors:

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Maury Lindblom

6105 Lincoln Dr. #332, 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.

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May
2011