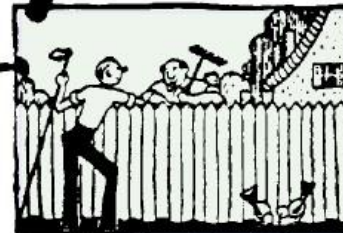




The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 5



Upcoming Events

Annual Plant Sale and Auction

Date	Location	Event
May 8	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 12	Arb	Arb Tour with comments from new director
July, August		Club Tours
Aug 18-19	Arb	FFF Show
Sept. 11	LHC	Martin Stern (Squire House) - Hardy and Reliable Bulbs
Oct. 9	LHC	Attracting Hummingbirds to your Gardens Don Mitchell
Nov. 13	LHC	Gardening Books Kent Petterson
Dec. 11	LHC	Holiday Party

Tuesday, May 8
Westwood Lutheran Church
9001 Cedar Lake Road
St. Louis Park, MN

APRIL SHOWERS BRINGS MAY FLOWERS

This is one of our popular events and our major fundraiser for the year. This year at the request of a few members we are having more perennials and they are coming from Ambergate Gardens for the Country Store. This is also your chance to bid on items in the silent auction, buy raffle tickets for many raffle prizes, have a picnic dinner and buy perennials and annuals from our famous Country Store. Now is the chance to buy a plant you have never had before or get one of your favorites from past years

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

Schedule of Events

3:00 Pre-order plants available for pick-up
4:30 Country store opens to everyone
4:30 Silent Auction begins
6:00 Dinner is served
6:15 Silent Auction ends
6:45 Dinner tables are cleared and chairs are set up for live auction
6:55 Silent Auction winners are announced
7:00 Live Auction begins

Members, please bring raffle prizes or items for the silent auction from their local hardware store or nursery and plants from your own garden for the Country Store. This all adds up to the success of this event. (More info on Page 4)

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 4 to reserve a meal.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

May is generally my favorite month. The days are long, the mosquitos are few, and the garden is filled with promise; a winters worth of ideas and dreams unleashed. By August, the weeds, blights, drought, and vermin have all taken their toll on our hopes and plans; but in May, all things are still possible.

May is the month of our main club fund raiser, the plant auction. I encourage you all to come and support the club. Every year, I seem to find something new and interesting there; and it is easy to justify being a little extravagant. The money goes to a good cause: us.

As we embark on the Month of May, I also want to take a moment to mention our marvelous member Mary Maynard. Our Spray magazine does not materialize each month by magic, but is meticulously and masterfully molded by Mary. More members should model Mary's many merits. She's an MGCM mentor of mine. Alliterations aside, Mary has been consistently one of the most active members of the club in the years that I have been a member; earning numerous awards, serving in leadership positions (including being president) and participating on many committees. She seems always willing to help when and where needed. As noted, she puts together and distributes the Spray each month. So thanks Mary! Mary also contributes to the Spray with her occasional "Confessions of a lazy gardener" articles. In last month's spray, she promised another installation the next time there is room, so I'm doing my part to leave room by keeping my article short this month.

However, before I close, I want to give a shout out to VP Sandra Abraham for her excellent planning of the April program at the Macy's Bachman flower show. It was a lovely dinner and an excellent garden show. I also want to thank Dale Bachman for his continuing generosity around this event. As you can imagine, the flower show is a very busy time for him in an already busy season of the year for his business. Yet he continues to find time to talk at our event. In addition, he donated the plants for the drawing and made a gift to the club besides. So, if you don't get everything you want at the plant auction (or even if you do), make a trip to Bachman's. I have some extra coupons (also donated by Dale) which I'll bring to the auction.

Editor's Note:

-- Mary Maynard

Wow! Thanks very much, Robert, for your very kind words. Being an MGCM member has meant a lot to me over the last 23 years. I've said before that I will never be able to give back to this club what I have gotten from it. And serving on committees is a wonderful way to get to know other members and learn from our many experts.

I am so very sorry to hear that our dear friend Carleton Nelson has died. Carleton's garden was one of the very first MGCM gardens I ever saw, bright with marigolds and dahlias. I still remember when Carleton decided to "cut back" on his dahlias a few years ago – and only planted 450 of them!

We have another full issue. My eternal gratitude to everyone who contributes to each issue. See you on May 8!



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 4-20-2012

Checking balance	\$20,387.90*
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,905.47
Scholarship	\$5,170.28
Working Balance	\$13,312.15
CD	\$5,210.22

* Includes \$200 contribution to Robert's Bird Sanctuary Arbor Day project from Minnesota Audubon Society

Membership Corner

Carleton Nelson, member since 1981, known for his marigolds and dahlias as well as for a kind and generous heart, died on April 20 at the age of 91. Rest well, Carleton. Our condolences to Beth and the rest of Carleton's family.

More Membership News

---Jean Strande, Membership Secretary

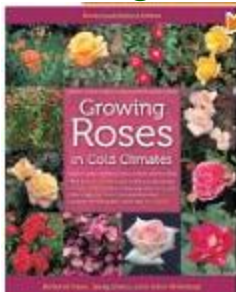
The membership committee would like to belatedly recognize new member **Pat Kessler**. Pat joined MGCM to network with other gardeners and to learn more about gardening. She is interested in container gardening, flowers, landscaping, lawns, trees and shrubs. Pat originally came as a guest of Kay Wolfe. Look for her at upcoming meetings.

In other news, the committee is exploring ways we can do a better job of keeping new members. Being involved is the best way for everyone to meet other members. Also being able to see who the new members are helps the rest of us to get to know them. To that end name tags for new (less than one year) members will be changed to a spring green so everyone can tell who the new members are and introduce ourselves and include them in the conversation.



The committee is working on other ideas too and we'll let you know about them soon.

Growing Roses in Cold Climates: Revised and Updated Edition



by MGCM Member Jerry Olson (and two other guys that aren't as important to us as Jerry) is available in bookstores now. Has it really been 14 years since the first edition was published?

Jerry will be 97 soon, and is still growing roses at his house in Bloomington. Jerry credits his health and long life to the joy of growing roses. Plus, he says that only the good ones go to Heaven, and the Devil is afraid that Jerry will get everyone organized and get air conditioning installed.

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



More About the Plant Sale and Auction

-- Gary Geister

Perennials from Ambergate Gardens

Perennials for full sun to partial shade

Astilbe 'Ellie' (False Spirea-Japonica Group) Heuchera (mocha)
Astilbe 'Key Largo' Nepeta Kit Kat
Baptisia x bicolor 'Starlite' Prairie Blues (Hybrid False Indigo)
Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost' (Variegated False Forget-me-not)

Perennials For Full Sun

Allium thunbergii 'Ozawa' (ornamental onion) Monarda (Coral Reef)
Echinacea purpurea 'Pica Bella' coneflower Phlox 'Minnie Pearl'
Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Blue Stem Grass)
Sedum Cauticola 'Lidakense' (Stonecrop) Rudbeckia (Henry Eilers)
Veronica longifolia 'Sonja' (Longleaf Speedwell) Stachys officinalis 'Pink Cotton Candy'

Plants from the Geister Greenhouse for the Country Store

Coleus: Bright Ruffles, Fishnet Stockings, Handy Andy, Hot Lava, Jade, Pistachio Nightmare, Stormy Weather.

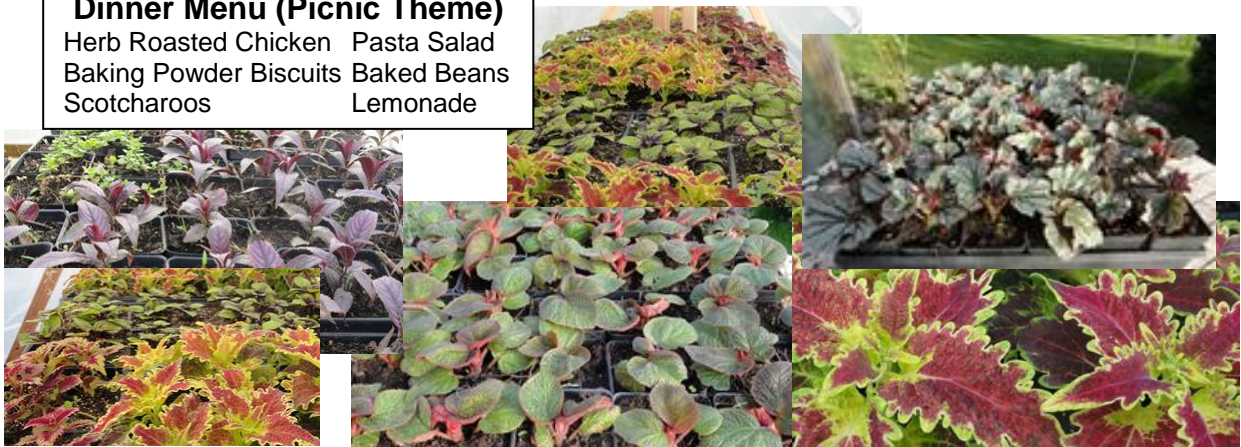
Bacopa - white; Angelwing Looking Glass Begonia; Assorted Rex Begonias

Euphorbia Diamond Frost; Sweet Potato Vine - Lime Green; Lantana Spreading Pink Lemonade; Persian Shields, State Fair Zinnias, Cypress Vine, Black-eyed Susan Vine, Spanish Flag Vine, Cardinal Climber Vine, Hyacinth Bean Vine,

Love Lies Bleeding Amaranthus, Joseph's Coat Amaranthus, Pink Pin-heads; Salvia Argentea, Cardoons, Japanese Grass, Pink Dwarf Snapdragons, Scabiosa, Variegated Nicandra, Mexican Sunflowers, Cockscomb, Texas Hummingbird Sage, Molten Fire Amaranthus

Dinner Menu (Picnic Theme)

Herb Roasted Chicken	Pasta Salad
Baking Powder Biscuits	Baked Beans
Scotcheroos	Lemonade



Scenes from Gary's Greenhouse (Gary Geister, Photographer)



Coming Up: June Visit to Arboretum

-- Sandra Abraham

The "Visiting Season" is upon us...Gardeners will be flinging open their gates to share their gardens with other gardeners, garden tours will abound, public display gardens will offer something to pique everyone's level of interest and the MGCM will be there to witness all of it. This is the season to fully appreciate our gardens, shows and our many events.

Our 2012 summer events will start with a special evening at the **Minnesota Landscape Arboretum** on Tuesday, June 12. The event will begin at 5:00 pm with a Trumpet Creeper Tram Tour. MGCM members Nancy Bjerke and Peter Olin will lead us on the Three Mile Drive tour. After the tour we will proceed to the Tea Room in the Snyder building for a reception and a dinner buffet. Our after dinner speaker will be Ed Schneider, Arboretum Director. A short celebration in honor of our 1942 charter will follow with cake and ice cream served by your Board of Directors and officers.

More details and reservation info in the June Spray.

July Club Tour Preview

-- Nona Johnson

Keep your calendar clear for a club garden tour on our regular July meeting night - Tuesday, July 10th. This worked well for us last year and we thought we'd try it again. We will be visiting Jonathan Uecker's and Denise Rust's gardens in the northwest metro. More information and garden descriptions will be published in the June and July *Sprays*.

FFF Show Floral Design Division

--Judy Berglund

Announcing the 2012 Floral Design Division Classes for our FFF Show on August 18 & 19, 2012.

This years' design theme is "Celebrating 70 Years of the MGCM". Here are the design classes:

Winter Club Meetings: floral design using cool colors

Macy's Flower Show: floral design using spring colors

Arbor Day: tall floral design

Summer Garden Tours: floral design using warm or hot colors

Park Gardens: floral design featuring foliage colors

FFF Show: design incorporating vegetables

This is an area to get your creative juices flowing. The materials used in the design do not need to all come from only your garden. The materials used only need to be garden grown and may come from a friend's garden or materials you might find at a farmers market.

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

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



MGCM Survey News Part Five

By Andy Marlow

This is the last in a series of five articles describing the results of the survey of MGCM members conducted in late 2011. In this article we'll look at volunteering, member opinions about dues and summarize some final thoughts about the survey.

Volunteering

Almost 83% of respondents said they had participated in MGCM activities over the past year. The highest participation rates were for the plant sale and auction (49%), Club tours (48%), Flower, Food and Foto Show (43%), Holiday Party (38%) and the Lyndale Park garden (31%). Lowest participation rates were for the membership committee (10%), and Arbor Day and photography (13% each). Strangely enough 18% reported participating in public tours when none were held in 2011. Among the most common reasons for not participating were lack of time, poor health, and lack of transportation. One respondent said "No one asked me."

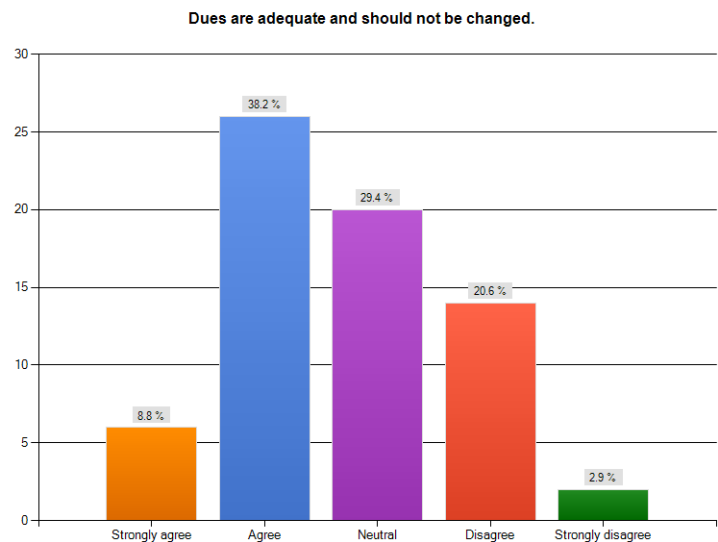
Just over half (53%) reported that they had chaired or co-chaired a committee at one time, and just under half (46%) said they had served as an officer or director. Reasons for not taking a leadership role included not being asked, time constraints, and feeling too new to serve in such a role.

Finally, the survey asked how the positions of committee chair or co-chair could be made more desirable. Just over half (53%) said "Have co-chairs for committees), just under half said "Have trainee chairs and/or officers to learn what each position is about". A close third (45%) said "Make the tasks clearer". (Chart)

Dues

Members appear to generally happy with the current annual dues of \$20. 47% said the dues are adequate and should not be changed, 30% were neutral and 23% disagreed. Only 4% of respondents said dues are too expensive and almost 83% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Finally the survey asked if dues should be significantly increases to provide more services, such as fund the scholarship program. The responses were evenly split, with about a third

agreeing (32%), about a third neutral (32%) and about a third disagreeing (35%). (Author's note: rounding accounts for the missing 1%.)



Continued on next page.



Survey – Continued

Final Thoughts

The last question was an open-ended opportunity to express any final thoughts about MGCM. They ranged from the humorous, “Have larger dessert portions”, to some serious responses addressing important issues. The complete list can be found on the MGCM website. Check the Links page. Here are some representative samples, edited and organized into sections:

Membership

- I think MGCM needs to start taking some risks and experimenting with new formats, ways of attracting and serving the gardening community, and ways of communicating with members and the larger community.
- more male participation or more male members
- More info should be provided to new members!!!!!! I assumed that the plant sale WAS open to the public and was a major source of revenue. I learned a lot about the club by simply taking this survey!!! I didn't know we had a scholarship fund etc. Also, what are the different leadership opportunities/job descriptions etc.
- Need a better format to interest fellow gardeners. At present most cliques sit together.
- Get scholarship recipients involved in MGCM. Require them to join for one year or attend a fixed number of meetings for one year.
- We need more and younger members and should do whatever it takes to get them
- One thing would be more aggressive in trying to get new members and to have our club out more in the public eye. The public tour was the main reason I joined the club, seeing these gardens was a great inspiration for me.
- At meetings, reach out more to new members if they are not with another member.
- Help get new members involved in committees.
- Committee members offer to mentor gardeners on how to participate in the activities: FFF show, tours, plant auction, newsletter etc.
- Try changing the "public" name--the name on brochures and website--to Minneapolis Garden Club for a year or two and see if more join. Don't change the legal name for now.

Programs

- Find a way that members can be more involved each meeting in sharing with all others information on interests. At each meeting have 2 or 3 members stand-up/or go to the front with microphones to tell about their activities in gardening. Limit the time to 2 minutes. Be brief. This is a way to become better acquainted.
- I like the people and the programs; I have learned so much about gardening.
- I would like to see an occasional gardening Q&A panel at meetings, where members can ask gardening questions. I understand the Garden Club of Ramsey County does this and it's well received.

Continued on next page

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



Survey -- *Continued*

- I think the program committees of the last few years have done a great job. I think continued and varied programs and better advertising of them will help bring in new members. This also requires an increase in the dues.
- Like most: Excellent programs

Participation

- Too many people belong to committees they never participate in. If you join a committee, you should be at that committee meeting and help that committee do its work. Too many of the same people end up doing all the work. That's not fair.
- We need to find a way to get more of the membership actively involved on the committees. I'm sure this is a problem with most organizations and there is no single answer.
- Perhaps have membership levels: pay for attending meetings to learn, less fee if you work on a committee or are an officer, etc.
- We do need members to volunteer faster. Chair-In-Training concept, so it is less threatening to volunteer.
- Committee members offer to mentor gardeners on how to participate in the activities: FFF show, tours, plant auction, newsletter etc.
- Like most - the Lyndale Park committee. I have learned so much about gardening and design through working on it. I have made good friends in this committee. It is what keeps me attached to the club.

Kudos

- I'm fine with the way things are.
- I like the people and the programs; I have learned so much about gardening.
- Most of the programs are interesting and helpful to me as a gardener. The spray and website are great links to the pulse of what is going on in the club.
- The club is heading in the right direction.
- The MGCM is a great garden club with good programs and welcoming people.
- We have met the most wonderful people. The friends we have made at MGCM are really special.
- Great people, great meetings, excellent gardening skills.
- We have an AAAA Club. The membership is great. We are so very blessed to have such a long standing club with so many talented, creative and full of knowledge members. We are unique in every way and I am proud and thankful to be a part of it.



Cucumber Seeds Available!

—Bob Livingston

Cucumbers are the featured vegetable in the 2012 MGCM FFF Show August 18-19 at the Arboretum. I became intrigued by all the varieties in the Seed Savers catalog. I ordered a selection of some of the traditional and some of the more exotic varieties, which I would be happy to share with interested garden club members. The varieties are

Boothby's Blonde: Oval 6-8" creamy-yellow warty fruits. Good for bread and butter pickles

Bushy: Bush plants with 3-5' vines. Good for fresh eating or pickling.

Crystal Apple: Tender, creamy white skin. Mild, great for fresh eating.

Edmonson: White-green blocky 4" fruits mature to a deep red-orange. Crisp and flavorful even when large, rarely bitter. Good for slicing, salads and pickling

Japanese Climbing: Vigorous growth, best variety for trellises. 7-9" long. Fine quality for both slicing and pickling.

Mexican Sour Gherkin: 1-2" fruits that have the appearance of miniature watermelons and fall off the vines when ripe. Sweet cucumber flavor, contrasted by a surprising sourness, as if they had already been pickled.

Miniature White: Miniature yellowish-white eating cucumber. Mild, sweet flavor. Best eaten raw and used for salads when less than 3" long.

Poona Kheera: From India. Unusual cucumber matures into what looks like a large russet potato. Tender, crisp and delicious. Turn from white to golden yellow to russet brown and may be eaten at any stage, skin and all.

Snow's Fancy Pickling: Slender fruits are 5-6" long by 1 1/2" in diameter.

True Lemon: Similar in appearance and size to a lemon, averages 3" by 2". Used for pickling, slicing and in salads. Very easy to digest.

West Indian Gherkin. Large vines with distinctive looking leaves, more like a watermelon than cucumber. Fruits 2-3" long and 1 1/2" in diameter. Distinct flavor, used for making small pickles or relish.

If you are interested in trying a few FREE seeds, call Bob Livingston at 952-929-6019 or email rlivington@msn.com, and I will mail you some to try, with a picture of what they look like. Or I could bring them to you at the Plant Sale on May 8th. You can see pictures of these cucumbers at Seed Savers' on-line catalog, www.seedsavers.org.

Wanted! Needed! Raffle Items!

Large or small.

Garden-related books, tools or anything in the fun category.

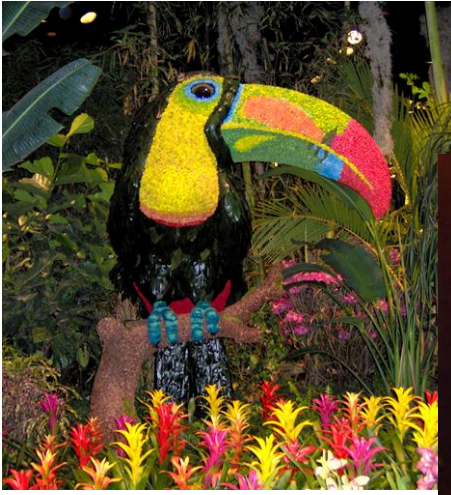
Bring to plant sale and auction on May 8.

Thanks! Bob Voigt



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

Photos by Chuck Carlson, Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Denise Rust, Lloyd Wittstock





More Bachman's/Macy's Photos



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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Club Officers:

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Vice President: Sandra Abraham

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Recording Secretary: Jan Johnson

3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

Membership Secretary: Jean Strande

11 Hanley Rd, Golden Valley

Treasurer: Andy Marlow

10700 Minnetonka Blvd, Hopkins

Past President: Kay Wolfe

2740 Florida Ave S, St. Louis Park

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4728 Temple Rd., Minnetonka

Randi Larson

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The Spray

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Return To:

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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First Class Mail

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