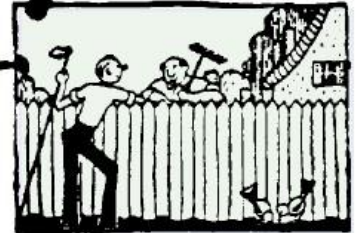




The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 7



Upcoming Events

July 10 Club Tour!

A Visit to the North Side of Town

Date	Location	Event
July 10		Club Tour
Aug 11		Japanese Garden Tour
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

Jonathan Uecker and Denise Rust will be opening their gardens to us on the evening of Tuesday, July 10th.

This will be a drive-yourself tour. Here's the schedule:

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Appetizers at Jonathan Uecker's garden

7:30 – 8:00 Drive time

8:00 – 9:00 Desserts at Denise Rust's garden.

Cost will be \$8.

Deadline: Thursday, July 7, 2012

Abridged garden descriptions, reservation form and tour map on Pages 4-5.

Looking Ahead: August Tour and FFF!

Please mark your calendars for Saturday August 11. We will have a **club tour** with a "Japanese garden" theme. Details are still being finalized, but the tour will include the a morning visit (with a guided tour) to the Japanese Garden at Normandale Community College and a tour of a private "tea garden" in south Minneapolis. Lunch will be included. Final details will be posted in the August Spray.

The **Flower Food and Foto Show** is on August 18-19. More info on Page 3.

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S., Mpls. (Lower level)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park

Arb = U of M Landscape Arboretum

Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the July Tour.

Reservation form for Club Tour is on Page 4.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

Wow. What a great evening we had at the Arboretum in June. Thanks to Sandra and Peter for their enthusiasm and creativity in planning this excellent event. Special thanks to Nancy and Peter for the deluxe tram tour, which was both entertaining and informative. I'm really glad that the traffic cooperated and I was able to make it on board the tram. I learned more about the Arboretum in that one hour than in the past 20 years combined. I was very inspired and impressed with the new Arboretum director Ed Schneider. He presented an exciting plan for taking the Arboretum to the next level, and didn't seem at all daunted at having to raise tens of millions of dollars to make it happen. I hope their board approves the plan. It got me thinking that perhaps our club should "adopt" one of the projects and help raise some funds. Of the proposed projects, my personal favorite is the Chinese garden. I visited the Chinese garden in Portland OR, many years ago and have been enthralled ever since.

It also struck me that the Arboretum has some of the same challenges as MGCM. They have an excellent organization with enthusiastic and committed members, but find it challenging to attract and engage the next generation. Like the Arboretum, we should be thinking about educational topics, events, and communication mechanisms that can connect with and attract additional (especially younger) members. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please send to me or one of the other board members. We are also still looking for a volunteer with interest, skills, and/or experience with publicity and public relations, as we recognize a need for more and more effective club promotion and outreach.

The June event was an excellent kickoff to the summer tour season. While I enjoy pictures and presentations about gardening, there is really no substitute for the 4 dimensional (the 4th dimension being changes over time) multisensory experience of actually being in a garden. The July tour is planned and will feature an evening in the gardens of two of our members (see details elsewhere in the Spray) and should be a pleasant evening of good food, good company, and good Gardens! Plans are almost complete for the August tour also (see the preview also in this issue of the Spray).

The Lyndale Park Garden (AKA the perennial trial garden and/or border garden) is shaping up nicely. If you have a chance, go see it at least once this summer. You can also take in the other fine gardens in the park (Rose garden, peace garden, display garden, butterfly garden).

For those of you with rain gardens, I'd be interested to hear how well they are working. They have certainly had a good test in the last month.

Editor's Note:

-- Mary Maynard

Thanks to Sandra and Peter and everyone else who made our June event possible. The tram ride was great fun, and it was an honor and a pleasure to meet our new Arboretum Director and learn about the goals and vision for the Arboretum. And our two-dessert supper was outstanding!

We had a little more space in this issue, so I dug back into the *Lazy Gardener* archives once again. I encourage everyone to enter flowers, vegetables and photos in the Flower, Food and Foto Show. See you in July!



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 6-23-12

Checking balance	\$20,150.37
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,930.47
Scholarship	<u>\$5,170.96</u>
Working Balance	\$13,048.94
CD	\$5,210.22

Plant Sale report

Income	\$8,551.75
Expenses	<u>\$4,152.80</u>
Net	\$4,398.95

Membership Corner

No membership news this month!

2012 FFF SHOW – AUGUST 18 & 19

at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Judy Berglund, Chair, FFF Committee

We hope that all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to the show this year. The general rules are all on the club website along with all of the entry classes. There is even an example of how to fill out your entry tags. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of the green FFF Show booklets at our club garden tour.

Our featured flower is the Rubeckia, which may be exhibited as 3 uniform blooms of one variety or in planters. Cucumbers are this year's featured food, which may be exhibited as 3 uniform specimens of slicing varieties 6 to 8 inches long or 7 uniform specimens of pickling varieties 3 to 5 inches long. All specimens should be at the same stage of maturity and uniform in size, shape, and color. Leave about ¼ inch of uniform stem length attached to all cucumbers. Oh, and do not forget about this year's creative floral design division.

We encourage all of you to get on the bandwagon and enjoy the fun and camaraderie of showing off the best of the best of what we all enjoy the most – GARDENING.

So – come one, come all and bring your best flowers, food, and fotos to the best show in town on August 18 & 19.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Need entry tags for your flower and vegetable entries for FFF? Mary Maynard will have them at the July and August tours.

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<http://www.mqcm.org>



July Club Tour: About the Gardens

Jonathan Uecker, Anoka

I have lived in my home for approximately 15 years. My house, which was built in 1926, sits on the north bank of the Mississippi River. As was tradition with river homes, the front faces the river and the back faces the street. When I moved here there were a several mature oaks, a large cotton wood tree and ash tree along the river, and a couple of old pines. The rest was plantain weeds and creeping Charlie.

The first several years I concentrated on planting trees and shrubs so that the lot is now protected by evergreens on the north. Through the years, I have added numerous flower beds, a pond with a stream, walkways, a fountain pool, and fire pit.

The main part of the yard is laid out around in a formal style to reflect the colonial revival architecture of the home with crushed stone pathways in a cross shaped grid lined up on the center hall of the house. The flower beds are bordered with yew hedges (parterres) kept at about one and a half feet, an espalier of apples and an alle'e of hemlock. As you walk farther away from the house things become progressively more informal. I have a large collection of conifers, a variety of large and small leaf rhododendrons, deciduous azaleas, magnolias, tulips, daffodils, peonies, roses, daylilies, hostas, clematis, lilies, and asters. It's turned out to be way more than what is reasonable, especially with my work schedule and being dad for two teenagers.

Denise Rust, Brooklyn Park

This pie-shaped lot in a modest neighborhood was bare bones when the Rusts built here in 1983. Landscaping began with a few inexpensive young trees and shrubs around the front and sides, and flowers donated from friends and family.

The front is a colorful bed of annuals, potted plants, and perennials. Around to the side is a deck filled with mixed plantings in pots. The back is a good mix of shade and sun with a mix of perennials and woodland plants and annuals thrown in for extra color. The older areas have many large rocks collected on trips and when Hwy. 252 was being constructed. A vegetable garden sits in a sunny spot,

A shade garden off the patio features hosta, ferns, and astilbe, with miniature plants along the pathways. There are about 160 varieties of hosta, and lots of varieties of lilies, daylilies, peonies and iris. An eclectic collection of garden ornamentation is scattered throughout, including stepping stones, statuary, antiques and items carefully crafted by Denise's husband Jeff.

Reservation Form

Your check to MGCM for \$8 will give you appetizers, desserts and water/iced tea during the garden tour. Send your check for the appropriate amount to:

Nona Johnson
2513 Haller Lane E
Maplewood, MN 55119

Please send your reservation to Nona by July 7th

Name: _____

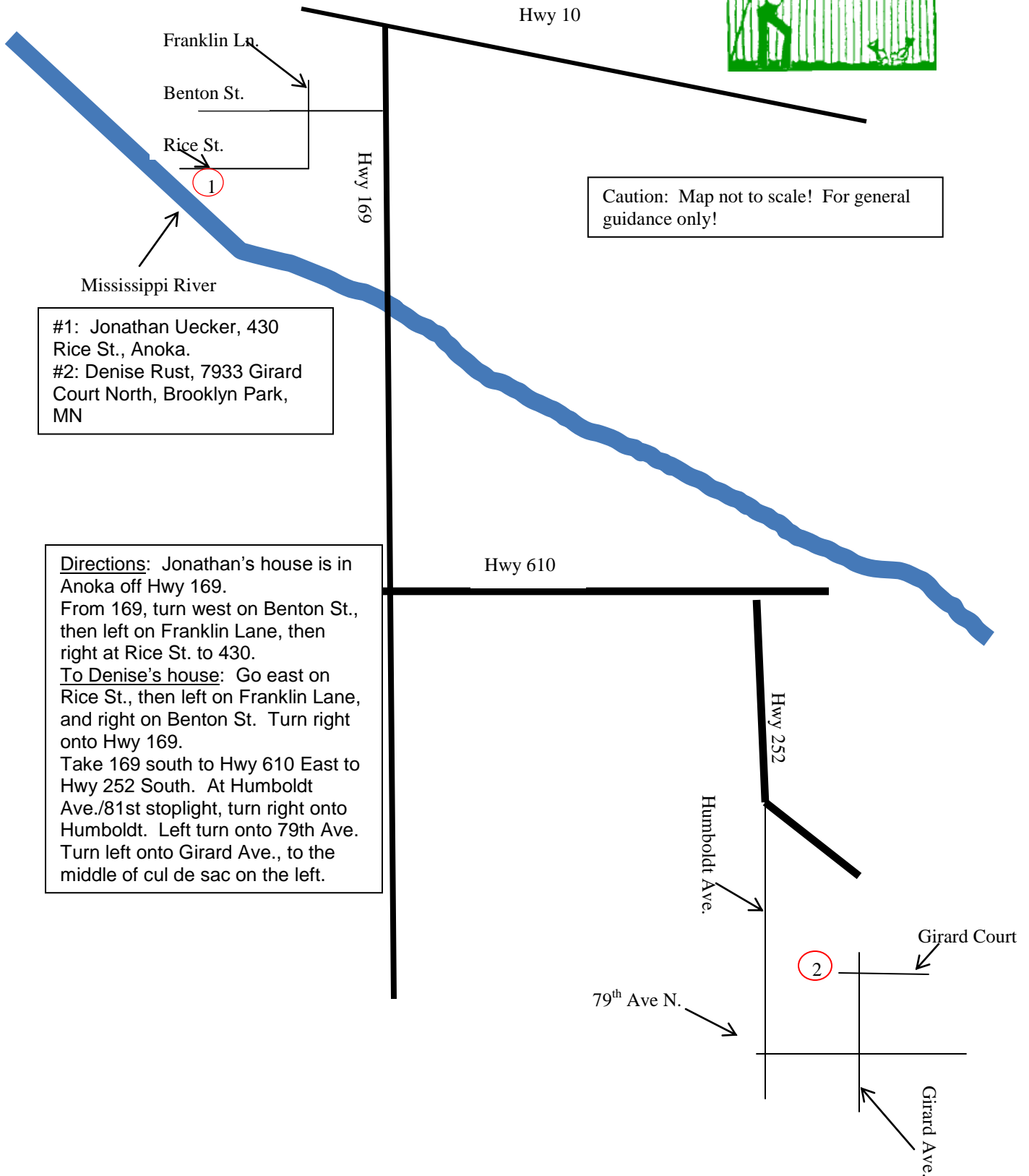
Guests: _____

For any questions you can email Nona.M.Johnson@HealthPartners.com

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<http://www.mgcm.org>

July Tour Map (Rudimentary)



Caution: Map not to scale! For general guidance only!

#1: Jonathan Uecker, 430 Rice St., Anoka.
#2: Denise Rust, 7933 Girard Court North, Brooklyn Park, MN

Directions: Jonathan's house is in Anoka off Hwy 169. From 169, turn west on Benton St., then left on Franklin Lane, then right at Rice St. to 430.
To Denise's house: Go east on Rice St., then left on Franklin Lane, and right on Benton St. Turn right onto Hwy 169. Take 169 south to Hwy 610 East to Hwy 252 South. At Humboldt Ave./81st stoplight, turn right onto Humboldt. Left turn onto 79th Ave. Turn left onto Girard Ave., to the middle of cul de sac on the left.



Photos from June Arboretum Event
Photos by Sandra Abraham, Chuck Carlson, Denise Rust





More Photos from the Arboretum





And Even More Photos!





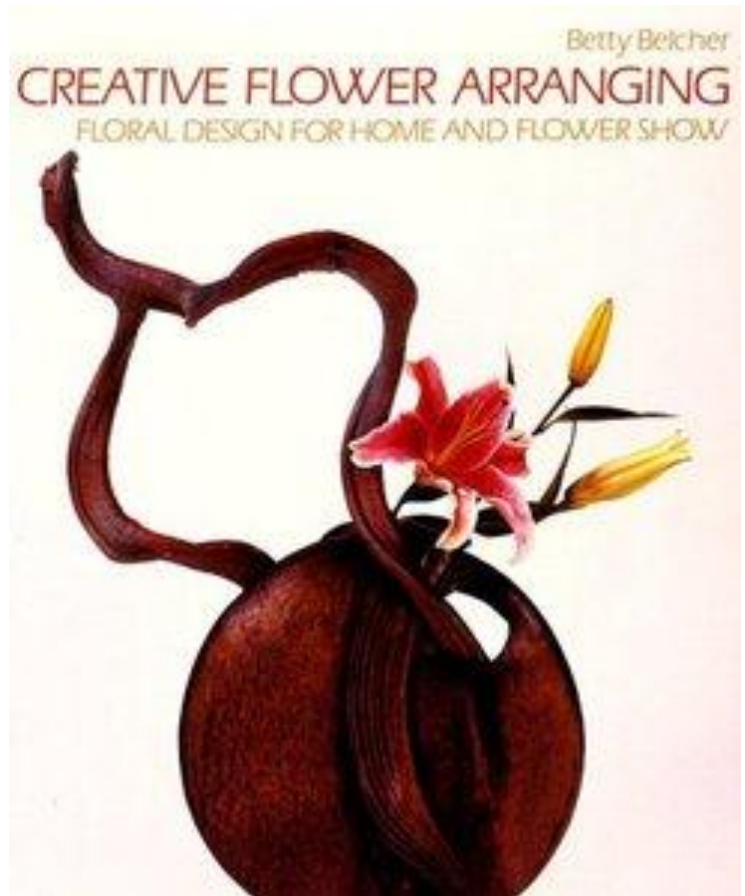
From The Lazy Gardener Archives: Flower Arranging for FFF

-- Mary Maynard

Editor's Note: Our Floral Design entries have improved since this article was first published, so please take the Lazy Gardener's snarky remarks about the competition with a grain of salt!

Many of you know that there is a Floral Design Division in our Flower, Food and Foto Show. And those of you who have been to the show may have noticed that we do not suffer from an overabundance of entries in the Design Division. And, while we have shown occasional flashes of brilliance in Design, in general there is room for improvement. Our judges, who are floral design experts, have been very diplomatic about our entries.

Last year, to try to do something different, I decided to actually learn something about floral design. There are some really good books in our public libraries, with lovely illustrations. For a beginner like me, I think the best book I found was *Creative Flower Arranging: Floral Design for Home and Flower Show* by Betty Belcher, c. 1993. (The Hennepin County Library has one copy of this book, and it is available used through Amazon.) The author is a long-time garden club member, judge and instructor. I found it very informative and not intimidating, and I was able to actually apply some of these principles at the show. There are other good basic books about floral design, and some of the books about Japanese flower arranging techniques were very intriguing.



One of the things that I like about entering floral designs at FFF is that I can do them ahead of time. Unlike former member Elizabeth Johnson, who has done some wonderful designs "on the fly" in past years, I need to take time for inspiration to visit me -- if it comes at all. And I haven't tried anything so daring that it would be difficult to transport.

-- Continued on next page

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<http://www.mqcm.org>



Lazy Gardener: Flower Arranging -- *continued*

Another thing I like about floral designs is that, in general, they don't need to use up a lot of flowers. Since FFF requires that flowers be "garden grown" (not our own gardens, necessarily, but not greenhouse-grown), I have often worried about stripping my garden for designs. Also, I don't always have a lot of good-looking blooms after selecting the best ones for specimen display. But I have learned that a person can do some very stunning things with three flowers -- sometimes even just one flower -- with interesting foliage and a good container.

If any of you are interested in trying your hand at floral arranging, the FFF is a good place to get your feet wet. I encourage you to give it a try. This year, the theme for the design categories is "Celebrating 70 Years of the MGCM", and the categories are

1. Winter Club Meetings: Using cool colors
2. Macy's Flower Show: Using spring colors
3. Arbor Day: Tall design
4. Summer Garden Tours: Using warm or hot colors
5. Park Gardens: Featuring foliage colors
6. FFF Show: Incorporating vegetables.

Why not try your hand at an arrangement or two for the FFF this year? Show participants get into the Arboretum for free!

Don't forget: Photos for the Foto Show are due to Chuck Carlson by July 31. Photo contest rules are on our website. Go to <http://mgcm.org> and click on "Links" in the top right corner. Take a look through your pictures and submit a few! You're probably a better photographer than you think you are!



Scenes from the Park Garden

Blurry photos by Mary Maynard

The park garden, so ably designed and maintained by our garden committee, is looking great, even if you can't really tell from these photos!



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

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Past President: Kay Wolfe

2740 Florida Ave S, St. Louis Park

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4728 Temple Rd., Minnetonka

Randi Larson

15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka

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10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

The Spray

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The Garden Spray

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First Class Mail

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