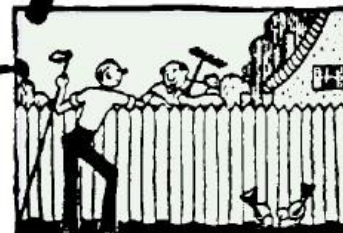




# The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 2



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Feb 14	LHC	Gardening Therapy -- Heidi Heiland
Mar 13	LHC	Shade Gardening Shirley Mah Kooyman
Apr 3	TBD	Bachman/Macy's Flower Show
May 8	WLC	Plant Sale and Auction
June 12 (tentative)	Arb	Arb Tour with comments from new director
July, August		Club Tours
Aug 18-19	Arb	FFF Show

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church, St. Louis Park

Arb = U of M Landscape Arboretum

More calendar information on Page 3

**Note: Permanent reservations are in effect.** Dinner is \$12.

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Feb. 10 – **no later!** Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation. For last minute cancellations, call Andy Marlow at 952-933-5759. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

## February Program Horticultural Therapy: The Parallel between Ancient Wisdom and Modern Science

**Heidi Heiland**

Heidi is founder and chief experience officer of Heidi's Lifestyle Gardens. Heidi and her team create spaces and experiences for residential and commercial customers throughout central Minnesota. Heidi's primary responsibilities include Sales and Marketing, Customer Relations, Staff Development and Company Innovation.

In addition, she is a frequent speaker and lecturer and featured guest on KARE 11's Earth Kare and other local TV channels. She serves on the MNLA Board of Directors and has earned her certificate of completion in Horticultural Therapy.

### February 14 Schedule

6:00 p.m.	Informal social hour
6:30 p.m.	Catered dinner
~7:15 p.m.	Short Business Meeting
~7:30 p.m.	Program

### February Dinner Menu

Tuscan chicken	Angel hair pasta
Caesar Salad	California blend vegetables
Sliced baguettes	Dessert



## Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

As I write this note, the holidays are behind us, the New Year has begun, and my mail box has been inundated with seed and nursery catalogs. Winter (this year) may just be getting started in earnest, but it is not too early to start thinking about this year's garden. It is time especially to decide if we will be starting our own plants indoors or buying them in the spring. There are pros and cons to each option.

Growing your own gives you the opportunity to satisfy your gardening bug sooner. You can save money, and grow more interesting selections (not commonly available in garden centers). I have been growing my own seedlings for many years and I still get I thrill when I see those first seeds sprouting. The smaller the seed, the more miraculous it seems. Of course, there is also the gardener bragging rights that come with growing your own, especially the more exotic and difficult ones.

On the other hand, growing your own plant requires an investment in time, space, and lights, not to mention all the dirt that is potentially tracked around your house. It can be difficult to find a responsible individual to care for "your babies" while you go off on a spring break vacation; and don't even get me started on the topic of "damping off". Those trying it for the first time should be warned that it can be addicting. It starts innocently with few trays of tomatoes in a sunny window, and before you know it, you have enough lights in your basement/garage to illuminate the Metrodome and you are calling Bachman's to see if they are willing to purchase a few truckloads of your surplus seedlings and cuttings. Someone should really do a study of this phenomenon to finally answer that proverbial question: "How many light bulbs does it take to change a gardener?"

As I get older, I increasingly live my life according to the philosophy "when given a choice, take both". For example, when offered a choice of strawberry cheesecake or chocolate hazelnut torte for dessert, say "yes, I'd like a small piece of each please". So, Last year when faced with the choice of purchasing or growing tomato plants, I chose both. The purchased ones were much bigger and were off to a fast start once planted. They yielded the first tomatoes. My home grown plants eventually caught up and provided the bulk of my harvest. The combination provided a long harvest season and exceptional variety, so I plan to do it again this year. The same goes for my bedding annuals. I grow some (selected favorites) and purchase the remainder.

Now, the whole discussion above leads naturally into a shameless plug for the MGCM annual plant auction in May. As usual, this event will include an opportunity to pre-order flats and pots of annuals. These have consistently been of the highest quality in all the years that I have purchased them. The country market will feature a wide variety of annuals and perennials (including tomatoes). If you have excess annuals that you grew yourself, bring them along and donate them to the sale. Of course, the main event is the auction of larger and more unique items. Remember, that this is the major source of funds for the operation the club. Without the success of the plant sale, dues would have to be much higher, or we would have to cut back on programs and activities. The plant auction committee puts in literally hundreds hours of effort to make this happen. So as you are starting to think about your 2012 garden, please include items from the plant auction in your plans. Invite your friends, relatives, and neighbors to come. If they tell you that they would come, but they always get their plants at XYZ, remind them that they can do both.



## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 1-19-2012

Checking balance	\$16,767.57
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,905.47
Scholarship	\$5,170.28
Working Balance	\$12,691.82
CD	\$5,210.22

## Membership Corner

Jerry and Lee Shannon's garden was featured in the Star Tribune on January 25<sup>th</sup>. Here's the link to the online version: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/homegarden/137980723.html>

Congratulations, Jerry and Lee, and thanks for sharing your garden with us so many times over the years!

## 2012 Calendar of Events *(continued from Page 1)*

<b>Sept. 11</b>	Martin Stern (Squire House) - Hardy and Reliable Bulbs, LHC
<b>Oct. 9</b>	Don Mitchell - Attracting Hummingbirds to your Gardens, LHC
<b>Nov. 13</b>	Kent Petterson – Gardening Books, LHC
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Holiday Party, LHC

## Editor's Note

Spring is coming. Even though we've spent at least part of this exceptionally mild winter waiting for the other shoe to drop (and it might still do that), we are inching ever closer to another gardening season. We have 45 minutes more daylight at the end of the day than we had in the depths of December. We have only one more month of "meteorological winter" (the months of December, January and February), and only seven more weeks of astronomical winter, which ends on the Spring Equinox. I think we can make it from here!

It was wonderful to see all of the visitors we had last meeting. As always, we should make sure that we reach out to all visitors and make them feel welcome. I still remember when I was the only woman who regularly attended club meetings, and all of the members seemed to make a special point of welcoming me and including me. It was something that made the Club stand out from other organizations in my experience. I think we still do a pretty good job of making our visitors and new members feel welcome, but there's always room to improve!



## Moving Notice!

Looking for the MGCM web site? We have moved to <http://www.MGCM.org>

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



## 2012 MGCM Board Sworn In



*L-R: Randi Larson, Director, Judy Brooke, Director, Don Trocke, Director, Andy Marlow, Treasurer, Jean Strande, Membership Secretary, Jan Johnson, Recording Secretary, Sandra Abraham, Vice President, Robert Kean, President, Kay Wolfe, Past President, Mary Maynard, Pledge Administrator.*

### **MGCM Board Pledge**

I pledge my life to the club,  
As long as I can serve and not flub.  
With a heart that is true  
I will work with this crew,  
And when finished I can soak in the tub.

*--Bob Olson, 2012*

We also thank Sharla Aaseng, Gary DeGrande, Maury Lindblom, Jason Rathe and Don Untiedt as they finish up their service on the Board.



*Photos by Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock*

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



## MGCM Membership Meeting

January 10, 2012

President Kay Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Guests and one of the scholarship winners, Myra Pehoski, were introduced. Kent Petterson announced that the scholarship matching grant challenge had been met.

Officers for the next year were introduced and installed by Mary Maynard and Bob Olson.

The gavel was passed to incoming President Robert Kean, who asked Andy Marlow to present the budget for 2012. It was moved and seconded to accept the budget. The motion carried.

Robert presented Green Thumb Awards to Andy Marlow, Chuck Carlson and Dave Johnson (Fridley). Chuck Carlson presented a Dirty Fingernail award to Robert Kean.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Johnson, Recording Secretary

## Green Thumb and Dirty Fingernail Awards for 2011



### Green Thumb Pledge

I pledge my life to the spade,  
As long as I can spade in the shade.  
With a heart that is clean  
And a thumb that is green.  
Ah, that is the life that I crave.  
*-- Bill Hull, back in the mists of time.*

Green Thumb Award Winners Chuck Carlson, Dave (Fridley) Johnson, Andy Marlow. Dirty Fingernail Award Winner Robert Kean

*Photo by Lloyd Wittstock*



## 2012 FFF Featured Flower and Vegetable

*Judy Berglund, FFF Chair*

The Flower, Food and Foto Show Committee have selected cucumbers and rudbeckia as this year's featured vegetable and flower.

The cucumbers may be varieties from either slicing, with fruit 6 to 10 inches, or pickling, with fruit from 3 to 5 inches.

The rudbeckia may be from either the annual or perennial section.

It's not too soon to browse through the catalogs and pick up a few varieties to grow.



*Photos courtesy of Park Seed. Doesn't that pink Rudbeckia 'Cherry Brandy' look cool?*

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<http://www.mqcm.org>



## MGCM Member Survey News

-- Gary DeGrande

This is the second of five articles sharing the results of the MGCM membership survey with members. The first article in last month's *Garden Spray* dealt with demographics. This article deals with why people join, what we might do to grow, the controversy of a name change and members' views on meeting format.

The Survey Committee (Don Untiedt, Andy Marlow, and Gary De Grande) will be reviewing all the results at the February Board meeting and will make recommendations for the Board to consider appropriate action.

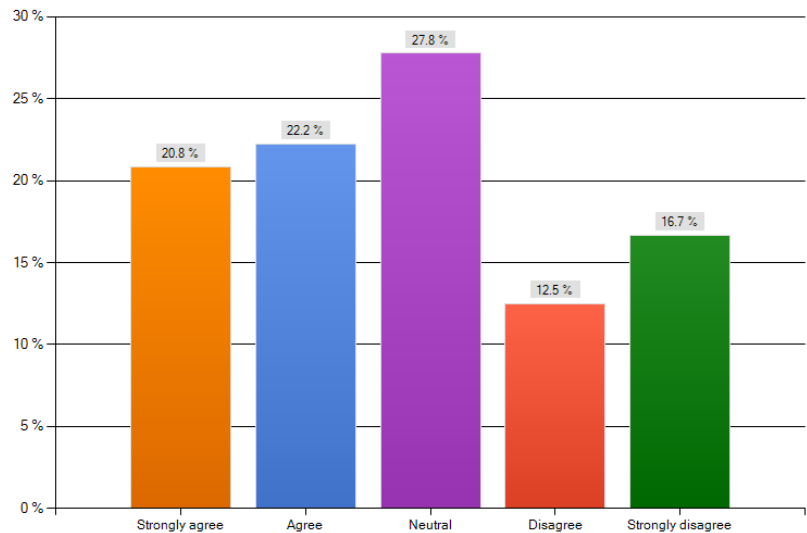
### Why are you a member of the MGCM?

Members join to socialize (86%) and learn (89%) from other gardeners as well as share skills (55%) and tour each other's gardens (61%). Serving the community was less important (45%).

### Name Change

In response to the question of whether the name should be changed to more accurately reflect who we are, 43% felt the name should be changed, 29% felt it should not be changed and 28% were neutral.

The name of the club does not necessarily reflect who we are; we are not all men, nor are we all Minneapolis residents. The name of the club should be changed to more accurately reflect who we are.



### Growing MGCM

Members felt that more efforts should be made to publicize meetings, speakers and our activities (78%) and more should be done to encourage members to bring in new members (65%). Fewer felt that incentives to bring in new members would be useful (28%). Some (41%) felt that more should be done to recognize and welcome visitors and new members.

### Meetings

Most members (80%) say they attended 4-6 meetings last year. Three-quarters of members also prefer to keep the current format and cost. Most also felt the choice of speakers was good.

(Continued on next page)



## MGCM Survey News

*(Continued from previous page)*

A majority also felt the April Macy's/Bachman's flower show should continue, although there was a significant number who were neutral.

### Survey Comments

Although most of the comments reflected a satisfaction with the status quo, there were several interesting suggestions:

- Be friendlier to people you don't know
- Pair up new-old members to help with computer training
- Provide Lyndale Park gardeners with work vests to help advertise MGCM
- A major membership effort is needed to strengthen our future
- It can be intimidating to try to socialize as a new member when so many people in the club have been in it so long and are old friends
- Start a Facebook page (Ed's note: There is a Facebook page for MGCM)
- Great club but lacks an influx of new members/ideas.
- We know who we are but outsiders who see the name may be discouraged from attending that first meeting if they aren't men living in Minneapolis.
- Need to help new members feel part of the club and get involved.
- More publicity needed.
- Revive the gardening table topics to encourage garden talk during dinner rather than just social time.

Next month we'll look at members' opinions on garden tours and scholarships.

## Memories: Fall Leaf Cover-Up at the Perennial Garden

*Photos by Kay Wolfe*







## Minutes of MGCM Board Meeting

January 2, 1012

President Robert Kean called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. The agenda and minutes of the November meeting were approved

**Treasurer's report:** The Club ended the year with a positive balance. The Treasurer's report was received and filed. A question was asked on how the budget was assembled and Andy explained the process. There were two changes to the budget; the programs line was raised to \$800 and Arbor Day reduced to \$200. Sandra moved the budget be presented to the membership as amended. Seconded and carried.

**President's report:** Most committee chairs have been named. Robert will recruit the few that are missing. Board members will be asked to be a liaison to the committees to promote communication.

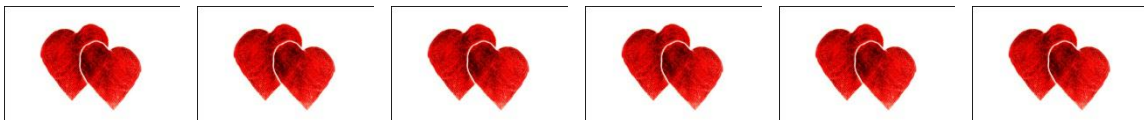
**Vice-President's report:** Details need to be confirmed for the Macy's flower show in April and the June event at the Arboretum. Tentative plans include a tram ride, flower pot lunch, and a behind the scenes tour.

**Membership Secretary's report:** There are 85 members currently paid and a few others to renew.

**Old Business:** There will be a formal business meeting to approve the budget for 2012 at the January Club meeting. Programs for the year have been secured.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Johnson  
Recording Secretary





## Photos from the January Meeting

*by Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock*





## **MSHS Opportunity: Spring at the Inn**

(Recommended by MGCM Member Jerry Shannon!)

**Date: Thursday, March 29**

**Time: 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Location: Lake Elmo Inn Event Center  
3712 Layton Avenue North  
Lake Elmo, MN**

Please join us for a memorable lunch and a "plant fashion show" where you will see new plant introductions **before** they are in the garden centers this spring.

Bailey Nurseries will provide a variety of new plants - from annuals to shrubs - to spark your interest in this spring's new offerings. Belinda Jensen & Bobby Jensen from KARE 11 will join us as Masters of Ceremonies. Gift bags and door prizes (including the new plants) will add to the fun.



This event is a fundraiser for the educational programs of the **Minnesota State Horticultural Society**.

**Reservations are Required - 651-643-3601**  
**Deadline is March 19, but**  
space is limited and tickets are going fast.  
**\$40 per person, \$5 discount for MSHS members**

*(A portion of your reservation supports MSHS and is tax deductible)*

**Choose your lunch entree:**  
Chicken Limoncello  
Steak and Wild Mushroom Risotto  
Strawberry Chicken Salad  
Butternut Squash Ravioli (vegetarian)  
*plus the Inn's award winning dessert "Sin of the Inn"*

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<http://www.mgcm.org>

# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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### Club Officers:

**President: Robert Kean**

3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis

**Vice President: Sandra Abraham**

931 Waterford Dr. E., Eagan, MN

**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

### Directors:

**Judy Brooke**

4728 Temple Rd., Minnetonka

**Randi Larson**

15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka

**Don Trocke**

10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

## 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

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**First Class Mail**

*February*  
*2012*