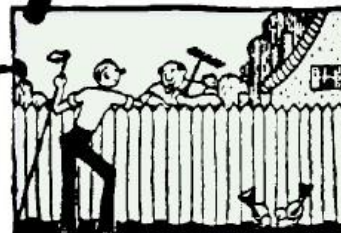




The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 6



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 12	Arb	Arb Tour with comments from new director
July 10		Club Tour
Aug 11		Club 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

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 June event.

Space is limited!

Carole Ann Brekke needs your reservation form no later than Monday, June 4. See Page 4 for reservation info.

June 12 MGCM Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Event

Date: Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Schedule:

5:00 pm – Gather for Tram tour (**42 person limit**)

5:30 pm – Tram tour begins

6:30-7 pm – Reception in Snyder Tea Room/Terrace

7:15 – Salads Dinner Buffet (**50 person limit**)

Grilled Shrimp over Orzo

Salmon over Chili-Cucumber Salad

Curried Vegetables over Tabbouleh

Beverages: Iced Tea, Decaf City Kid coffee

Anniversary cake served by MGCM Board

8:00- Program and 70th Anniversary Celebration
Andy Marlow, Peter Olin and Ed Schneider

Dinner space is limited to 50 attendees.

Members and spouses only please.

Deadline: Monday, June 4, 2012

(More info and reservation form on Page 4)

Looking Ahead: Club Garden Tour on Tuesday, July 10.

We will be visiting two gardens in the evening of Tuesday, July 10.

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.

Garden descriptions on Page 5 More info and reservation form in July Spray.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

There are lots of things to cover since last month's Spray. First, the Arbor Day committee participated in a more extensive planting than in recent years. This year we teamed up with the Audubon Society and did planting of native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers in Robert's Bird Sanctuary near Lake Harriet. See additional details and photo's elsewhere in the Spray. Yes, you can thank us for the rain and cool weather which began that day (April 28). My thanks to our dedicated and hardy committee who showed up and worked tirelessly and without complaint in the rain (at least until I brought another cart of plants to the site after everyone else thought we were done).

The Lyndale Park Garden committee is off to a great start. There have already been several work days in the garden and it is quickly shaping up to be spectacular again this year. Unfortunately, this committee is not as good at attracting rain as the Arbor Day folks and we have already had to do some watering. The perennial trial continues, but there have been fewer trial plants in recent years, so the permanent part of the garden has become increasingly prominent.

The big event since the last Spray was the Plant Auction. Thanks to all who worked on the committee to organize the event, volunteered at the event, donated plants/prizes, and/or came to the event with your wallet. I was quite impressed by the level of generosity that I witnessed throughout the event; and as usual, I came home with many excellent plants.

The June event is looking to be a great celebration of our club history and long relationship with the Arboretum. Thanks to Sandra and Peter for all their work in putting this together. This is an event that you don't want to miss.

Speaking of club history, we continued to discuss the topic of "changing the club name" at our May board meeting. While we are justifiably proud of the club name and the history it represents, there is continued concern that the name no longer accurately describes who we are. Further, we feel the name may be an impediment to attracting new members and obtaining positive publicity. Therefore, the board decided to bring the issue up for vote again at the November meeting. More details will be distributed well before the vote. If you have suggestions for a new name, please submit it to me or one of the other board members before November.

Finally, at the board meeting, we also discussed the issue of club publicity and public relations. Each committee is responsible for publicizing their own events, but we feel a need for more general promotion and publicity for the club. If anyone has particular skills and experience in this area, we would appreciate your help/advice. I'll close by wishing you all a great summer of gardening.

Editor's Note:

-- Mary Maynard

Isn't this the oddest year ever? From some of the driest months ever to record rainfall in May! As I write this, I still have 16 trays of plants on the patio and more cannas, callas and other bulbs still in the basement. And mud everywhere! I guess I can put the hoses away for a few days.

We have another full issue this month. My apologies for the small font size in places. Thanks again to everyone who contributed to this issue.



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 5-20-2012

Checking balance	\$20,118.71
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,905.47
Scholarship	\$5,170.28
Working Balance	\$13,042.15
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

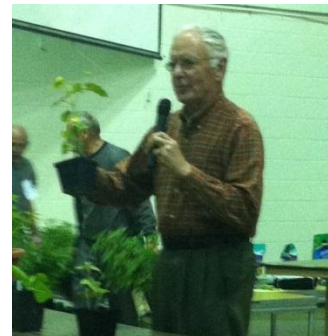
We were sorry to learn that Mary Ann Finnegan passed away in March. Mary Ann had been a member since 2010 and attended meetings and tours when she was able to. Rest well, Mary Ann.

More Membership News

---Jean Strande, Membership Secretary

Not only did we all acquire beautiful flowers at the plant sale, we also gained two new prospective members! Alan Gallaher (5744 Duncan Lane, Edina MN 55436 gallahaj@uwec.edu) came to the sale with Audrey Grote and Mary Oelke. And, Dan DuRose (2515 Silver Lake Rd, New Brighton MN 55112 1028Lance@gmail.com) came with Steve Shubick. Both of them are interested in joining us and I'll be able to tell you more about them after their applications are returned to me*. We have been able to greet new members every month this spring!

** Editor's note: New member applications are reviewed and approved by the Board, as described in our bylaws. However, we have no criteria by which to deny membership, and all membership applications have been approved since I joined the club. Welcome, Alan and Dan!*



From the Plant Sale and Auction: Annual flats ready for order filling; Bob Olson talking up 'Montana aureomarginata' with Gary Geister and Bob Stepan looking on; Jerry Shannon describing one of the rare plants he and Lee brought to the auction.

-- Photos by Andy Marlow



June MGCM University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Event: Let the 2012 Summertime Activities Begin!

-- Sandra Abraham

We have quite a summer of garden related activities planned for this year. The first event will be held at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum on Tuesday, June 12, 2012. We will begin by boarding the Trumpet Creeper Tram at 5:00 and embarking on the Three Mile Drive tour. Members Nancy Bjerke and Peter Olin will be our guides. There are only spaces for 42 guests on this tram so please indicate on your reservation form whether or not you plan on joining us for this part of the evening, **we will leave promptly at 5:30 pm from the front of the Snyder Building.**

When we return to the Snyder Building from the tour we will gather at the Snyder Tea Room/Terrace for a short punch reception followed by a Salad Selection Dinner Buffet. Following dinner Peter Olin will introduce us to Ed Schneider, Arboretum Director and Ed will present the after dinner talk.

A short recognition of the 1942 charter of the MGCM will be presented by Andy Marlow and cake and ice cream will be served by the MGCM Board of Directors and Officers.

When you enter at the gate house tell the attendant you are attending the MGCM event and you will be able to enter without paying a gate fee. **Please park in the Staff Lot by the Snyder building and enter through the Tearoom Terrace doors for this evening's event.**

Reservation Form

MGCM June 12, 2012 Arboretum Dinner Meeting

Please reserve ____ dinners at \$25.00 each

Limited to members and spouses only. Deadline is Monday, June 4.

Name: _____ Guest: _____

Dinner and Tram tour _____ Dinner Only _____

Send reservation form and check payable to MGCM to

Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306

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<http://www.mgcm.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, several elms (most of which now are dead) and a couple of old pines. The rest was plantain weeds and creeping Charlie.

The first several years I revamped the original sprinkler system which is constructed of galvanized steel pipe, and concentrated on planting trees and shrubs so that the lot is now protected by evergreens on the north and there is more privacy with neighbors. Through the years, with the help of several friends, neighborhood high school boys, Doug (who has helped with hardscaping) and Janet (who knows the difference between a weed and a perennial) 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, meandering, woody (and in some cases weedy). 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. Many of the plants came from mail order nurseries. It's turned out to be way more than what is reasonable, especially with my work schedule and being dad for two teenagers, but I guess that's part of the fun of it. I am happy to share it with others.

Denise Rust, Brooklyn Park

Located on a former horse pasture with sandy soil, this pie shaped lot in a modest neighborhood was bare bones when the Rusts built here in 1983. Only a few trees and shrubs remained in the back when the land was cleared. 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, still containing some of those original trees and a few of the shrubs, but around them has been developed a mix of perennials and woodland plants, with annuals thrown in for extra color. The backdrop to all of this is a row of mature evergreens planted to function as a noise barrier. A few shrubs have been added as well. 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 has been developed off the patio, featuring mainly hosta, ferns, and astilbe, with miniature plants along the pathways. Most numerous plants in the garden include 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. The yard is home to a cheerful collection of birds, bunnies and squirrels, plus the neighborhood pair of mallards that appear every spring, and these add to the character of the garden.



Getting to Know Your Board Member: Judy Brooke



Call me a novice gardener.

Growing up the oldest of 4 girls, I was usually relegated to watching over my younger sisters while my parents did the yard work and tended the vegetable garden. Hollyhocks and sunflowers were my first memory of flowers. They grew by our garage. We didn't pick them, weed them or water them. I do remember pretty peonies and spirea by my grandmother's house. She also had a large vegetable garden.

As an adult, living in townhouses I did some flower container gardening, but never had an actual garden. Then around 2008 my husband and I moved from Eden Prairie to Minnetonka. This new townhouse had its own yard and existing flower gardens. I was enthused about starting our gardening journey. My husband "took charge" of the hostas and left me in charge of all other growing areas. I asked many, many gardening questions of neighbors, friends and staff at the nurseries.

My friend, Lynda Carlson, a long-time member of MGCM was encouraging me to attend a club meeting/program. She assured me I would learn a lot about gardening. I got busy with other projects during the fall/winter of 2008/2009 and gardening was "out of sight, out of mind". Then in March 2009 I accompanied Lynda to an MGCM Fundraising Afternoon Tea hosted by club members Kay Wolfe, Sharla Aaseng and Mollie Dean. Upon attending that lovely function, I signed up immediately to become an MGCM member. And yes, in the months and years that followed, the club has taught me much about gardening. Yet there is so much more to learn!

I have two flower gardens where I have daffodils and tulips, iris, peonies, zinnia, hydrangeas, Asiatic lilies, cat mint, sedum, cone flowers, a perennial hibiscus and such. I also have daylilies, dianthus, asters, climbing shrub roses, bee balm, boxwoods, blue oat grass, yews, lilac bushes and spirea in other areas of the yard or bordering the house. (Whew! That was fun, just being able to name all the stuff.) As you can read, I don't have a very sophisticated list of plants and I'm learning all the time. We have quite a deer population and have learned what they eat and what they'll leave alone. I still enjoy some container gardening with the usual geraniums, petunias, hibiscus and a flower box with lantana.

In addition to tending my own gardens, I'm on my church's gardening committee helping plant and care for the gardens at Edina's Christ Presbyterian Church. My other interests are golfing and grandkids. Also I'm still working $\frac{3}{4}$ time as an RN, nurse consultant, hoping to retire in May of 2013. At MGCM, I'm on the membership and catering committees. I encourage all new members to "get involved", join a committee or two, you'll meet great people and learn a lot!



The Mystery Plant

-- Bob Olson

Two summers ago I bought a very interesting plant at TangleTown Gardens –a boutique garden center in South Minneapolis. It was called “The Tree of India” although it was really a large annual bulb rather than a tree. It garnered a lot of attention on my patio because it had a most interesting “trunk” which was spotted like a pale tan leopard and its leaves were like a good sized green umbrella. At the end of summer it stood almost three feet tall. I successfully over-wintered it in my garage, storing it in perlite, and last summer it was even larger and more impressive.

The bulb was the size of a small cantaloupe when put back into the perlite for the winter. In early March it caught my eye because it had broken dormancy and was sending up a very large spike.



It was clear that it had to be potted despite being so early in the year. I would just have to slowly nurse it along until it was warm enough to put outside. This was a bummer!

It grew pretty well in the potting mix – too well in fact.
(See Photo 3)

Photo 3 (below)



Photo 4 (below)



And it began developing leaves – at least they seemed like developing leaves.

(See Photo 4)

I was leaving town for a week and this was getting out of hand. It was growing six inches a day! And I was leaving my daughter Krista to look after the house and plants.

So, I called Scott Endres, the owner of TangleTown. He said it was probably the flower coming up rather than leaves and that could be cut off without harm to the plant, but the only way to be sure was to wait and see. This seemed a bit

unusual to me. After all it hadn't flowered last year. I would have remembered something like this!

(Continued on next page)



The Mystery Plant – Continued from Page 7

So, I left town for California.

A few days later I got an urgent “text” (my daughters *never* call any more – nor answer their phones – they only text).

OMG-the tree if India has a huge flower and it smells disgusting! The whole house smells. Pat [the cleaning lady] thought Ellie [my cat] pooped in your room but it was that damn plant...btw I threw it out on your deck and I don't care if it dies!

So I texted back “Sorry, just cut the flower off and bring the plant back inside.”

Gross, I don't even want to go near it!

“Well then just put a sheet over it to keep it from freezing.”

Define freezing.

“If the temperature hits 40 degrees put a sheet over it or move it to the garage.”

OK. But you are going to owe me. ;-)

When I returned there was indeed a flower – a very large flower. And it did smell, but it was no worse than rotting flesh.

Nonetheless I cut off the flower and moved the plant indoors to await summer.

Now I am starting to worry about next year. What if it's bigger still!

See photos of the mystery plant *Amorphophallus* sp.





PHOTO CONTEST WANTS YOUR IMAGES

-- Lloyd Wittstock

The Foto contest is back again, and hopefully bigger and better.

The juried section of the contest is once again for members or non-members to submit their digital photos according to the rules of the many classes such as photos of trees, of perennials, of annuals or of wild flowers in the wild. These will be rated by our panel of judges. The top photos will be exhibited at the Arboretum Flower, Food and Foto show in August, at a fall club meeting, and at <http://www.mgcm.org>

Back again as well is the People's Choice. This part is **for members only**. Print one or two favorite photos with horticultural content and mail them to us before July 31, the same date as the digital photos are due. The People's Choice is a separate contest decided by the public's ballots cast at the August show, and it involves the awarding of gift cards.

The rules will be posted with links on the main club Web page, as noted above.

Last year, there were seven people who were awarded firsts in the digital print contest, and four who received special awards. Bigger and better to us would be sharing those awards with even more of you.

Lyndale Park Update

By Kay Wolfe

Spring Clean-Up at Lyndale Park—on April 7, 2012—two weeks earlier than usual.



L to R: Mollie Dean, Nancy Bjerke, Steve Shubick, Kristina Hughes, Carol Schreier, Robert Kean, Tim Rosener, Rog Sefelt, Rock (husband of Pat), Pat Kessler, Judy Berglund, Nona Johnson, Mary Maynard, Bonnie Haehn, MT Pulley. Stray Wolfe took the photo!

The committee has worked every week since April 24—and we usually don't start our work crews until June! The day crew works on Tuesday mornings and the Saturday crew works every other Saturday. Join us or stop by to see the garden. We have a lot of fun!

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



Arbor Day Work Day

-- Kristina Hughes

The Roberts Bird Sanctuary got some loving attention for Arbor Day this year. On Saturday, April 28 the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis led a planting event in the Sanctuary, which is adjacent to the Trial Garden and Peace Garden. Nineteen native trees and shrubs and 50 native perennials were planted by the Arbor Day Committee of the Garden Club, members of Minneapolis Audubon and the Conservation Corps. You can see the new plants by the Visitor's Shelter building and around the bench on Bossen Lane inside the Sanctuary. The native plants blend right into the landscape! Outback Nursery provided the native plants and matching funds came from the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Audubon, East Harriet, Linden Hills, and People for Parks. This event was a nice complement to the ongoing efforts by Audubon and surrounding neighborhoods to revitalize the Sanctuary.

The Arbor Day Committee worked hard hauling the plants, tools and water into the woods, digging lots of holes and demonstrating perfect planting technique! It was a great day for the Sanctuary and we are excited to watch the plants grow!



Looks like it was a little on the damp side for Arbor Day. L-R: Kristina Hughes, Robert Kean, M.T. Pulley, Tim Rosener, Kristina again, Don Trocke, Rodger Sefelt

Are You Ready for FFF?

Don't forget that the Flower, Food and Foto Show is August 18-19 at the Arboretum. It's not too soon to get your photographs ready and to start thinking about which flowers and vegetables you'll be bringing to the show!



MGCM Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Robert Kean at 7:45 p.m. The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved

Treasurer's Report: We are on budget for the year. A new temporary account has been opened for the Bird Sanctuary Project. The report was received and filed.

Vice President's report: Programs are set for the balance of this year. The Program Committee suggested that Ed Schneider, director of the Arboretum, receive an honorary membership to MGCM for 2012. The Committee also has much of 2013 planned around the theme "Designing a Perennial Border".

Membership report: We currently have 89 paid members. The Board will resume approving of new members.

Committee reports:

Arbor Day - Planting was done in the rain last week at the Bird Sanctuary near Lake Harriet. Buckthorn and dead or diseased trees have been removed so there is a need to fill in with good material. Native plants were purchased from Out Back nursery. Interested groups have raised \$1000 for the project (\$200 from MGCM). \$700 has been spent to date

Tours- Tours are planned for July and August. The Jul 10th tour will be an evening event with appetizers, desserts and beverages provided. The August 11th Saturday tour will have a Japanese Garden theme. Box lunches will be included.

Perennial Garden - There was a great group for Spring cleanup.

Old Business

A feeler will be put out at a Club meeting to see if someone in the group might have experience doing publicity.

Since a majority of members responded positively in the survey to changing the name of the Club better reflect the membership, it was suggested that members be asked to submit ideas. Andy felt that the Board should pick the best one submitted. A logo change is also needed. The Board thought it would be appropriate for Robert to write his June column on the possible name change. Sandra moved one of MGCM's priorities for 2012 be voting on a name change at our November annual meeting. Seconded and carried.

Sandra also moved that we present Ed Schneider with an introductory one year membership at the June meeting. Seconded and carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Johnson, Recording Secretary

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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Club Officers:

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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

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Past President: Kay Wolfe

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Randi Larson

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Don Trocke

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The Spray

The Garden Spray is published monthly by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc. for its members.

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Return To:

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Mary Maynard, Editor

4375 Dart Avenue

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First Class Mail

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2012