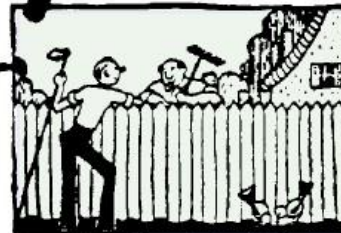




The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 9



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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)

September Program Underground Gardening: Bulbs, Rhizomes, Tubers, and Corms

Martin Stern from Squire House Gardens in Afton, MN will be our speaker on September 11 when we resume meeting at the Lake Harriet United Methodist Church in Minneapolis after our summer hiatus of garden events and tours. Martin has nurtured a life-long interest in nature and gardening including living in southern England in 1987 where he studied with world-renowned garden designer and writer John Brookes.

More information on Page 3

September 11 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

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

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Sept. 7 – **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.

September Dinner Menu

Yankee Pot Roast	Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Strawberry Romaine Salad	
Carrots	Biscuits
Dessert	

Looking Ahead: October Program Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Garden

with Don Mitchell

In his presentation Don will give us strategies for turning our yards into hummingbird havens.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

Going for the Gold

With the Olympics fresh in my memory and the FFF even fresher in my memory, I'm reflecting on the competitive side of gardening. Generally I don't seek out "competitive" gardening opportunities. My interest in gardening comes from the enjoyment of working the soil, the challenge of growing something new or unusual, the satisfaction of producing some of my own food, and the beauty of flowering plants. Still, like many areas of life, comparing our skills and efforts to others can inspire and motivate us to greater success.

This is the first year in many years that I have participated in the FFF. My excuse in most years is related to our summer travel in early August. Often we return from vacation just a week before the show. My garden is often burned up or overgrown by the time we return; so not much quality material to enter. This year we traveled earlier, so I had a few weeks to get the garden in order before the show. Still, as that Saturday morning approached, I dithered about whether I actually had any show quality materials. I finally decided that I should go. The weather was nearly perfect and (being club president) I figured that I should participate to show my support. So, I clipped a few things that didn't look too bad and headed for Chanhassen. All the way there, I was trying to remember tips from Mary Maynard's presentation on how to show flowers at the FFF. My memory mostly failed me, but fortunately I found some helpful people there (including Mary), and got my entries submitted. Much to my delight and surprise, I won a few ribbons; some even in categories in which I wasn't the only entry. Overall it was a positive experience. I definitely plan to do it again next year; and next year I will even try to get some Fotos submitted.

Tours can provide another "competitive" gardening opportunity. On our August tour, we saw three excellent gardens. All were Japanese gardens or gardens incorporating Japanese design elements. Like most excellent gardens, I found them to be both humbling and inspiring. I also learned quite a few new things. The only down side of tours is the effect of "raising the bar". Club members in recent years have been increasingly reluctant to have their gardens on tour, for fear that they won't measure up to the expectations set from previous tours. I encourage members to consider being on a tour anyway. Gardens don't have to be spectacular to be interesting. Further, gardens reveal a lot about the personality and interests of the gardener, and help other club members get to know you. If you consider your garden to still be "under construction", it is even better to have it on tour. People will have lower expectations and you are likely to get lots of free tips and useful advice from our more experienced members.

In the spirit of the Olympics, I'm jointly awarding gold medals to the FFF and Tour committees for the excellent organization and execution of the August events. Well done!

In September, we return to our normal meeting schedule. We have a great program planned and we'll be talking some more about a possible name change for the club (and the process that is planned for selecting and voting on a new name). I hope to see you there and I encourage you to bring guests.



Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 8-23-12

Checking balance	\$19,966.44
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,930.47
Scholarship	\$5,170.96
Working Balance	\$12,865.01
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

No membership news this month.

We welcome new members! Please check out membership information on our website at

http://mgcm.org/MGCM/Join_MGCM.html

Officers for 2013

Kay Wolfe

Past-President and Chair of the Nominating Committee

It is that time of year when the Nominating Committee is looking for officers for next year. As Past-President, I am the committee chair this year, and the committee members are Mollie Dean, Carol Schreier, Nancy Bjerke, and Dave Johnson of Fridley.

Please let us know if you can help by serving on the Board. It is very hard to find officers from club members. I made a list of members that have not served in some capacity already – and there were only 27 out of 90 members on that list! We have a very small pool to pick from since so many members have been in the club for so long, and everyone must take their turn. Or another turn! This year we need to fill the positions of Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Call us and offer to help your club! And if one of the above phones you, say "Yes!"

Underground Gardening *Continued from Page 1*

The presentation will focus on the sequence of hardy and reliable bulbs in the garden landscape. Bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes all have a place in a garden. They offer an exotic, fresh look to your garden space and are planted in the fall as we go into a season of dormancy only to emerge in the spring, painting a colorful scene in our landscapes.

How should one prepare the soil for planting these treasures? What are the watering requirements of newly planted bulbs? Should you spread a layer of mulch over bulbs to protect them from the winter temperatures? Come to the September meeting for the answers to these questions.

Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

Once again I didn't leave much room for an editor's note. We'll be back "home" at Lake Harriet Church this month. I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

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<http://www.mgcm.org>



Wood Sculptures

Phil Smith

Having got some access to some oak logs, I decided to try and make some wood sculptures. Fortunately, they turned out rather nice. I have spent some time with my son Brett and his wife at their home on Bald Eagle Lake just north of White Bear Lake. There is a vacant lot adjacent their property, and a dead red oak tree recently blew down. The property owner said I could use any of the wood. The diameter of the tree sections I have used vary from about 18 to 24 inches, which were o.k. for me to handle.

I first made some oak bowls on my lathe and they are rather nice since the dead oak has some spalting or blue mold in the wood which is attractive for the bowls.

Next, I tried making a sculpture of a loon about 36 inches tall. I use a small electric chain saw to do the wood carving, and then smooth the surfaces and round the edges using a disc sander. After I am satisfied with the design and shape of the sculpture, I paint some of the features of the bird. I first put two coats of exterior urethane on the whole piece and then paint the features which look good in color.



After finishing the loon, I made a Canadian goose and then a Cooper's Hawk, both also about 36 inches tall. I would not have thought of the hawk, but my son Louis and his wife had a Cooper's Hawk nesting in their yard last year near Lake Harriet



and it was quite colorful. The birds I have made so far are carved from a single piece of oak log.

My reaction is that the Canadian goose I made for my daughter in North Carolina is perhaps my best effort, and my plan is to make another one to provide for the garden club auction next May. The English delphinium seedlings I took to the auction this past May sold rather well, so I think a goose sculpture might do also.

I am including some photos of the three birds I have made so far.

Phil has made more sculptures since he wrote this article. He brought a new Canada Goose sculpture from wood and a metal butterfly sculpture to display at the FFF Show at the Arboretum.



Another Successful Photo Contest

Eleven people entered the photography show this year. Audrey Grote's Cactus Garden photo won the Best of Show award. Three Reserve Champion ribbons were awarded to Gary DeGrande (Marsh Marigold), Andy Marlow (Driftwood with Plant) and Lloyd Wittstock (Montmorency Cherries).

There was a three-way tie for photo sweepstakes: Gary DeGrande, Andy Marlow and Lloyd Wittstock each ended up with the exact same number of points. The winners will have to figure out how to share the traveling trophy over the course of the year.



Audrey's winning photo.



Flower and Food Show

Despite less than ideal growing conditions this summer, we were able to put on another fine flower and vegetable show. We had 20 exhibitors this year, including five first-time exhibitors! Once again, our judges told us that ours is one of the best shows that they judge, with exceptional quality and variety and outstanding naming.

Here's a quick summary of the awards:

- Best Flower in Show and Best in Show: **Nancy Bjerke**, Gomphocarpus physocarpus 'Oscar'
- Reserve Champion Flower: **Margaret Hibberd**, Ipomoea lobata (Spanish Flag)
- Featured Flower (Rudbeckia): **Jerry Shannon**, 'Indian Summer'
- Best Vegetable in Show: **Judy Berglund**, Herb Container
- Reserve Champion Vegetable: **James Dzandzara**, Pepper 'Carmen'
- Featured Vegetable (Cucumber): **Bob Livingston**, 'Boothby's Blonde'
- Best First-Time Exhibitor: **Tami Hagen**
- Vegetable Sweepstakes: **Judy Berglund**
- Flower Sweepstakes: **Mary Maynard**

Thanks to everyone who entered this year, and to the FFF Committee for putting on another fine show.

Photos by Judy Berglund. More photos on next page.





More FFF Photos

By Sandra Abraham, Judy Berglund and Chuck Carlson





New Plantings at Lyndale Park

By Kay Wolfe, Photos by Kristina Hughes



Rodger Sefelt, Mollie Dean, Ada Hegion, Sharla Aaseng



New plants in front of the 'Rose Glow' barberries and Blue Globe spruce are Easy Elegance 'Paint the Town' roses, Japanese dwarf garden junipers, and 'Blue Nest' spruce.

Homo sapiens varieties are: Ada Hegion, Rodger Sefelt, Kay Wolfe, Sharla Aaseng and Mollie Dean.

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<http://www.mqcm.org>



August Tour of Japanese Gardens

We had a lovely day to tour three very different Japanese-style gardens. Our thanks to the Tour Committee for making all of the arrangements, and to the gardeners who opened their gardens to us.

Photos by Andy Marlow, Mary Maynard, Denise Rust

Garden of Gayle and Judith Fleming



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<http://www.mqcm.org>



Japanese Garden at Normandale Community College





Shorewood Garden Designed by Niwa Design Studio



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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Club Officers:

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The Spray

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