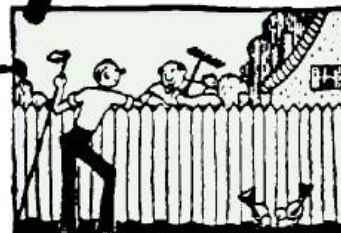




The Garden Spray

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

2012, Volume 70, Number 10



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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)

October 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

October Dinner Menu

Hay and Straw Pasta with Sausage
Garden Fresh Salad
Bread Sticks Pumpkin Bars

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

Reservations or cancellations are required by Friday, Oct. 5 – **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.

October Program Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Garden

with Don Mitchell



In his presentation Don will give us strategies for turning our yards into a hummingbird haven. In addition to providing specific recommendations of plants that work to attract hummingbirds to Minnesota gardens, he will also provide insights regarding hummingbird biology that will help us understand why some ideas for attracting hummingbirds work and others fail.

More about Don on Page 3

Important Update: Name Change Vote

Please read President Robert Kean's article on **Page 4** for activities in October and vote at November meeting.

Looking Ahead: November Program

MGCM Member Kent Petterson, proprietor of Terrace Horticultural Books, will be our featured speaker. And we could have a book swap as well.

More to come in the November Spray.



Notes from the Prez:

-- Robert Kean

Winding Down

As I write this, I am periodically going out to move the hose. It sure has been a dry late summer here. How dry you ask? It's been so dry that they may need to change the state slogan to "Minnesota, land of 10 lakes". It's been so dry that we occasionally find our driveway blocked by the shifting sand dunes. It's been so dry that Minnesotans are traveling to England just to see the rain. It's been so dry that, out of pity, I have even been watering my weeds. Yah it's been dry. That is what makes gardening an interesting and challenging pastime. You never know what Ma' nature is going to throw at you. This year it was a very early spring, followed by extreme heat and then drought. Last year was a wet and early spring, dry fall, and snowless winter. The winter before that, there was too much snow. Last year I had a pestilence of fungal diseases; this year, a plague of white flies. I'm grateful for the cumulative wisdom that is available to me through the garden club as I try to coax food and flowers from the soil in this sometimes harsh and hostile land. I have a little mnemonic I use when I encounter a new gardening challenge, WWSD; which stands for "What Would the Shannon's Do". For years, I have been dealing with rabbit problems, and started wondering if I could just

secure my entire back yard to keep them out. When I saw that the Shannons had already done the same thing, I knew I was on the right track. So, my list of gardening problems this year did NOT include rabbits, which have apparently moved on to other interests (see comic below). Martin Stern provided a great kick-off to our fall meeting season with his talk on bulbs at the September meeting. I got a few great new ideas, which is good because I have had trouble growing certain types of bulbs and I am looking for things that will work well even for me. However, if any of you are experts at growing daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips, let me know as I'm eager to find out what I should be doing to have more success with those bulbs also.

Like my garden, my year as club president is winding down, and there seems to be some natural parallels. In both cases, the job is not done yet, but the end is in sight. For both, there are things that turned out well and things that turned out not as well as I had hoped; and always, there were more good ideas than time and energy to carry them out. In both cases, the journey has been challenging and fun and I'm already looking forward to next year. For the garden club, I think next year will be a great year with Sandra as your president. I'm also predicting that it will be a good year for my own garden due to my reduced responsibilities as club past president.

Rhymes with Orange By Hilary Price





Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 9-25-12

Checking balance	\$18,999.60
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,666.72
Scholarship	<u>\$5,170.96</u>
Working Balance	\$13,661.92
CD	\$5,210.22

Membership Corner

Jean Strande, Membership Secretary, and the Membership Committee will be handing out renewal forms and collecting dues at the October meeting. If you'd like to renew before then you can use the form on the MGCM website under 'join', and mail your check to Jean.

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

Slate of MGCM Officers for 2013

The Nominating Committee is happy to announce the 2013 slate of officers. A big thank you to all who have agreed to serve MGCM in 2013. We will be voting for 2013 officers at the November Club Meeting.

President	Sandra Abraham
Vice-President	Randi Larson
Recording Secretary	Laurie Levin
Membership Secretary	Jean Strande
Treasurer	Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd
Past-President	Robert Kean

Directors	Judy Brooke
	Don Trocke
	Nancy Bjerke/Margaret Hibberd

Nominating Committee: Kay Wolfe, Mollie Dean, Carol Schreier, Nancy Bjerke, and Dave (Fridley) Johnson

Hummingbirds with Don Mitchell *Continued from Page 1*

Don Mitchell obtained an M.S. degree in Conservation Biology at the University of Minnesota and has conducted field studies of hummingbirds and the plants they pollinate in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Colorado and California. He is a federally-permitted hummingbird bander and serves as VP of the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union. As a Goodhue County Master Gardener, Don attracts hundreds of hummingbirds annually to his garden near the Mississippi River in Red Wing.



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<http://www.mgcm.org>



Important Update on Name Change Vote ---- Please Read!!!!!!

Robert Kean, MGCM President

Background

Earlier this year, the Board decided that another vote on changing the club name was in order. This was based on the results of last year's member survey as well as opinions expressed by several members that the current name does not accurately reflect the current club and is a barrier to recruiting new members.

In July, the board decided on a process to select a name and set the November club meeting as the date for the planned vote. The board intended to select a proposed new name from suggestions submitted by the members. Those suggestions were collected through the end of the September club meeting. Thanks to everyone who took the time to submit a suggestion. At the September Board meeting (on September 17), the Board further discussed the vote on a name change. The board reviewed the submitted name suggestions, discussed the pros and cons of the suggestions, and voted on our preferences. Three names emerged as clear favorites. These were:

- Metro Garden Club of Minnesota
- NorthStar Garden Club
- Garden Club of Greater Minneapolis

Based on comments from members over the past several months, the process has been changed some to allow club input on the final proposed new name. The following is the revised process adopted by the board.

Process going forward:

1. At the Club meeting on October 9, members will be able to participate in a preference poll, identifying a first and second choice from the above list of three (identified at the September Board meeting). Before the poll, the voting instructions will be explained and time will be allocated for members to advocate for a favorite name. It will be a written secret ballot. The poll results will be tabulated and the preferred name will be announced by the end of the meeting. Only club members may vote and club members must be present to vote. Members are allowed to participate even if they ultimately plan to vote against a name change.
2. The preferred name choice (selected October 9) will be incorporated in a motion to change the club name (changing the name in the articles of incorporation). This motion will be distributed to members by mail or e-mail by October 13, for a planned vote at the November 13 club meeting. If the motion passes on Nov 13, the club name will be changed. If the motion fails, we will retain the current club name. Again, there will be time to voice opinions for and against the motion, it will be a written secret ballot, only club members may vote, and club members must be present to vote.

Continued on next page.



Update on Name Change Vote -- *Continued from previous page.*

So in summary:

The vote on the motion to actually change the name will take place at the November Club meeting.

The name that goes on the November motion will be selected at the October Club meeting from the above list of three choices.

There is some confusion as to what will constitute a "passing vote" at the November meeting (2/3 majority, simple majority, other?). The Board is reviewing the governing documents of the club to verify the applicable rules and procedures. This information will be communicated in advance of the November vote. For the last name change vote in September of 2004, the rules under Article II, section 6 of the bylaws were deemed to apply. This required a majority of members present or 2/3 of a quorum (whichever number is larger) for a vote to pass. A quorum is 40% of total membership.

If a new name is selected in November, it is anticipated that there will be a transition period in which we will use both names in club documents and communications for some period of time until the new name is well recognized. The board will discuss this after the November vote if appropriate.

Holiday Party is Coming Up! **Committee Meeting after October Club Meeting** *-- Randi Larson, Committee Chair*

It's hard to believe, but our annual holiday party is just around the corner on December 11. So mark the date on the calendar. There will be more information coming in next month's Spray. But for now, keep our auction in mind. We need all kinds of items to make our party even better than last year!

And here's a shout out to all holiday party committee members: there will be a meeting of our committee following the October 9 meeting. We need a theme for the upcoming party, so put your thinking caps on and bring ideas to the meeting.





Getting to Know Your Board Member: Don Trocke

By Don and Geri's Daughter



Don Trocke has been a member of the MGCM since 1994 but his green thumb began decades earlier.

Born just days before the Armistice Day blizzard of 1941 he was so surprised by all of the snow he did not speak until he was one and a half years old!

Growing up on a farm in rural Minnesota, he attended a country school for his first years of education. He spent much time outdoors and had a pony, which he rode in parades sometimes.

In high school his interests turned to sports and Don was co-captain of the track team running sprints. He also played half back in football and

lettered in both sports. Ask him about some of the crazy adventures he had with his cousins back in the day! But a special girl caught his eye and two years after he graduated from Arlington High, he married his sweetheart, Geri and began his life together with her.

In 1959 he joined the Army, and spent three years serving his country. Fortunately he was not involved in combat but rather spent time on a missile base in Thule, Greenland, which he refers to as his own Very Cold War. When he was discharged from the Army no one was hiring guided missile operators so he took a job with the local undertaker, who also owned a furniture store, carpet, tile and counter top business. This is where he learned his trade and began installing countertops, which would be his profession for nearly 40 years. He retired 'counterfitting' in 2001 and began what has been a very enjoyable and busy retirement.

There are several themes that weave through the more than 50 years married to Geri and raising their three grown daughters. The first is hard work. When his day job ended there was always something that needed to be done around the house. Heating with a wood furnace in the 70s and 80s meant there was plenty of wood to cut and split, occasionally with a splitter borrowed from a friend. If someone was in need he was always available to help build an addition, pour a new concrete sidewalk or almost anything else that came up. When his Mother needed help removing a tree at her home, his ready chainsaw and willingness to help resulted in a lost battle with the tree and a broken jaw. Even so, if you asked him for help cutting down a tree today, he'd probably do it.

The second is his woodworking. If it's made out of wood (or could be) he has or could build it. He's built buildings, furniture, picture frames, benches, decks, toys and cabinets. Don's sense of humor has come out in his woodworking, from 'Cedar Rabbit' a garden sculpture made of old cedar telephone poles, to the Blockhead Award, a wooden 'trophy' awarded to the organizer of the annual block party at the end of a successful gathering.

(Continued on next page)

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Board Member Don Trocke *(Continued)*

The third theme is gardening. His green thumb got an early start on the farm and he's never stopped playing in the dirt. There were vegetable gardens when the family was young, preparing the soil each spring by tilling in the ashes from all those wood fires during the winter. As every gardener knows, some years have too much heat, early frosts, floods, droughts, wind, insects and animals and weeds but despite the obstacles the harvests were bountiful and Geri was busy canning tomatoes and pickles. But on one occasion Don's curiosity to try something new wasn't a raving success when the okra harvest turned into a side dish of green goo.

But the gardener you know today really blossomed after Don and Geri bought an overgrown piece of land adjacent to their home in Bloomington. After removing many trees and stumps it needed grading and planting. Once planted, deer proofing was needed and he set the work creating a six foot high metal fences with stone columns and several gates for access. He was a one-man show, welding and cutting the metal, gathering the limestone (with help from Geri and a borrowed heavy duty truck) from a demolition site, pouring footings, laying the stonework and seeking help only to lift the heavy capstones onto the columns to complete the job. It was here, on this one acre that they built numerous flower gardens, vegetable gardens perennial gardens and a water garden. With too much sun for a shade garden, Don even built his own shade! The 22 foot diameter gazebo now houses hosta and shade plants. And his wit and humor comes out in the garden too. Some of his friends and neighbors remember the raised garden surrounded by patio stones set on end surrounded by a metal strap with a buckle - a steel belted planter.

Between gardening he finds time to volunteer with several organizations. He and Geri pack care packages for deployed services members with ties to the Carpenter's Floor Coverer's Union. He is a regular at the Blood Bank and has donated gallons of blood. There are also several gardening organizations including the Peony Society and Water Garden Club where he donates his time and finds this a great opportunity to learn and serve, contributing time and energy to several positions.

FFF has been a favorite for Don and Geri for several years and they have received many ribbons and several special awards for their entries.

During the long, cold Minnesota winters Don can be found scouring seed catalogs for 'something new' to try next year, playing cards with friends, going to the grandchildren's' hockey games and taking an occasional winter getaway, but always short enough to get home in time to start several hundred annual and vegetable seeds under lights for the spring planting. If you have ever done this before, you know what a humbling and rewarding experience this can be.

I got the chance to visit Don and Geri's garden this summer. It is wonderful. We need to find a way to get this garden on a tour! – Editor.



Memorial Tree for Howard

Kay Wolfe

Lyndale Park Garden Committee

The Lyndale Park Garden Committee has purchased and planted a tree in memory of Howard Berg. I purchased a Norway spruce, *Picea abies* 'Hillside Upright'. I first saw a photo of this spruce when Gary Whittenbaugh of Oelwein, Iowa spoke to the club on "Gardening with Conifers" in 2004. Last year was the first year I saw these trees at local nurseries. And this spring I bought one.

The 'Hillside Upright' is a dwarf or semi-dwarf. It is described as a "unique form of Norway spruce." This slow-growing conifer will exhibit a narrow upright pyramidal habit with irregular branching. With the formation of a very thick central leader, the rest of the branches become contorted, giving this specimen an "abundance of character fitting for any garden." At 10 years it will be 8 – 10 feet tall and 5 feet wide. It will mature at about 20 feet.

The needles are said to be among the darkest green of any conifer and add unceasing interest to both the summer and winter garden. One description reads: "The irregular and rugged, yet always elegant, growth habit never fails to hypnotize us, as if it were always casting a spell under which we never cease to fall." Its "relatively fine texture sets it apart from other landscape plants with less refined foliage." Another says it is a "carefree plant for the urban environment." All these quotes sound like Howard, yes?

We have planted it in the back of the border where it can watch over everything else. And watch over us, too. Just like Howard always did.



L TO R: Kristina Hughes, *Picea abies* 'Hillside Upright'/'Howards' Tree", Kay Wolfe, Rog Sefelt, 'Flamingo' willow, Sharla Aaseng, Ada Hegion. Photo taken by Mollie Dean.



MGCM offers \$1000 Scholarship(s)

*Kent Petterson
Scholarship Committee Chair*

Application forms and guidelines have been sent out to schools and interested organizations and are available at the MGCM website. The deadline for application is October 15th. The Scholarship Committee will be meeting October 22nd to consider the applications followed by November Board action and introduction of recipient(s) at the December Christmas Party.

If you have an acquaintance or family member that might be interested, please refer them to our website for forms and information, or call me at 651-222-5536.

Our scholarships are funded through club activities and by individuals through tax advantaged donations to our scholarship fund which we as a 501c3 manage. Please consider making a donation this year for students of horticulture in Minnesota. Eligibility is outlined in the Criteria for the application form.

Here's the link to our scholarship page:

<http://mgcm.org/MGCM/Scholarship.html>



Martin Stern, from Squire House Gardens
at our September club meeting.

--Photo by Chuck Carlson

Editor's Note

Hmmm. I thought I was squished for space again this month, but just discovered I have another whole page to fill. So you will get a new "Lazy Gardener" article in this issue. I think this is the first new article since I started editing.

Important information in this issue about a vote on changing the name of our club, as well as scholarship information and good news about a slate of candidates for 2013! Thanks to all contributors!

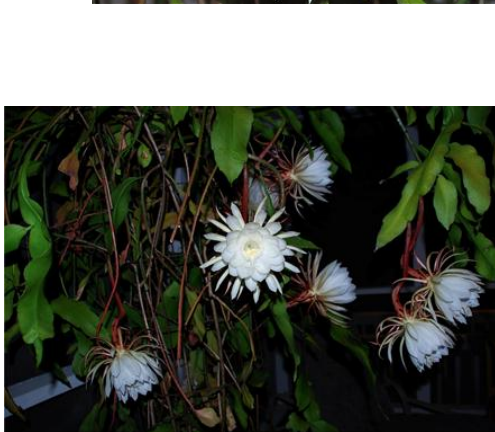
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Gary Geister's Night-Blooming Cereus

Each bloom only lasts one night. Thanks, Gary, for the photos!





Confessions of a Lazy Gardener: Creeping Charlie 2012

Mary Maynard

As many of you know, I retired this spring. Among other grandiose plans, I decided that in retirement I would eradicate the Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma herderacea*) from the lawn once and for all. Ha! I actually have made some progress, but the Creeping Charlie is not all gone. Here's what I've done so far.

Chemical Warfare. I got a recommendation from one of Margaret Hibberd's lake cabin neighbors for Ortho Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover and Oxalis formula. The active ingredient in this product is Triclopyr, which is also the active ingredient in Brush-B-Gon (presumably in a different concentration.) Margaret's neighbor assured me that it did not affect grass, but did a number on Creeping Charlie – and, indeed, his lawn looked good.

So, I bought a bottle in May and waited for an opportunity to spray. I needed a day when it was not too windy, temperatures were below 85 degrees, no rain was forecast for 24 hours and I was home to do the spraying. (This was back in the early part of the summer when it did rain occasionally.) By the time I found the right day it was well into June and getting pretty hot.

I finally sprayed. The Creeping Charlie looked a little sick, but was not dead. Unlike the grass in many spots in the back yard. I guess the combination of hot, dry weather and careless spraying was not good for the grass. I put the sprayer away.

Mechanical Warfare. Pulling out Creeping Charlie by hand can afford a certain satisfaction. There is something rewarding about getting all of a long stoloniferous stem out of the lawn. But any little piece of the stem grows back. I did get rid of a lot of it this summer, though. On the hottest days, I'd work in the shady parts of the lawn. On the (slightly) cooler days, I'd work in the full sun, and would keep working on a specific section until the sweat rolled into my eyes. That was a sign to quit.

I have to say that it was easier to pull Creeping Charlie out of the sections of the lawn where I had killed the grass. Where the grass is thicker (which isn't much of my lawn under the best of circumstances) it's harder to pull out Creeping Charlie without doing a certain amount of damage to the grass.

Back to Chemical Warfare. The experts say that the best time to kill perennial weeds in the lawn is in the fall, when plants are storing nutrients for the winter. So last week I pulled out the sprayer again and sprayed the areas where the Creeping Charlie is still evident. So far the grass is not dead. I'm going to give it a couple of weeks to work then spray again. We'll see what we have next spring.

In the meantime, we'll be overseeding the lawn where I killed the grass earlier this year.

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.

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First Class Mail

October
2012