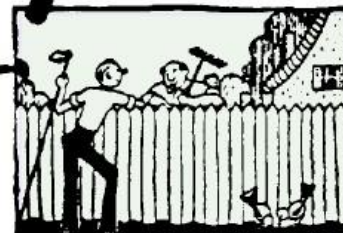




# The Garden Spray

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

2011, Volume 69, Number 12



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Dec 13	LHC	Holiday Party & Silent Auction
Jan 12	LHC	Gardens of England – Debbie Lonnee <i>Bailey Nurseries</i>

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



## Holiday Party and Silent Auction

*"Life -- Live it, Celebrate it"*

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Social Hour with hors d'oeuvres  
Silent Auction setup and Bidding

6:40 p.m. Dinner, followed by

Entertainment:  
Slide Show by Chuck Carlson: "Celebrate Life"  
Awards  
Silent Auction Results



**Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the Holiday Party.**

Please send your reservation (Page 5 of the November Spray) to **arrive by December 8** to Larry Larson, 15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka, MN 55345. Make checks payable to MGCM.

### Dinner Menu:

Turkey  
Glazed Ham  
Mashed potatoes & gravy  
Spring greens w/Gorgonzola & walnuts  
Green Bean Almandine  
Rolls & Butter  
Cranberry Relish  
Red Velvet Cheesecake  
Coffee, Milk, Water



## Notes from the Prez:

-- Kay Wolfe

Today is the Friday after Thanksgiving. It is definitely the end of the garden season, even if unusually warm. I raked leaves for the final time today – and we even mowed the grass. It has been a sad month – two club members have lost family. Mary Maynard lost her sister, and Margaret Hibberd lost her husband of 42 years. Our sincere condolences to both Mary and Margaret.

This is my last president's column. All year the Board of Directors discussed concerns – how to recruit new members; publicity; public tours and funding for scholarships. Either there were no good suggestions as to how to move forward, or opinion was divided. Finally some Board members suggested conducting a survey of members. Thanks to Don Untiedt and Gary DeGrande for creating the survey, and to Andy Marlow for getting it computerized. Please, please, all of you, take the survey! The Board needs your opinions for the future of the club.

One of the main club concerns is how to attract new members. Membership stays at about 80. We have a very "old" club – many have already served as officers, and do not expect to do so again. This year's Nominating Committee phoned over 30 members before they had a slate of officers for 2012. Some have suggested that we change the club name. I have never been in favor of this – those of us in the club don't care what the label is. But many from the outside perceive that this is a club for men only. I attended the MSHS (MN State Hort. Society) fall meeting, and heard a talk on

"How to Grow Your Garden Club" by a Ramsey County Garden Club member. Their club was founded in 1911 as the Men's Garden Club of Ramsey County. They have long since dropped the "Men's" label, and are now an active club with 200 members both old and young.

So, I am leaving you with a parting thought. Why don't we call our club the "Minneapolis Garden Club"? Let's not change the legal name – not at first. Let's increase our advertising efforts, make up new brochures and flyers, and see if we attract new members. Just try it for a year or two? This is not even my idea – credit goes to two of the Roberts – both Olson and Kean. Print new brochures that say "Minneapolis Garden Club" and in fine print "formally known as MGCM". This name does not mean members LIVE in Minneapolis – the club MEETS in Minneapolis. Even our By-Laws state that the Annual November Meeting must be held in Minneapolis. And historically most of our public service projects have been within the city of Minneapolis. The name does not reflect where we all reside.

So, think about this! Start a conversation. Tell me your opinion. This will be my own survey – who really has been reading my president's column this year??!! Farewell and Happy Holidays! It's been fun being your president!





## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 11-17-11

Checking balance	\$12,672.22
CD	\$5,233.83
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,745.47
Scholarship	<u>\$2,743.43</u>
Working Balance	\$8,183.32

## Membership Corner

### New Member!

Tami Hagen  
 4541 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.  
 Mpls, MN 55406  
 H: 612-729-5954  
 C: 612-669-1962  
 W: 612-673-0166  
 E: [tami.hagen@yahoo.com](mailto:tami.hagen@yahoo.com)  
 Welcome, Tami!

## Membership News

Renewals: Thanks to all of you who have renewed for 2012. For those of you who have not yet renewed, please do so SOON!! E-mail ([nsaaseng@comcast.net](mailto:nsaaseng@comcast.net)) or call (612-623-9341) me if you need a form, or go to our website or an October or November Spray and print one out. Mail the form (1025 20<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Mpls, MN 55414) and your \$20.00 check (made out to MGCM) to me. Thanks so much and see you all at the Holiday party.

-- Sharla Aaseng, Membership Secretary (for one more month!)

New Member: Welcome to our most recent new member, Tami Hagen. Tami's interests lie in perennials; fruits (especially blueberries); shrubs; flowering house plants, especially African violet propagation; and vegetables. She has received the Minneapolis Garden of Merit Award several years. Roger Koopmans recommended her to the club. I'll quote her: "It's my hope that he saw something in me that prompted his action." Tami, the club welcomes you and looks forward to getting to know you and sharing with you our love of gardening.

We send our condolences to Margaret Hibberd on the death of her husband, Ken. Ken was a scientist, an artist, a gardener and a craftsman; and a kind and gentle soul, gone far too soon.





## MGCM Member Survey: Your Opinion Counts

Have you taken the survey yet? Do you know what the survey is?



If the answer to either question is “no”, here’s the scoop. The Board of Directors is charged with charting the future direction of MGCM, and they would like input from the entire membership to help them with that task. Hence, the survey!

The more who participate, the better the data will be to guide the board. So, jump in and take the survey (if you haven’t already). It’s easiest to take online. Just go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KC627T3> and make sure to keep going until you can click the “done” button.

If you’re not so comfortable on computers, Andy Marlow has some printed copies. Just email ([ajmarlow@comcast.net](mailto:ajmarlow@comcast.net)) or call (952-933-5759) him and he’ll send you a copy. Fill it out and send it back to Andy, and he’ll enter it online for you.

Whether you do it online or on paper, the deadline is the same. The survey will close on December 10, so if you want your opinion considered get busy taking the survey.





## 2012 Board Elected at November Meeting



*Photo by Chuck Carlson*

It looks like they're going to be a fun group! L-R: Don Trocke, Director; Randi Larson, Director; Judy Brooke, Director; Jan Johnson, Recording Secretary; Robert Kean, President; Sandra Abraham, Vice President; Andy Marlow, Treasurer, Jean Strande, Membership Secretary. (Not pictured: Kay Wolfe, Past President.)

We thank you for stepping up to serve the club.

## Don't Forget! Scholarship Fund Challenge!

Jan Johnson has issued a challenge to club members. If the rest of us donate a total of \$1,000 for scholarships by the end of the Holiday Party on Dec. 13, Jan will donate an additional \$1,000 for scholarships. As Jan pointed out at the November meeting, "The money is going to go somewhere!" Make checks payable to MGCM and indicate that money is designated to the Scholarship fund. Scholarship Chair Kent Petterson will be at the Holiday Party and will be happy to take your checks - or mail them to Treasurer Andy Marlow.

Thanks, Jan, for your leadership and inspiration in this area!



## Seeding Delphiniums

(c) Copyright Phil Smith



It was nice to attend the November meeting since I have not been to many meetings since I retired in 1992. However, I have had some medical problems and will be spending more time with my sons in Twin Cities, instead of all summers in Montana and winters in Florida. I therefore hope to attend more meetings. At the November meeting, a few older members remembered that I used to bring several delphinium plants for the spring auctions.

*Phil Smith, right, with son Brett  
Photo by Chuck Carlson*

I am going to try to do so next year when I think the spring auction will be in May. I thought I would also write some info about seeding and growing delphiniums. For seeding, it is my belief that one should use only English seed. In my prior garden in Golden Valley and my current perennial garden in Montana, I have had delphinium plants live up to 12 years. However, a couple of good growers in the club have told me their delphiniums hardly ever survive the winters, so they quit trying to grow them (more on this later).

Most seed catalogs in U.S. list only U.S. grown seeds (California). My experience is that plants from such seeds are not very hardy in northern states. However, Thompson & Morgan is an English company and their U.S. catalog normally lists English seeds. I have also had good luck also with some seed strains from New Zealand. I think the best source of delphinium seeds is The Delphinium Society headquartered in England. The membership does not cost much, and you get a beautiful yearbook of over 100 pages with many color photos, a free packet of choice seeds, and a list of many choices of seeds (some by color) which one can purchase. For info write to the following U.S. Honorary V-P: James Jeffrey, 30 The Circle, East Hampton, N.Y. 11937. Or, to Mrs. Shirley Bassett, Membership Secretary, "Summerfield" Church Road, Biddestone, Chippenham. Wiltshire SN14 7DP, England.

*(Continued next page)*



*(Delphiniums – continued)*

Some people get poor germination with delphinium seed. By following directions from English growers, I have in the past had good luck.

I normally seed in early February, using a florescent light setup in a cool basement, a friable and sterile soil mix with just a little fertilizer, in sterile pots (plastic do not dry so fast), covered with glass or plastic to keep moist and then with newspapers or magazines to keep in dark until germination starts. Delphiniums must have no light for germination, and preferably a temperature of about 60 deg. F and certainly not over 70 degrees

Then, after germination, keep under lights until plants may be transferred to a heated cold frame sometime in April. Care must be taken to open the frame during the day to prevent hot air and of course closed at night. Temperature-sensitive devices may be bought which do this automatically.

After the seedlings have been hardened off in the frames, I like to plant them about a foot apart in rows in a nursery. If seeded in February, small blossoms should appear in about August, when you can select for form and color and transplant to your perennial border.

Delphiniums have quite deep roots, so care must be taken when transplanting. Also, good growers in England double dig their soil when starting a new bed, which I do also, incorporating rotted manure and/or compost. It is a lot of extra work but well worth it to provide deep friable soil and for longevity of the plants. I of course cannot say why some growers in our club have had difficulty with delphiniums surviving the winter, but here are a couple more ideas in addition to deep soil.

Delphiniums in Minnesota normally bloom in late June or early July. After flowering, prune the spikes to just below the bottom of the florets. If you cut them back too low (such as 6-10 inches) the plants will use their energy to send up new sprouts. These may sometimes give a small second bloom in the fall, but will weaken the plants to be less likely to survive the winter. After the first frost I cut the plants back to about 8 inches, and let tree leaves collect around the plants. Before a hard frost, I will also cover the plants with about 8 inches of loose hay or straw, but not much more. If I have pruned any evergreen trees, the cut branches also make a good cover.

Certainly do not use plastic bags of leaves for cover since they will likely cause the plants to die of rot in the spring. Also, when the danger of a killing frost is past in the spring, promptly remove the cover to help the sun dry out the soil.



*(Delphiniums – continued)*

The biggest cause of winter kill of delphiniums in the U.S. is spring rot, in my opinion, particularly if the soil is not real friable. My ideas on winter cover come from friends in England. They do not have very cold winters, but they do have a lot of winter rain, fog and dreary clouds. This results in quite damp soil, but their delphiniums normally last quite several years.

Best wishes for good growing during the coming year.



*Golden Valley: Note thinning of shoots to spikes with good form.*



*Montana: Old plant thinned to 5 or so nice spikes. – Photos by Phil Smith*

*Thanks for another great article, Phil! We are sorry about your health problems, but look forward to seeing you at more club events. -- Editor.*





## Photos from November Meeting

*By Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock*



*Andy Marlow and Bob Olson telling fond stories about the new 25-year members who were honored at the November meeting.*



*One of Duane Otto's creations, plus one of his tricks of the trade (cheap spray paint)*



*Duane Otto having a blast (and making a big mess) creating winter containers on the fly.  
Thanks, Duane, for a great demonstration!*



*Our next Prez, framed by Duane's creations.*



## Editor's Note

- Mary Maynard

Happy Holidays, everyone! As I was getting ready for the 25<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving at our house this year, I was having a little trouble finding things to be thankful for. 2011 has been a tough year: losing Howard Berg, then my sister, then our good friend Ken Hibberd. Not to mention getting older and more decrepit all the time!

But, of course, there are things to be thankful for. Even with the pain of loss, I am thankful that I had the chance to spend as much time as I did with the people who are now gone. I am glad that my sister has been released from chronic illness and that Ken did not have to take the ALS path to the final, difficult conclusion.

And I am thankful for the Board Members who stepped up for 2012, and for Sharla Aaseng, Gary DeGrande, Maury Lindblom, Jason Rathe and Don Untiedt, who are winding up their service to the Board this month.

Thank you, too, to the Club for the beautiful flowers and many cards and expressions of sympathy when my sister Joanna died.

I am thankful for the Scholarship challenge that Jan Johnson has issued. And for the Program Committee that has diligently worked on the 2012 program calendar (more to come on that next issue, I understand).

And for the catering committee, which found yet another fine caterer for our dinners.

I am thankful that Gary DeGrande, Nona Johnson and M.T. Pulley were willing to open their gardens to us for tours last summer.

And I am thankful for all of the other committees who keep the Club going.

I am particularly thankful for Chuck Carlson and Lloyd Wittstock, who provide photographs for the *Spray* every month. What a boring document this would be without their photos!

And I am thankful to everyone who has contributed to the *Spray* this year, writing regular columns, articles, bulletins, program descriptions, Board member bios, garden descriptions, meeting minutes, and so much more. The *Spray* would not exist without you.

# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



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### Club Officers:

**President: Kay Wolfe**

2740 Florida Ave S, St. Louis Park

**Vice President: Robert Kean**

3136 James Ave. S, Minneapolis

**Recording Secretary: Jan Johnson**

3005 Scott Ave. N., Golden Valley

**Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng**

1025 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Minneapolis

**Treasurer: Andy Marlow**

10700 Minnetonka Blvd, Hopkins

**Past President: Don Untiedt**

12070 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. No, Plymouth

### Directors:

**Gary DeGrande**

4100 Oakmede Lane, White Bear Twp.

**Maury Lindblom**

6105 Lincoln Dr. #332, Edina

**Jason Rathe**

116 Cedar Lake Rd. S, Mpls.

## 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

St. Louis Park, MN 55424

**First Class Mail**

*December*  
*2011*