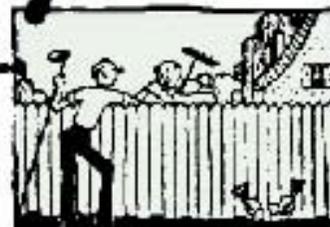




Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2009, Volume 67, Number 05



MINNEAPOLIS MENS GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Our annual plant sale and auction will place Tuesday, May 5 at the Westwood Lutheran Church, located at 9001 Cedar Lake Road in St. Louis Park. For all you new members out there, this is the most popular event of the year and not to be missed. This is your chance to buy plants from fellow member's gardens and also to bid and purchase plants at our very popular plant auction. This is also the time we pick up the plants that we ordered ahead of time from our 'pre-auction order form.' There is also a silent auction and a raffle.

Following is our schedule of events:

- 4:00 p.m. - You may pick up the plants you ordered.
- 4:15 p.m. - All volunteers who are working at the plant sale and auction may buy plants at the country store.
- 4:30 p.m. - Silent auction begins.
- 4:45 p.m. - Country store opens to everyone.
- 5:45 p.m. - Dinner is served.
- 6:15 p.m. - Silent auction ends.
- 6:30 p.m. - Dinner tables are cleared and put away and chairs are set up for the live auction.
- 6:40 p.m. - Silent auction winners are announced.
- 6:45 p.m. - Live auction begins.

**Dinner Reservations are
not in effect. Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke
952.435.6029 or numsix24@comcast.net**



Thoughts from the Prez: Rusty Ramblings

by Denise Rust

Didn't we have a fine trip to the Macy's flower show? We began our evening with a delicious dinner and some background on the show once again graciously provided by Dale Bachman, then boarded a nearly full bus to take in the show. We spent almost an hour enjoying the colors, fragrance, and arrangements. For those of you who missed the outing, do enjoy the photos here in the Spray and I hope you can join us next time!

I look forward to this month's plant sale and auction; it is always a great opportunity to adopt some wonderful plant material and have a lot of fun in the process. If you haven't already, please assess your garden and/or your seedlings to see if there is anything you could donate for the sale at the Country Store, and plan to attend! Friends are welcome to join you.

My husband and I finally took that long-awaited trip to Hawaii the beginning of April, and I am still overwhelmed by all that we saw. We cruised the four major islands and saw not only amazing plant life, but unique creatures, stunning beaches, volcanoes, water features and historic sites. My favorite island overall was Kauai, though my best closeup photo opportunities were on Maui. It was great to dress in summer clothes again and to not have to think about snow, ice, wind chill or frost for awhile. My favorite flower to photograph was the protea (an import from South Africa, seen on the east side of Maui). And who knew such lush vegetation could coexist with volcanic rock (at the Thurston Lava Tube, Volcanoes National Park, the big island)?

I do hope I get to return some day.





A Note from the Editor

No matter how much I plan and how much I think I am ready, spring has a way of progressing faster than I can handle. The Garden Club's Plant Sale is only a week and a half away and I haven't finished cutting down the Karl Foerster grass yet.

This time of year is a quick transition from inside to out, from vacationing in green locales (like Denise's trip to Hawaii) to growing our own green spaces. The club visited the beautiful inside garden-scapes assembled at the Macys Bachmans Annual Flower Show and now we quickly move to purchasing and laying out our own gardens.

I love observing plants at all times of year - which plants shoot up green leaves first in spring, winter seed-heads, spring buds. I planted a couple of black alder in my back garden last year, so this was the first spring of observing its cycle of growth. I was amazed how quickly the dangling catkins turned from dry brown to soft and yellow-green. This transformation started at the bottom of the tree and moved up day-by-day to the top like a Christmas tree lighting up.

Take time to enjoy the little things this spring.

Jason Rathe



TREASURER REPORT

CD	5,662.00
Checking	6,658.00
Designated funds	
Memorial/park garden	955.00
Scholarship fund	910.00
Working balance	4,793.00

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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May 5th WLC Plant Sale & Auction

June LHC Lew and Phil Gerten
"Successful Perennials fo 2008 and Promising
Perennials of 2009"

LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave.
S., Minneapolis)

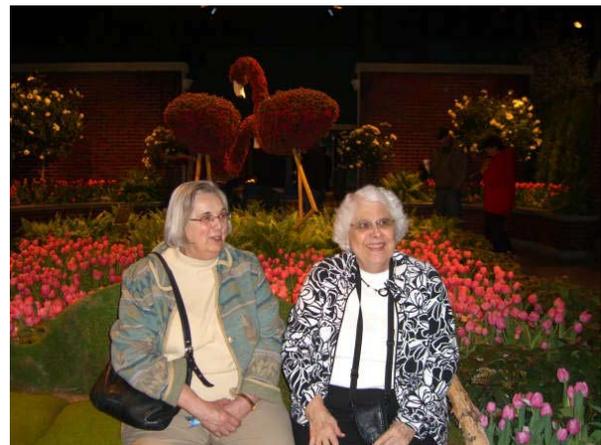
WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



Flower Show Photos



The April Club meeting included a trip to the Macys Bachmans Annual Flower Show. The evening began with a "behind the scenes" view from Bachman's president, Dale Bachman. The flowershow's vibrant colors and smells are always a welcome escape for our winter-weary senses.





more pics from the Flower Show



The flowershow included settings of both whimsy and enchantment.

Pictures from Denise Rust, Lloyd Wittstock and Mary Maynard.



Need Milk (Bottles)?

The FFF Committee is disposing of a number of plain glass quart milk bottles that we no longer need for the show. If anyone would like to have some or all of the remaining bottles, please let Nancy Bjerke (nbjerke017@comcast.net, 612-353-5220) know. Otherwise, Nancy will start recycling these soon.

These bottles are clear glass, with no identifying markings.

Thanks!
MJM

FFF Show Schedule Available on Website

This year, our FFF Show Schedule will not be distributed to every member of MGCM, but a printable version is available on our website at this link:

<http://minneapolisgardensclub.org/Show%20Sked%202009.pdf>

We are printing up some paper copies, but the paper version will not be automatically distributed to everyone in the club. If you'd like a paper copy (which is convenient if you're planning to participate in the FFF Show), please let Nancy Bjerke or Mary Maynard know, and we'll make sure you get one.

Thanks!
MJM





Thanks for the Tea!

A huge thank-you to everyone that helped make the Fundraising Afternoon Tea on March 15 a success! Thanks to Sharla Aaseng and Mollie Dean, who made all the tea delicacies and artfully presented them on antique plates, as well as being servers. Thanks to Sharla for the lovely invitations. And Tina Scott who helped serve and kept the guest's port glasses full. A big thank you to all the tea guests—who paid!—this was a fundraiser, after all! They were Rajah & Jack Kolb; Lynda Carlson and friend Judy Brooks; Mary Maynard; Kent & Abby Petterson; Jerry & Lee Shannon; Ada Hegion & John Sims, and Ada's sister who wasn't able to attend. Donations were made by Carol Schreier and Elaine Spiegel, even though they weren't able to attend. And a big thanks to Gary Opperman (member of the MGCM Men's Auxiliary and husband of the hostess) who made by hand the Grand Marnier Chocolate Truffles, plus cooked up one of the tea courses. A total of \$520 was raised, and was donated to the Memorial/Park Garden & Scholarship Funds. All food and beverages were donated by Sharla, Mollie and Kay—so that one hundred per cent of the price paid for tickets went to the designated funds. A great time was had by all! And as the hostess and “tea sommelier”, I was still able to carry on a conversation at the end—so I call that a well run event! And lastly, a special thanks to Jane Austen—whose stories infuse our imaginations with a desire to live elegantly!



Kay Wolfe, Tea Hostess



A FABULOUS AFTERNOON TEA

The club fund raiser tea was hosted at Kay Wolfe's home on Sunday March 15th. Eleven of us were the recipients of this delightful afternoon. Kay along with Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean and Tina Scott were the wonderful team that created this wonderful memorable afternoon. The food was beautifully prepared and presented in a five course tour of east Indian teas starting with Darjeling tea complimenting fruit and nuts.

Tea started at 2:30pm and finished at 5:30pm, interspersed with conversation and fun anecdotes from the servers about tea and the food. It is difficult to adequately convey the atmosphere, the wonderful presentation and food at Kay's parlor and library, but I hope the pictures help.

A big thank you to all who participated in this fund raiser for MGCM activities!

Kent Petterson



Sharla, Tina, Kay and Mollie hosted the fund-raising tea



Convivial conversation at the tea



Living Elegantly



Attention to every detail transported guests to a different place. Each dish and fork, the warm surroundings, perfect morsels and, of course, enlightened conversation made the tea an exceptional afternoon.





**CELEBRATE THE START OF THE
GARDEN SEASON AT BLOOMS DAY**



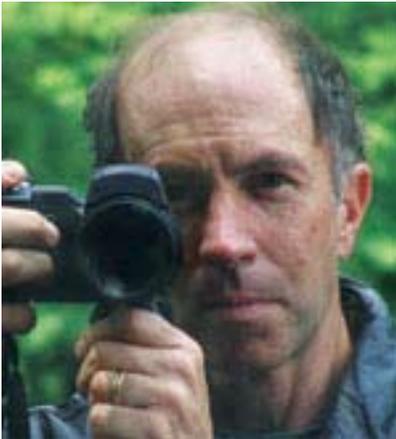
(March 1, 2009) Metro Blooms annual Blooms Day event will take place on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Kenny Community School, 5720 Emerson Avenue South in Minneapolis.

This year's event will feature four, FREE 20-minute seminars on (1) Permaculture, (2) Thrifty Gardening, (3) Container Gardening and (4) How to Make a Rain Barrel. These mini-seminars will take place throughout the morning. Representatives from several plant societies, the Hennepin County Master Gardeners Program, and garden/landscape businesses will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Keynote Speaker, Lynn Steiner, author and photographer of *Landscaping with Native Plants of Minnesota*, will discuss the benefits of using native plants and offer ideas on how to use them effectively and acceptably in urban and suburban settings.

This FREE event will also include a plant sale and silent auction, as well as the presentation of the top 2008 Minneapolis garden and gardener awards. Door prizes and refreshments top off this wonderful educational event and awards celebration.

For more information about Blooms Day, visit www.metroblooms.org or call 651-699-2426.

Metro Blooms is a nonprofit education and membership organization of gardeners and community volunteers, dedicated to ecologically friendly gardening education and the celebration of gardeners in the metropolitan Twin Cities. Our mission is to strengthen communities by promoting eco-friendly gardening that beautifies neighborhoods and protects our environment.



Rick Darke at Art In Bloom

Rick Darke is the keynote speaker at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts “Art In Bloom.” The event, which invites floral designers to pair their work in relation to art works at the museum, takes place from April 30th to May 3rd. Always try to get there early when the floral arrangements are freshest. Rick Darke is my absolute favorite garden personality. I have seen him speak twice and always leave inspired and engaged. Darke cuts through the noise of the debates around environmentalism, sustainability and the design of beautiful, natural spaces with candor and matter-of-factness.

At one talk I asked him, since his designs often include lots of tall grasses, whether his clients express safety concerns about the grasses. He paused and said simply that he wouldn’t work with anyone who expressed that concern. To clarify he said that we each need to put our foot down against the “fear-of-everything” thinking that is gripping our society, especially when the concerns don’t hold up to firm reason.

If you haven’t read his books - go get one at the library or local bookstore. His “Ornamental Grasses for Livable Landscapes” and “The American Woodland Garden” are intelligent, multi-faceted feasts for both the eye and brain. The books feature his careful and studied photography, so they are great to leaf through. But, while most garden books are all pictures and little substance, his text is completely unexpected, personal and full of unique morsels of thought that could only come from a lively and incisive mind.

Like his books, his presentations are always full of surprises. He has a speaking style that resists easy definitions and solutions, and builds slowly from unexpected starting points to uncommon conclusions. -- Jason Rathe



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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