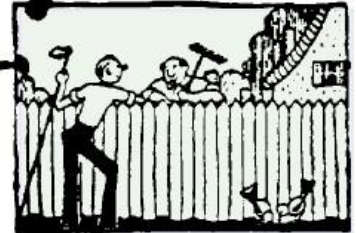




# The Garden Spray

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

2011, Volume 69, Number 6



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 14	St. Paul	Dinner, Gardens and Books
July 12	East Metro	Club tour
August 7	TBA	Club tour
Aug 20-21	Arb.	FFF Show
Sept 13	LHC	Moonlight Gardens <i>Shirley Mah Kooyman</i>
Oct 11	LHC	Apples (Talk, Tasting) <i>Larry Enter</i>
Nov 15	LHC	Winter Containers <i>Duane Otto</i>
Dec 13	LHC	Holiday Party

LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901 Chowen Ave S., Mpls. (Lower level)  
Arb=U of M Landscape Arboretum

## June Outdoor Event: Burgers, Books and Blooms Tuesday, June 14 St. Paul

The June meeting will be an "outdoor event," starting with a burger and sandwich supper at Shamrock's in St. Paul, followed by "open gardens" at Jerry & Lee Shannon's home and Kent Petterson's Terrace Horticultural Books. Kent will also have his bookstore open.

**Place:** Shamrock's, 995 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., St. Paul (Randolph and W. 7<sup>th</sup>) Find us in the "County Cork" room. Park in the lot on the west side of the building. Enter on Osceola St.

**Time:** 5:30 Seating, drinks, and conversation.  
6:00 Dinner is served. (Please arrive by 6 PM or earlier.)  
7:00 Leave for the gardens.

Kent's store will be open from 5 to 8:30. Kent will make some comments in his garden at 7:10.

Jerry & Lee's garden open from 7:15 until about 9 PM.

Members and guests can visit the gardens without attending the dinner.

*Information about the gardens and dinner reservation form on pages 3 & 4*

**Note: Permanent reservations are not in effect for the June event. Reservations must be received by June 9. See Page 4 for reservation form.**



## Notes from the Prez:

-- Kay Wolfe

Another President's article? Do I have to write again? This is the sixth one already. I thought about taking a break for June—it is my Birthday Month, after all! What a nice gift. Then I thought about another gift I wanted. I want to hear no more complaints.....about the club.....about committees.....about events. A bout how hard it is to get things done. Now THAT would be a better gift than not writing a column! And such a gift to me would be a huge gift to the club!!

I want to hear that the Plant Sale went really well, and that we made our budgeted \$3000. From my perspective, it looked like the sale did go well. And I hope the committee had fun putting on the sale. We are all thankful for your work. Special thanks to Doug Whitney for chairing the sale for the last 10 years.

I want to hear that everyone is looking forward to the June Outdoor Program. Technically, this is not a club tour, because the Club Tour Committee does not plan it—it is part of the Program Committee's work. Jerry and Kent have been most gracious in inviting us to their places, and in helping plan the event.

The July club tour is all set from what I hear. Only the food (we are, of course, an eating club too) needs to be fine tuned. But what about the August Club Tour? I want to hear that there are so many members wanting to have us tour their gardens that we can't fit them all in!! Instead I hear there are no volunteers! What? How can there be no gardens to tour? We don't want to see showcase gardens; we want to see what you do. What are your gardening experiments? We want to learn from each other. So what if there are weeds! We all know what a weed is—and how to get one out. Being able to weed does not make one a good gardener: trying and growing new and unusual things is what makes

an interesting gardener. Why don't members that live in the same area get together and offer to be on tour—in 2011, 2012, or 2013? All of us members living in St. Louis Park had a tour in 2000, and it was great fun. We cheered each other on all summer as we groomed and planted. Band together with other members and create a tour! You will enjoy yourself!

Other summer activities are going well. The FFF is another upcoming August event. Enter a category—the design section looks particularly intriguing. And the MGCM-TV Committee is filming and editing programs. Planting is just starting in the Lyndale Park Garden. Join the committee or walk by and see the garden this year.

So, as a gift to all of us-- ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club!! The club is only as strong as its individuals.

## Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

This issue features another "Getting to Know Your Board Member" article. Recording Secretary Jan Johnson has always impressed me by her energy and organizational skills. It's good to learn more about her.

I have also taken one page to re-print an article that Bob Olson wrote several years ago about being on tour. It can be daunting to be on tour, but really a club tour is just a different way of inviting your friends into your back yard. And, for me, I've viewed my turn on tour as a way to provide a service. I was on the August tour last year, and I believe my garden served to make Ann's and Randi and Larry's and Bob's gardens look even better in comparison!

Last month's plant sale and auction was a lot of fun, and I look forward to another fine event in June. See you in St. Paul!



## June Event Information

- Continued from Page 1

### The June Outdoor Program Locations

*(Please consult a city map – or Google Maps – for directions.)*

**Shamrock's 995 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., St. Paul (Randolph and W. 7<sup>th</sup>)**

**Kent Petterson's Terrace Horticultural Books  
503 St. Clair Ave, St. Paul, MN 55102**

Terrace Horticultural Books began in the garden. Our little side business, which started in 1991, was helped by the advent of the internet as a way to sell books. Finding a new home in the West End of St. Paul that could have a garden and a lovely setting for books led to new possibilities and a new career five years ago. We are located at 503 St. Clair Ave., about seven blocks from Shamrock's. The cross street is Duke and I will be flying the flag! (A Google map is suggested.) I will be available the entire evening from 5pm until at least 8:30pm, but will make a few comments at 7:10pm in the garden. Our books, ephemera, seed catalogs, old seed packets, unframed art and old garden tools will be available for sale. We have books in all categories and most are suitable for a gift. Your purchases that evening will result in a donation of 25% of the total sales to MGCM. If you have any questions or want to make other arrangements, please give me a call at 651-222-5536. Thanks for coming, Kent Petterson

**Gardens of Jerry & Lee Shannon  
1847 Eleanor Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55116**

The gardens of Jerry and Lee Shannon encompass two-thirds of an acre in the Highland Park area of St. Paul. The Shannon's are collectors of unusual woody and herbaceous plants. Jerry says they have over 95 different trees and shrubs. This great variety of plants are grown in sunny and shady perennial gardens, a dwarf conifer collection, a large rock garden, a cactus garden, a vegetable garden, a formal garden and a roof top garden. Search around and see how many you can identify!!

Numerous garden troughs feature diminutive alpine plants. Miniature hosta are featured in various locations. Sited under towering ash trees is a garden gazebo surrounded by shade loving hostas and wild flowers plus a gurgling water feature.

The Shannon gardens have been featured in the Northern Gardener, Better Homes and Garden Ideas and Outdoor living, and Midwest Home magazines. Their gardens have also been featured on the Home and Garden channel.



## Shamrock's Dinner Selections and Costs

'Juicy Nookie' Burger: **Charbroiled Burger with cheese-filled center. \$12.95**

Charbroiled Chicken Club: **Chicken "BLT." \$12.95**

**Corn Beef Reuben: \$12.95**

All the above three entrees served with fresh cut French fries and pickles.

**Chicken Caesar Salad: \$10.95.** (No fries served with salads.)

All entrees come with Beverage (coffee, tea, milk, or pop), tax and tip included. (Cash bar.)

**Dessert & Coffee will be served in the gardens!** Members are invited to tour the gardens even if you cannot make it for the dinner. Any questions contact Kay Wolfe or Robert Kean.

---

## MGCM June 14, 2011 MGCM Dinner at Shamrock's Reservation Form

Check to MGCM for appropriate amount must be enclosed.

\$12.95 Dinner entrée choice(s): \_\_\_\_\_Burger \_\_\_\_\_Chicken Club \_\_\_\_\_Reuben

\$10.95 \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Caesar Salad

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Send reservation form with check to Carole Ann Brekke, 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306. Reservations must be received by Thursday, June 9, 2011. Sorry, no late reservations can be taken!! The final count will be turned in on Friday, June 10, and Carole Ann will leave town that day.



## Treasurer's Snapshot

As of 5-24-11

Checking balance	\$13,918.02
CD	\$5,000.00
Designated Funds	
Memorials/Park Garden	\$1,591.21
Scholarship	<u>\$2,303.43</u>
Working Balance	\$10,023.38

## Membership Corner

No membership news this month!

## Farewell to our Caterers

---Kay Wolfe

I am very sorry to announce that Barb Halverson and Jim Wright, of "We Cook" have turned in their resignation. Barb and Jim have decided to retire from cooking. And Barb is going to be President of the Federated Garden Clubs next year. They said they hated to stop cooking for us—we are such a fun group—and everyone was always coming in the kitchen and raving about the food. Barb said she hopes to see some of us through her garden club work. I will miss them—they were so much fun—and their food was absolutely fabulous. Send them an email note and tell them they will be missed. Email: [barbarahalverson@gmail.com](mailto:barbarahalverson@gmail.com)

## Coming Events:

### July 12th Club Tour: Two New (to us) Gardens!

Keep your calendar clear for a club garden tour treat on our regular July meeting night - Tuesday, July 12th. We will be visiting Gary DeGrande's and Nona Johnson's gardens in the east metro. Garden descriptions were published in the *May Spray*.

Cost for the Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> evening tour will be \$8

- Gary DeGrande will provide appetizers from 6:30-7:30pm
- Drive time between garden locations - 7:30-8:00
- Nona Johnson will provide desserts from 8-9:00pm

Reservation details and more information will be in the July *Spray*.



## Coming Events:

### *2011 FFF Show – August 20 & 21* *at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum* --Judy Berglund

Earn the opportunity to own your very own copy of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates*, the new revised edition 2011. This book will be awarded to four lucky exhibitors of the FFF Show this year. They will be awarded to the best flower in show, the best vegetable in show and the Sweepstakes winners in both the flower and vegetable Horticultural Division. The general rules are all on the club website along with all of the entry classes. There is even an example of how to fill out an entry tag. If websites are not your thing, please pick up one of the yellow FFF Show booklets at the June club event.

We hope that all club members will consider bringing a few of their favorite flowers and vegetables to this year's show. If you have not participated before, many members are experienced exhibitors and will be happy to offer their help with hints on how to show those prize winning flowers and vegetables at their very best.

**Happy gardening and see you at the show!!!**

### **Photo Contest**

-- Chuck Carlson

Did you know that photos are part of the FFF Show? Yes, we are the third "F" for "Foto". This is to remind you to take some photos or search your files for some gems you already have taken in years past. Old photos are allowed as long as they have not been winners in previous FFF Shows. The rules are listed on our website. If you do not have internet/email, we can provide you with a hard copy. Just let Lloyd Wittstock or Chuck Carlson know if you need a hard copy.

This year there are two ways to enter photos. One is the juried contest and the other is the "People's Choice". The juried contest requires entries to be in digital form (20 maximum). The "People's Choice" entries must be prints (2 maximum). See the rules for other details.

The juried contest trophy winner will also be awarded a book, the new edition of *Growing Perennials in Cold Climates*. The People's Choice first three winners will be awarded gift certificates.

We need your photos to keep the contest going so get clicking!



## Reprint: Bob Olson on Having Your Garden on Tour (September 2005)

The garden tour committee asked if they could come to our garden for the evening tour this year. It is an honor (and an obligation) which you shouldn't turn down without a very good reason. But my wife asked me, "Why are they coming here again?" A good question. In the past twenty years our garden has been on tour for the MGCM seven times. We have 130 members in the MGCM and if you spread things out evenly the tour should have been here only once. And there are members who have been on tour more often than me. We keep visiting the same places. I like going to see fine gardens, but I also like learning a bit more about my friends in the garden club.

Over the years there has been a change in the character of the members-only evening garden tour. Fifteen years ago the evening tour was for small gardens; three of long-time MGCM members and one garden of a new member. Actually, the famous Smith Brothers tried to get two old timers, one somewhat-new member and a rookie for the evening tour (The Sunday afternoon tour, where members brought guests, was for the heavy hitter gardens --those of Jerry Shannon, Dave Johnson, Stan Crist, Roger Koopmans and the like). I know, because in my first year in the club the evening tour came to my place. With brutal candor Russ Smith's brother Bob looked around my yard and said, "It won't be a long stop—and why don't you have some refreshments. There'll be enough time." I couldn't believe they would want to visit my house. I had some annuals by the back fence, four peonies that were done blooming and eight new hostas I had just planted. But the Smith brothers said that was the way the members get to know each other: they visit each other's gardens. So with that it was decided, my place would be on the tour.

I was as nervous as the mother-of-the-bride getting ready. But, the tour itself wasn't bad at all. These were my friends and they were out for an enjoyable evening of garden visiting. You would have to go way out of your way to keep them from having a good time. They didn't come to find fault, they came to discover neat things—some were things I wasn't aware of. Leon Snyder, the founder of the Arboretum, looked at my crab apple and told me matter-of-fact that it needed to be pruned, "and here's how you do it." Jerry Shannon helped me identify a plant whose label had been lost. Fred Glasoe admired my newly planted hostas and wanted to know where I got them. And no one said or noticed the weeds by the neighbor's garage. These were the people I had dinner with before the winter meetings and they had come to see my garden—and to learn a little more about me and what I was up to. The evening tour wasn't about having a series of show stopper landscaping masterpieces to admire; it was about getting to know your gardening friends. Somehow this philosophy has gradually been lost over the years. And it is our collective loss.

I would like to see it come back. I think it's OK to see a garden-in-progress. And some of our new members can gain some wonderful hints and helpful suggestions from the veteran gardeners. I believe that almost everyone in the club should have us stop by at some time during their membership. I propose that we return to the idea of trying to visit more members rather than recycling the "good gardens". What do others think?

*(Note: Bob's garden was on the tour again last year.)*



## Getting to Know Your Board Member: Jan Johnson



When Duane and I bought our first house in Richfield in 1959, it was a huge lot of sand burs. By carefully pulling out each one and burning them, by 1966 when we moved to Minneapolis, the lot was green grass and successful flower and vegetable gardens. Duane cut the grass.

Baby Brad came with attendant stuff and we decided that a bigger house was necessary. Again we bought a house that had not been lived in for a couple of years and needed some TLC. And again, I was the gardener in charge. Duane now cut the grass with a push mower.

In the early 80's Duane met Fred Glasoe who had lots of ideas about what we could/should do. About this time, I returned to teaching and went back to graduate school. We disagreed on what/how things needed to be done, and since I was busy with kids, school and teaching, I told him it was all his. Fred approved of Duane's garden and Duane joined MGCM in 1982.

In those days, wives were allowed only at the Holiday Party and on Club tours. As we were part of the Gardeners of America and a lawsuit mandated female membership, MGCM followed suit. When Duane became president in 1989, he took in the first two women – Mary Lerman (who objected to the club's name) and Mary Maynard. She's still around!

In 1994 I joined MGCM because I wanted to go to the GOA convention. A delegate to a convention could take time off without pay. It was eye-opening to hear experts from all over the country talk about gardening. I gave me pleasure to know that people all over the nation had similar joys and problems. Also, hearing talk of gardening 12 months, every year, made me glad I live in Minnesota and only have to work seven months of the year.

In 2002 we moved to a house that was landscaped with 3-foot borders, rock and little green mushrooms. Duane was still mowing the huge yard. I was too busy working on the inside and called Eldon Hugelen and said, "HELP"! He designed a wonderful plan and we implemented it late that summer. Duane dug holes and I planted. I wish I had known then what I know now about plant growth. It's time to sort of do it all over again. The straggling Forsythia will be replaced with the one I bought at the auction.

I took the Master Gardening training in 2005 in Douglas County. For the last seven years I've worked with Douglas County Habitat for Humanity clients on landscaping. Previously, HFH had landscaped with black plastic, rocks and a couple of trees. I haven't been able to convince them that Best Practices in landscaping is as important as in construction, so I've quit. Instead, I'm working with the AEON Corporation improving and maintaining the outside of a townhome on 28<sup>th</sup> and Portland Ave. AEON owns affordable apartments and townhomes. Both families have children and want to have a kitchen garden. I'm excited again.

Being secretary and attending Board meetings has given me much more insight into how much work there is keeping a vibrant organization running. I've enjoyed it thoroughly, especially becoming better acquainted with the members.

-- Photo by Lloyd Wittstock





## Photos from the Plant Sale and Auction

-- Photos by Chuck Carlson



*Auctioneer Doug extolling the virtues of a 2011 AARS winner. (Did he buy that one?) Thanks, Doug, for another fine sale and auction.*



*Howard Berg looks very satisfied with the raffle tickets that Bob Voigt sold him.*



*Some of our newer members staff the cashier desk. Thank you!*



*Unbeknownst to us, this was the last meal by our fine caterers. If Judy had known this, she might not have looked so cheerful.*



## More Photos from the Plant Sale and Auction



*Gary Geister appears to be breaking the bad news about Spanish Flag germination (or lack thereof) to Margaret Hibberd.*



*Dave and Delores Johnson check out the roses.*





## Board Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2011

**Present:** Kay Wolfe, Robert Kean, Sharla Aasang, Andy Marlow, Jason Rathe, Maury Lindblom, Don Untiedt.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 by President Kay Wolfe.

**Treasurer's report:** Andy presented the year-to-date budget report. The report was received and filed.

**President's report:** President noted that all the committees are running well.

**Vice President's report:** Planning for June event going well. Dinner will be at Shamrock's in St. Paul with dessert and coffee in the gardens of Lee and Jerry Shannon, and Terrace Horticultural Books. September and November meeting presenters have been booked.

**Membership Secretary's report:** Sharla confirmed that we are buying club hats. We have 7 new members since January. Membership committee will do 6 month follow-ups on new members to get their feedback on their experience in the club. We will do new inductions in September.

**Committee Reports:** Lyndale Park Garden has had 4 clean-up days canceled because of bad weather. The Flower, Food and Foto show is going fine. The MGCM-TV committee will have 3 shows ready shortly and are training more members on the video and editing equipment.

**Old Business:** The Board talked about having alternative fund raisers in 2012 to supplement or replace the public tour. It was acknowledged how important the public tour has been to MGCM and our scholarship program as well as the fact that it requires a huge amount of planning and coordination. It was generally agreed that it is worth brainstorming other events that might raise similar funds.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Rathe, (Acting) Recording Secretary

# MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.



---

## Inside:

---

Page 1	2011 Events, June Event
Page 2	From the President & Ed.
Page 3-4	June Event details
Page 5	Treasurer, Caterers
Page 5-6	July, August Events
Page 7	Reprint: Tour Article
Page 8	Board Mbr: Jan Johnson
Pg 9-10	Photos from Plant Auction
Page 11	Board Meeting Minutes

---

### 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**

*June*  
*2011*