



The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2005, Volume 63, Number 12



December Holiday Celebration

* * WINTER MAGIC * *

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6th
At Lake Harriet Methodist Church



6pm: Social time, silent auction bidding, punch and hors d'oeuvres

6:30pm: Dinner, buffet style

Following dinner: Awards Ceremony

Entertainment: Unknown at this time

Reservation deadline: November 30th

Our annual Holiday Party tradition will take place at our regular meeting location, Lake Harriet United Methodist Church. We will be serving buffet style with a choice

of two entrees. Assistance to your table will be available. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with punch and hors d'oeuvres, social time and time for bidding on the silent auction items. Dinner will be served at approximately 6:40 p.m. There will be entertainment following the program given by two talented musicians who will put together a medley of songs some of which (if not all) will be familiar to each of us. So, get your reservations in soon. And we will see you there.



A Word from the Prez

Greetings,
So here we are, another year older and hopefully a bit wiser. It's been a fun year and I have enjoyed the time I have spent serving the club as president.

For me, making new gardening friends and getting to know others better are two of the rewards of being involved in the club. A big Thank-you to the members leaving the board at the end of 2005. Rudy Allebach, Ellyn Hosch, and Don Stuewe. They have all done a great job over the past 2-3 years.

And welcome to the new members serving on the board for 2006. Margaret Landry will serve as vice president, Sharla Aaseng will serve as membership secretary, and Elaine Spiegel will serve as a director. I am already looking forward to visiting their gardens as we travel around to everyone's home for board meetings.

I hope all of you have enjoyed the programs Kristine and others have brought to the club meetings this past



Halloween 2005

year. Remember, if there is a gardening topic that you wish to have a program about, just let someone on the board know about it and we will do our best to pull that together.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Dec 6 dinner party at which time we will adorn Kristine with the turkey jacket.

Jesus is Born!
And so it is Christmas.

David



*** * WINTER MAGIC * ***
Holiday Party

**Please reserve a place for my guests and me for the Winter Magic
Holiday Party at 6:00 p.m. on December 6th, 2005.**

Cost: \$19.00 per person

Location: Lake Harriet Methodist Church

Please reserve _____ place(s)

for _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Reservation deadline: November 30th

Send reservation form and check made payable to MGCM to:

Jackie Overom

14024 Frontier Lane

Burnsville, MN 55337-4728

New Member Spotlight

New member: Margaret Saxrud

4000 23 Ave, So. Mpls, 55407

612 721.6728

Hobbies: Bike, hike, dog training, and gardening.

How did you hear about us? MGCM member Mary

Wahl - sister.

Welcome!



A Note from the Editor

by Jason Rathe

This is the time of year when gardener writers tell us they gladly trade in their trowel and gloves for those tools that help to dream and plan for next year's garden: books, magazines, mail-order catalogs and pen and paper. I couldn't agree more. And as a garden designer my blessings are multiplied, since I get to plan and dream about a number of gardens over the winter.

I have enjoyed getting to know president Dave McKeen and all the board members better this year through their submissions to the newsletter. To Ellyn, Don and Rudy, thanks for the time you have put in to keep the club going. And I look forward to Kristine's "A Word from the Prez" next year.

Mary is going to take over the publishing again next month. I will be going to Queenstown on the South Island of New Zealand for three weeks over Christmas and New Years with my wife's family. Of course, New Zealand is a wonderland for plant lovers and I look forward to seeing lots of tree ferns, podocarps and tussock grasses as well as visiting a few gardens. Having two editors makes missing a month a lot easier to manage. Thanks, Mary.

Happy Holidays,
Jason

Thank You! to
outgoing boardmembers:

Ellyn Hosch, Past President
Don Stuewe, Membership
Secretary
Rudy Allebach, Director

Your service is
much appreciated.



MGCM Financial Report

As of November 15, 2005

Income - \$12,659.32 (full year budget is \$20,350)

Expenses - \$14,566.03 (full year budget is \$26,060)

Club Net Worth

Cash on hand - \$100

Checking account - \$4823.90

CD's - \$10,079.32

Total - \$15,003.22

Total Membership is 115. 45 attended the January meeting , 51 attended the February meeting, 37 attended the March Meeting, 48 attended the April meeting , 53 attended in May. 44 attended in June, 31 attended the July tour, 46 members and guests attended the August tour, 47 attended the September meeting ,50 attended the October meeting and 41 attended the November meeting.

MGCM Tidbits

A couple changes of address to file.

*Harold and Phyllis Gulde
7128 France Ave. South #331
Edina, MN 55435*

*Carleton Nelson
9401 Lyndale Ave. S., #215
Bloomington, MN 55420*

*Glenn G.C. Olson
1235 Yale Place #1001
Minneapolis, MN 55403*

MGCM Has a 'Destination Garden'

By Kay Wolfe

The Perennial Gardens in Lyndale Park that MGCM has created have become a destination! The Trial Garden and Perennial Mixed Border together are a 300 foot long border in Lyndale Park in Minneapolis, near Lake Harriet. Our gardens were the site of a wedding this past October. Committee member Mollie Dean said she was driving by the Trial Garden on Saturday, October 8, and "saw a wedding ceremony taking place with the bride and groom standing in front of the beautiful banks of chrysanthemums with all the guests gathered around." Mollie says "the garden has reached the ultimate in garden destinations---a tribute to the good work of all the volunteers over the last several years." Mary Lerman of the Park and Recreation board said the couple originally requested to be married in the Peace Garden, but before their wedding they toured the park, and picked the spot in front our garden.

Committee member Tim Rosener said that he never thought he'd see this area become a garden again. Tim has been the head gardener at the Lyndale Park Rose Garden and is retiring after 27 years. When he first began working in the park, he said they would plant all the left over annuals at this site. But after they stopped



Hot Coffee & muffins on Nov. 5! L to R: Dave Johnson, Mary Maynard, Mollie Dean, Kay Wolfe, Tim Rosener, Rodger Sefelt, Nancy Duncan, Tim McCauley, Robert Kean, Nancy Bjerke, Jason Rathe, MT Pulley.

raising plants in green houses, the area was left to go wild, and Tim said he would go over and mow it down now and then. Now he helps our committee plant and mulch and water the garden. Tim's contribution has been invaluable—together we have been able to make the garden a success.



In this season of thanksgiving, I am honored and thankful to be the chair person of such a wonderful committee. It is a most rewarding job! We are all justifiably proud of our efforts. And thanks goes to the club also for the Perennial Garden Committee and Arbor Day funds that are use to purchase plant material for the garden.

The Trial Garden project is overseen by Robert Kean. He coordinates taking data, collected by Master Gardener Dale Longfellow, and getting plants from Neil Anderson, U of M Professor who runs the perennial trials. The Mixed Border (or Display Garden) is designed by Rodg Sefelt, Mary Maynard, Jason Rathe, and myself. The committee runs two work crews, Saturday and Evening. Bob Redmond heads the Saturday crew and Rodger Sefelt the evening crew. Tim Rosen-

(Perennial Garden cont. on pg 9)



Club Reports

Minutes of the board meeting held 10-25-05 at David McKeen's. Present were Leroy Cech, Kristine Deters, Elizabeth Hamilton, Elyn Hosch, David McKeen, Denise Rust, Don Stuewe and Don Trocke. Absent was Rudy Allebach.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: MSHS and church rental payments are due. David is currently doing setup for monthly meetings at church. The caterer would do this job for \$.25 per place setting; our meal cost is \$8.75 and \$9.00 is charged per person, so we will let the caterer do dinner setup starting in January. The church key will be turned over to Leroy Cech as he is usually the first to arrive.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Attendance at October meeting was 47% of membership. YTD expenses are paid up. Holiday party expenses are yet to be paid. No memorial money will be spent this year. There is a likelihood based on volunteer hours our club puts in at the Perennial Garden that a memorial plaque will be okayed by the Minneapolis Park Board but not go into place until 2006. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded this year at the Holiday Party.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT: Holly Gustafson was approved as a new member.

Current update on membership renewals was passed around, with over 50 having renewed thus far. Don was thanked for his two years of service; his successor will be Sharla Aanseng.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Nominations are complete for October elections. President Kristine Deters, VP Margaret Landry, Treasurer Leroy Cech, Recording Secretary Denise Rust, Membership Secretary Sharla Aanseng, Past President David McKeen, Members at Large Elizabeth Hamilton, Elaine Spiegel and Don Trocke. Thanks to all outgoing Board members and to all who have signed on for the coming year!

NEW BUSINESS: There will be four board meeting next year, in January, April, September and November, specific dates to be announced. It was suggested that we list MGCM programs in the Home and Garden section of the Minneapolis Star Tribune for some free publicity.

NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 at 7:00PM at the home of Don Stuewe. All incoming board members are invited.



November Club Meeting



Part of the MGCM Board (from left to right): Elaine Spiegel, Denise Rust, Leroy Cech, Sharla Aaseng, Margaret Landry, Kristine Dieters



Sharla Aaseng

Members voted in the new board during the November Meeting. The new board is as follows: Kristine Dieters, President; Margaret Landry, Vice President; Leroy Cech, Treasurer; Sharla Aaseng, Membership Secretary; Denise Rust, Recording Secretary; Elizabeth Hamilton, Don Trocke, Elaine Spiegel are Directories; and Dave McKeen, Past President. *Congratulations and thanks for your service!*

November Speaker: Marleane Callaghan

Naturalist and avid gardener, Marleane Callaghan, shed some light on the topic of gardening for wildlife. Marlene has worked as a naturalist for Wayzata Public Schools for the past three years. A garden can attract a wide variety of wildlife, some coveted guests others gluttons and thieves (like deer, squirrels and racoons). The marquee wild ones might be songbirds, hummingbirds and butterflies, but Sharla points to other delightful stop-ins like dragonflies, and even bats and frogs.

(November Speaker cont. on pg 9)



(Perennial Garden cont. from pg 6)

er is our liaison gardener on the Park Board—with his retirement we'll be hunting for a new contact. The tireless workers are Nancy Bjerke, Carole Ann Brekke, John Dahl (who also feeds the rose bushes), Mollie Dean, Nancy Devine, Nancy Duncan, John Groos, Ada Hegion, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Maury Lindblom, Mary Maynard, Tim McCauley, M.T. Pulley, Jason Rathe (who also obtains commercial plant material for us), Carol Schreier, and Lloyd Wittstock.

And as we work in the garden, numerous passersby stop to chat--and are amazed that “volunteers” are creating this garden. A couple people have wanted to join the club—that is how we recruited new member Mollie Dean. One August Saturday the Park Board Commissioner from the area, Jim Fine, stopped and thanked us for our work. And Mary Lerman can't thank us enough. So the garden is certainly being appreciated by all. And its creation is only possible due to our collaborative efforts. So thanks again!

Gratefully,
Kay Wolfe

(November Speaker cont. from pg 8)

Its all about the right plant choices. Sharla recommends any tube-shaped flower to invite the hummingbirds. She, herself, planted borders of sages and salvias for this purpose. And butterflies love native plants like beebalm, butterflyweed and hyssop. Eighty-six species of dragonfly are known to live in Minnesota. If you have water in your garden, try to attract a spectrum of these colorful insects with vertical plants near the water - grasses and cat-tails are a good bet.

Thanks, Marleane, for sharing your passion for gardening and wildlife!

Confessions of a Lazy Gardener:

Old Reliables - Tender Bulbs

by Mary Maynard

Our mild fall was great, wasn't it? We were able to enjoy dahlias into November, and in some parts of the core cities even tender annuals like impatiens were blooming on Veterans Day. And then the bottom fell out.

One good thing about this extended falls is that I was able to get all my tender bulbs dug in the daylight.

It's much easier to dig twelve different varieties of dahlias, six varieties of cannas, three kinds of elephant ears plus callas and fairy lilies when it isn't necessary to hold a flashlight in one mittened hand while trying to get everything out of the ground before the blizzard hits.

While I was doing my digging, I thought about reducing the variety in my hodgepodge garden. This is an annual exercise, usually conducted during the fall, when I'm sick of digging up tuber after corm after rhizome. I know I will never actually do it, but, I thought, what if I had to choose only one or two varieties? I'm glad I don't have to do it, but here's what I'd choose:

Dahlias - tall. (It's impossible to choose just one dahlia, so I've subdivided already.) 'Red Velvet' is a great waterlily daylily. The flower is red with petals tending toward yellow in the center. And it starts blooming earlier than almost any other dahlia in the garden, and it keeps going until frost. A close second is 'Jessie G', which is a beautiful purple ball form on a very robust plant. But it's a little later than 'Red Velvet', and I like things that get going early.



Dahlia 'Park Princess'

Dahlias - short/dwarf/'border': 'Park Princess'. There's a reason that some old standards are still so common. In the case of 'Park Princess', it's because this is simply an excellent grower and prolific bloomer. 'Park Princess' forms a nice bushy plant about 24" tall, and the pink cactus-form flowers are always a standout. And it's very easy to find the tubers -- no need to go to a specialty grower to get it. Dahlia snobs may turn up their noses at the Princess, but it's always a favorite. There are getting to be a lot of nice dwarf dahlias. 'Fascination' has very red stems and leaves and a fuchsia peony flower. And 'Ecstasy' was great in 2004, less exciting in 2005, when the heat

got to it in July. Cannas. 'Black Knight'. This is another older standard, with reddish leaves and big red flowers. It's vigorous and healthy, and the leaves make a bold statement. I'd hate to only grow one Canna variety, though, because there are such exciting things happening in the canna world. I really like 'Intrigue' and 'Cleopatra', and I couldn't do without 'Tropicanna' in my containers. Plus, the hummingbirds really like my old green leaved canna with small red tubular flowers, whatever it's called.



Canna 'Black Knight'





Elephant Ears. *Colocasia antiquorum* 'Illustris'. While it's tricky to keep this one over the winter, Illustris is hands down my favorite in the alocasia/colocasia/xanthosoma family. It's a stand-out in a large container, and suffers very few problems outdoors, although it can suffer from spider mites indoors in the spring before it's warm enough to go outside. It's great paired with Coleus 'Black Beauty' or 'Gay's Delight', which echo the chartreuse and dark purple/black coloring. If winter survival were the main criterion, the plain green *Colocasia esculenta* would be the best, and I'd hate to do without *Xanthosoma* 'Gold Leaf'. Which explains why my garden is such a hodgepodge.

Callas. Since I only have one calla, and I don't know the name of it, it's not hard to choose. I have a very old yellow variety with spotted leaves. I got it from one of my neighbors, who got it from his mother in the 1930's. I grow it

mainly for its interesting foliage, since it rarely flowers for me. As a foliage accent, it does very nicely in the shade. Also, it reminds me of my friends John and Norma, who lived in our neighborhood for many years and only recently moved to a condo. I don't know if we have any specialists in most of the tender bulb areas, but I'm sure that Harold Gulde or Carleton Nelson would select very different dahlias than I did.

But I believe we have established in the past that neither Harold nor Carleton would meet the definition of "Lazy Gardener". Nobody who has grown the quantity and quality of dahlias that Harold and Carleton has could ever be called lazy!



Colocasia 'Illustris'



Dahlia 'Red Velvet'



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Inside

Page 1	Holiday Party
Page 2	A Word From the President
Page 3	Holiday Party RSVP
Page 4	Editors Note
Page 6	Perennial Garden
Page 7	Board Notes
Page 8	Nov. Meeting Review
Page 10,11	Lazy Gardener

Club Officers:

President: David McKeen
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park
Vice President: Kristine Deters
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights
Recording Secretary: Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park
Membership Secretary: Don Stuewe
3624 Robinwood Terrace, Minnetonka
Treasurer: LeRoy Cech
212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville
Past President: Ellyn Hosch
436 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis

Directors:

Rudy Allebach
3414 The Mall, Minnetonka
Elizabeth Hamilton
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Don Trocke
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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First Class Mail

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