



The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
 2005, Volume 63, Number 6



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
June 14	LHC	Terry Schwartz
July 12		Garden Tours
Aug 9		Garden Tours
Aug. 20-21	Arb.	FFF
Aug (TBD)		Club Tour
Sep.	LHC	Flower Arranging
Oct.	LHC	Wildflower Gardening
Nov.	LHC	Landscaping Wildlife

LHC = Lake Harriet Church
 WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church
 MF = Marshall Field's Downtown
 Arb. = U of M Landscape Arboretum

June Speaker: Bailey Nurseries' Terry Schwartz On Roses

Terry Schwartz will speak about the breeding, selection and characteristics of Bailey Nurseries' line of Easy Elegance roses and how they compare to other roses on the market. Read Terry's bio on page ten.



Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the June dinner meeting are in effect. Permanent reservations are shown by the "p" on the mailing label or by the email message for those receiving the newsletter by email.

Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Anne Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.

For last-minute cancellations, call LeRoy Cech (952 435-7621). If he can sell it, you won't be billed.

June Dinner Meeting June 14, 2005

Gathering and Conversation	-----6:00 pm
Dinner	-----6:30 pm
Business Meeting	----- Approx. 7:00 pm
Program	----- Approx. 7:30 pm



A Word from the Prez

Greetings,

I recently returned from a trip to the Netherlands with twenty of my relatives. We had a great time and enjoyed seeing many tulips and beautiful scenery. We were there when the country celebrated Queens Day. On this day, everyone dresses in something orange and the whole country has a garage sale. We were also there as they celebrated Liberation Day from the Germans at the end of WWII.

It seems as though it has been cool and rainy since I got back. As much as I enjoy a good rain-storm, I need a few warm days to get the soil turned and things planted.

Is anyone trying some new plants this year? Did you pick up something new and interesting at the plant sale? I'm trying a new lobelia that is suppose to be more heat tolerant called "Laguna Sky Blue." I have heard some good reports about it.

David McKeen



A picture from Dave's Trip

A Note from the Editor

by Jason Rathe

In answer to Dave's question whether anyone is trying something new - I ordered some new phloxes from Roots & Rhizomes. They are called the "Feelings Series" and appear to have rather monochromatic flower color - something I seem to be attracted to. From the pictures, they kind of remind me of the color of some of the nicotianas or maybe German Statice.

Their names are Natural Feelings, Pleasant Feelings and Fancy Feelings. They all come from a plant hybridizer named Rene van Gaalen, who seems to specialize in out-of-the-ordinary plants. One plant in the series, 'Empty Feelings' doesn't even flower. It just creates bracts.

My attraction to plants like this probably says something about me. But I'll leave those conclusions to others.

Happy gardening!

Jason Rathe



'Natural Feelings' Phlox

Getting To Know Our Board

Ellyn Hosch

I developed a love for my two favorite hobbies—gardening and cooking—as a young child growing up in the southeastern corner of Minnesota. It seemed that every relative had a garden, usually vegetables, but sometimes cutting flowers. My mother had a bed of red cannas that she planted every year along the back of our yard. I remember sitting between the rows of cannas enjoying the cool shade. With both of my hobbies, I wasn't able to really enjoy them until I was an adult.

We bought a house 8 years ago—the house was referred to as the “Addams Family house” by the neighbors. The yard was completely bare except for a couple of rhubarb plants and a pink peony. The pink peony is still here, but the rhubarb is gone. Into my small city lot I continue to pack as much garden and as many plants as I can. My garden is filled with perennials, with a few annuals tucked in spots to provide summer-long color. I have little space for a vegetable garden and am only minutes from the Minneapolis Farmer's Market. This summer is a “touring” one for us. In May, we were on the Twin Cities Bungalow Club Kitchen Tour. Over 300 people toured our house, and many strolled through the garden as well. In July, my garden will be on the MGCM Members' Tour.

Like many members, I have Mary Maynard to thank for bringing me to a MGCM meeting and sponsoring me as a member. I've learned so much from everyone in the club. Whatever my question, there is always someone who will know the answer. My time on the Board has enabled me to meet most of the members. As past president, I chair the Nominating Committee, which fills the slate of candidates for Board positions. I encourage you to either volunteer or to say “yes” when approached to serve on the Board. You will find it a great experience!



New Member Spotlight

Leann Britton: 408 North 1st Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Leann is retired and working on her Masters in Horticulture at the University of Minnesota. Leann gardens at her summer home in Pepin, Wisconsin, where she lives on Lake Pepin. Leann also works as an assistant to the chefs at Cooks of Crocus Hill cooking classes.

Hobbies: Gardening, sailing, cooking and reading.

Committees: Membership, Perennial Garden, Plant Auction. On committees as needed.



*Fine planting weather at
the Perennial Garden*

A Word of Thanks

By Douglas R. Whitney



I am writing to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the MGCM Annual Country Store, Plant Sale and Auction on May 3, 2005.

First, on behalf of the entire Club, I want to extend a public endorsement and enthusiastic acknowledgement of our longstanding relationship with Bachman's Garden Center and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. These two separate entities, one a privately owned and operated business, the other an adjunct of the University of Minnesota, consistently donate to the Sale each year the most interesting and newest plant materials available. I simply cannot say enough about these two civic and garden community leaders. Every cent we realize on the sale of these items is profit to the Club. We owe this great boon to the strength of our membership which includes Lloyd and Todd Bachman from Bachman's, and to Peter Olin, Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Secondly, I wish to thank everyone in the club who donated Silent Auction items, plant materials for sale at the Country Store, raffle items and door prizes. I hesitate to list the names of the donors because I would surely overlook someone. I can only emphasize how important these generous members are to the success of the Sale and the financial well being of the Club. Every penny realized from the sale of these donations is profit.

I am humbled and awed by the efforts of every

member on the Plant Auction Committee who gave so generously of their time and talents in the organization and execution of the Sale. I haven't ever enjoyed the entirety of the event more completely than this year, and it has never run more smoothly and efficiently. We owe our collective thanks to these dauntless gardeners who work together so joyfully in making the success of the event possible.

Finally, all whose lives are enriched in any measure from association with MGCM must thank everyone who purchased plant materials or attended the dinner at the MGCM Annual Country Store, Plant Sale and Auction on May 3, 2005. This includes members and guests alike. Without the proceeds from the Annual Sale, I believe we would need to quadruple the size of our annual dues for the Club to continue to operate on a par with the way we do. That would feel like a large tax increase. Instead, the Sale raises the funds in fellowship. It is simply a much more fun way of getting the job done.

Again, thanks to all of you. As all of the invoices have not yet arrived, I cannot yet give a complete report on the full success of the event. I expect to have it all wrapped up by publication of the July Spray.

Your humble servant,
Douglas R. Whitney



Flower, Food and Foto Show - From the Eyes of a First-Timer

by Anne Buchanan

If you've never entered flowers, food or fotos in the FFF show (or any show), you're in for a treat.. Ever coveted a blue or red ribbon? Here's your chance. And if I can win the first-timer FFF trophy, so can you! You might think it's hard to find nice plant specimens toward the end of the season. And you'd be right! But you'll also be amazed to notice the many potential entries growing in your yard at that time of year. It's certainly the best time for harvesting vegetables. (Warning: there's stiff competition in the veggie category, and you may have to be a weight-lifter to carry in the winning entry .)

Every August, MMGC sponsors the Flower, Food, and Foto show in a large hall at the MN Landscape Arboretum. I had gone the previous year just to look, and was impressed with the many plant entries—zinnias, daylilies, elephant ears, hanging baskets, perfect roses, more types of squash than you can imagine, and a host of spectacular photos. The FFF Show is open to the public and also encourages entries from non-MMGC club members. It's also a nice way to introduce new people to the club.

The week before last year's show, I decided to enter. It was time to read the contest rules. I discovered there are scads of different categories and that there are yearly picks for favorite vegetable and flower. Each year's event has a theme, and last year's was "The Wizard of Oz". This year's is "Minnesota Festivals".

As I considered entering, I thought I didn't have anything good enough. I asked my neighbor Bob Redmond if he had material he was entering, and he said no, but that it was ok for me to take in some of his flower and grass specimens to enter in his name. Unfortunately, because I picked the material the night before, I learned a lesson that lost Bob some ribbons, I know. His flowers, lovely when picked Friday night were a bit rough by the next morning. (My apologies, Bob.)

Last year's theme for flower arrangements, "The Wizard of Oz" suggested lots of possibilities for the imagination . I started on my entries three days ahead (not recommended). Luckily, I had gone to garage sales that week, which yielded some wonderful bric-a-brac: a yellow daisy ceramic vase for the Yellow Brick Road, and a large mug in the shape of a woman—Dorothy!-- and a tiny glass pitcher to hold Munchkin flowers..

For the dried materials category, I headed to the basement, where I found dried materials saved to make wreaths. I also made secret forays into my husband's workshop for metal parts to create a Tin Man. What did I find but an honest-to-goodness old-fashioned oil can—the perfect base. But the arrangement required wrecking its mechanism and wrenching off the top. It helped later that I could tell my husband that there were two more left in the shop. Dick has gotten used to shaking his head when it comes to me and anything garden-related, and was his usual gracious self in allowing me to use his shop--with some supervision. If he couldn't identify it, I had free reign to its use. What emerged the next day was a tin oilcan man with the spigot for one arm, and a coat hook for the other. A silver-sprayed wooden birdhouse stood in for a head.

(cont. on page 6)

First-Timer

(cont. from page 5)

Miscellaneous bolts, curtain rod hardware, nuts, and unidentifiable stuff were piled onto a dowel to make a chest. The main challenge was getting the top-heavy contraption to stand up without tilting over and crushing the dried flowers. (Although I must say it survived several spills on the drive in.)

Here's the best part: On Saturday a whole crew of folks piled into the Arb with buckets, loose bouquets, all scrambling to empty their cars, fill vases, and fill out tags before the judging began. When there were three categories my flower could fall under, someone was there to help me find the best fit.

Decisions about what to enter were often made on the spot. In fact, legend tells that several winning arrangements have been created on the tables right outside the judging room—using the flowers discarded by other entrants. Despite lots of teasing and spirited competition, I was practically handed a ribbon before the judging even started. When I placed my dried arrangement on the judging table, Chuck Carlson (also an entrant in that category) kindly whispered that I had put a scarecrow where the tin man needed to be. We performed a quick adjustment, and it won a ribbon!

The tensest point of the morning was when the bell rang, signaling the beginning of judging. There followed a fast flurry of food and flowers into the judging room. The next tense part of the morning is waiting while the judges are working. But if you have the chance to watch, you can learn a lot about their job—what the winning qualities are, and how even alignment of the



stem and the cork in a vase can matter when two entries are equally worthy.

I'll close with a few tips for first-timers:

- 1) Bring address labels for all those tags you will fill out
- 2) Get familiar with the rule book and identify the categories of your materials before you arrive
- 3) Pick flowers that morning if you can—even overnight they can lose their spunk
- 4) Don't forget foliage, hanging plants, or indoor plants
- 5) Also, remember the earlier deadline for photo entry.
- 6) You'll need buckets and/or vases to transport the plant material but the vases for showing are provided at the Arb.
- 7) Volunteer for the FFF committee and be part of choosing next year's theme!
- 8) And remember Mary Maynard's advice in choosing what to bring to the show::

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Woods and Wildflowers for Sale.

Doug Smith, a former MGCM member, is moving back to the Twin Cities and would like to sell his place near Hackensack to a gardener. Doug and his wife moved to the former Tillium Lake Wildflower Farm twenty years ago. Their 40-acre property includes a 6-bedroom cedar home, two outbuildings -- one of which includes a greenhouse -- a tamarack swamp where over a hundred stemless lady's slippers bloom, a 1-acre pond that's visible from the house, and hardwood forest with mowed trails. The previous owner had added many wildflowers, and there are hundreds of trilliums that bloom each spring. Doug and his wife have added some formal perennial gardens to their place, and he has maintained over an acre of lawn for those gardeners who like to garden in the sun. The large mature trees make this a very beautiful setting.

Some of our members who have been around a while probably remember visiting Doug's place some years ago. We hope he rejoins the Men's Garden Club when he returns to Minneapolis.

If you are interested in taking a look at Doug's property, please give him a call at 218-682-2279.



Club Reports

Treasurer's Report: One of the scholarship recipients from last December never cashed their check. Tried to track the individual down with no success. No stop payment will be issued as this costs \$29. Chuck Carlson gave \$50 towards slide show programs. Sunshine Comm. fund absorbed \$63.37 in memory of Mel Anderson. Attendance at April meeting was 48.

Membership Secretary's Report: New member Leann Britton was approved, bringing membership total to 111. Bob Voight will get together a few club members to discuss ideas for inducting new members into the club. There will be an induction of new members at the June meeting.

Old Business: A Memorial Committee continues to look into putting a brick pathway by the Lake Harriet Perennial Garden similar to one in Loring Park. Two Valleyfair work days were scheduled for club but neither took place as a minimum of five need to participate and there were not enough volunteers. We will not attempt to schedule another work day at this time.

New Business: MGCM currently has eight honorary members and our current membership allows for up to three more (10% of membership). Ten active members can bring a new name to the board for consideration as honorary members.

Next Board meeting will be Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 PM at Rudy Allebach's

MGCM Financial Report

As of 5/12/2005

Income - \$9211.50 (full year budget is \$20,350.00)

Expenses - \$7833.21 (full year budget is \$26,060.00)

Note: Last month I gave you incorrect budget numbers

Club Net Worth

Cash on hand - \$100

Checking account - \$8188.22

CD's - \$10,000

Total - \$18,288.22

Total Member ship is 112. Meeting attendance: January-45, February- 51, March- 37 , April - 46

Plant Auction Information:

Gross Income - \$6092.5

Expense to date - \$2754.48

Profit - \$3338.02

If anyone has any Plant auction bills, please send them to me ASAP so I can finalize the report.



Coleus: Awesome Variety in Color and Shape

by Margaret Landry

The coleus (*Solenostemon scutellarioides*) is MGCM's flower selection for our annual Flower, Food, and Foto Show, August 20 and 21, 2005. Both cut specimens and coleus containers will be considered for the award. The show schedule calls for three stems of "normal" coleus or 2 stems of "giant" coleus. Any container entry that is only coleus will be considered -- whether it is submitted as a patio plant, collection of plants or hanging basket.

I remember the first time I saw a coleus, I was in awe. A college acquaintance of mine had an entire north-

facing window filled with coleus, in winter.

Coleus plants are known to provide long lasting color to the shade border and for being popular indoor container plants. Since only one book dedicated to the coleus has been published and most garden books give only brief mention to it, Wouter Addink, a Dutch hobby gardener felt compelled to put up a coleus web site. After being out of favor for a period of time, the coleus has regained popularity with gardeners particularly after breeders introduced sun loving coleus known as sun coleus in the 1990's, and recently reintroduced the large leaf Kong variety.

www.coleusfinder.org is a great source for identifying coleus varieties. This site has a search utility allowing searches by leaf shape and color of border/center, and includes 1115 pictures of 1141 cultivars named on the site. Wouter Addink, clearly a coleus enthusiast, has obviously worked hard to make the site useful and welcomes suggestions for additions and coleus stories, and provides links to discussion groups and 34 suppliers.

(cont. on page 9)

Three of the Most Popular



Coleus Palisandra



Coleus Copper Queen



Coleus Limelight



Coleus Alabama Sunset

... and how about this looker?

Coleus *(cont. from page 8)*

One item I found to be particularly fun on the coleusfinder.org site is the photo gallery of Wouter's hybridizing experiments. To the right are a couple of examples from 2003.

If you've been experimenting, you could share your photos on the site as well... &/or you could share some unique plants at next year's plant sale!

Another great source I found on the internet is Glasshouse Works, which has a gallery of photos of 275 cultivars... I could look at them all day. www.glasshouseworks.com.

Growing Coleus

- Coleus can be propagated by seed or cuttings, depending on the variety.
- Coleus needs a well-drained soil—any type of soil, as long as it's well drained.
- Fertilize monthly.
- Space coleus between 12 and 18 inches apart. Mulch the entire area to keep weeds down and retain moisture.
- Water thoroughly at planting time. After that, water when the top one-inch of soil is dry. Check the soil every 3 to 5 days and water accordingly.
- When you see flower buds, remove them. To encourage bushiness, pinch out the center stem when the plant is 4 to 6 inches tall.

Coleus Pests

- Yellow strippling on leaves is indicative of mites. Spray under the leaves with cold water in the early morning to knock off the mites.
- Whitefly can cause small plants and poor color. Spray the undersides of the leaves with insecticidal soap every 3 to 5 days for two weeks.



Coleus 'Diane's Gold'

Coleus 'Cardinal'



Coleus 'Black Night'

First-Timer *(cont. from page 6)*

"If in doubt, bring it!"

The main reason to enter and attend the FFF Show is to have a good time, with lots of enthusiastic garden lovers.. I won the first-timer's trophy for a large number of entries some excellent luck, and some of my grandmother's green thumb.. Was I excited? Ask Dave McKeen, who, upon seeing me leaving with the trophy under my arm, told me that first it needed to be engraved and held for the yearly award's ceremony.

I began uncertain whether to entered the show last year. But I discovered that participating was a lot of fun. I hope you do too.



Terry Schwartz Bio

I have worked at the nursery for 31 years. In that time I have been involved in all phases of production and planning. I have spent time in China and Japan studying their rose markets with our rose breeder.

I am one of 5 members including our rose breeder Ping Lim who guide, study, analyze, recommend introductions and selection of roses to be introduced throughout the world for Bailey Nurseries. Bailey Nurseries currently produces over 1 million roses for sales in North America. Our main focus is hardy, disease resistant roses of which many are highlighted in our Easy Elegance line.



Planting day at the Perennial Garden

2005 Garden Tours

The tour committee met May 17. The 2005 Club Tour dates will be Tuesday nights, July 12 and August 9, starting at 6 pm. They will both be drive yourself, free, and open to guests. The July spray will contain the map and complete information for the July tour and the August Spray for the August tour. This is a new format for club tours to see if we can avoid the bus challenges, the low attendance on Sunday afternoons in August, and seeing the last garden in the dark on the evening tours after we've enjoyed time for our socializing over dinner.

The July tour will probably include 4 gardens ending at Dave McKeen's garden for dessert at 8:45 pm. If you wish to volunteer to make a dessert to this, call Bob Redmond (612-822-4109). The July Spray will have a contact number to call to tell the committee that you and your guests are attending, so we have enough desserts.

(Tour info from Margaret Hibberd who will take comments at 651-644-8149 or by email.)

Flower, Food and Foto Show Featured Vegetable: Squash



Each year, the Flower, Food and Foto Show features one vegetable and one flower. In the days of our affiliation with the MGCA/TGOA, these were called the “National” vegetable and flower because the national organization sponsored the awards.

This year’s featured vegetable is squash. Both winter squash and summer squash entries will be considered for the award. The Show schedule requires one specimen for winter squash and three specimens for each summer squash entry.

Both winter and summer squash are easy to grow, requiring sun and well-drained soil. They are not fussy about soil pH, and there are even some squash that will do well in containers. Probably pretty big containers.

The main summer squashes are zucchini and yellow squash, both of which are excellent growers. But I have to admit I’ve always had a soft spot for Pattypan or scallop squashes. There’s just something cool about their shape. According to the MSHS Exhibiting and Judging Handbook, we should “select small to medium size fruits when the rind is soft and easily punctured with a thumbnail.” About 1/2 inch of stem should be left on the fruit, and they should be wiped clean. Zucchini and yellow squashes should be about six to eight inches long, and pattypan squashes should be from two the three inches in diameter.

There are a lot of varieties of winter squash, including Hubbard (if you want a lot of squash), butternut, acorn, and butternut (my favorite). Most of them need

about 80 days to mature, so we don’t see as many winter squashes at the FFF. The Exhibiting and Judging Handbook says that specimens should be mature, and the rind should resist the pressure of a thumbnail. About 2 or 3 inches of stem should be left on the fruit.

So, if you’re growing some squash this year, think about bringing them in for the FFF. We’d love to see you!

Jerry and Lee Shannon are featured on the front page of the Summer 2005 Issue of Minnesota State Parks TRAVELER. Jerry and Lee have visited 63 state parks over four years, and logged 197 miles of hiking. Jerry says, “This is my health maintenance program. Walking is the best exercise. It’s the fresh air to clear your lungs and your mind. It’s the thrill of setting a goal and making that goal, even when you have doubts about it.”

FFF Committee meeting announcement:
Thursday, June 23, 7:30 p.m. at Mary Maynard’s house 4375 Dart Avenue, St. Louis Park 952-926-7506. Let Mary know if coming or not.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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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

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First Class Mail

June
2005