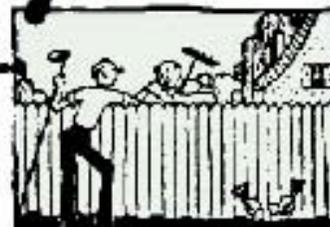




The Garden Spray

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

2005, Volume 63, Number 5



May Plant Sale

On Tuesday, May 3, 2005, MGCM will hold its major annual fundraiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store at Westwood Lutheran Church (9001 Cedar Lake Road, Saint Louis Park). The schedule of events is as follows:

4:15 PM Country Store Volunteers who work the sale can buy in the Country Store;

4:30 PM SILENT AUCTION BEGINS

4:45 PM COUNTRY STORE OPENS TO EVERYONE;

5:45 PM Dinner is served;

6:30 PM Dinner tables cleared and stowed, chairs set up for Live Auction

6:45 PM LIVE AUCTION BEGINS

Reservations Required for
Dinner at the Auction.
Permanent reservations are
not in effect. (see pg. 4)

Plant Sale Order of Events

by Douglas Whitney

This year we will be welcoming several new members of MGCM to our annual Plant Sale and Auction. As in past years, following is some information about how the Auction part of the event proceeds. I have been asked to explain three aspects of the auction process.

We will begin the bidding from the gallery. If the pace of the event bogs down, we will shift back to minimum bids. If we do this, the minimum bid will be set below retail but above our cost. Should the high bid on any item fail to return a fair margin over

cost, we will not accept that bid. Then we either hold the item(s) back for auction at a later time, or assign a price for sale at the Country Store after the Auction. However, I believe that this is unlikely to occur as everyone understands that this is a fundraiser for our Club.

In the past we have offered 8 or 10 flats of some material like geraniums, perhaps two flats each of four different colors, on the auction table. This has often resulted in the successful bidder selecting two flats of the geraniums. Then, perhaps one or two other members select a flat at the winning bid price, log their

(cont. on page 11)



A Word from the Prez

Greetings,

The picture this month shows my nephew Alex wearing the turkey outfit that I wore when I was made president. It sure fits him better than uncle Dave, and he sure enjoyed it when I carried him over my head around the house.

It was good to see many of you at the April meeting. We listened to a great program by Gary Wittenbaugh on dwarf conifers. He sure has a passion for growing dwarf conifers. I'm sure many members left the meeting looking to add some to their own gardens. My thanks to Bob Livingston for arranging the program with Gary. If anyone has a topic they would like to see covered, or a speaker they would like to hear at one of our meetings, please let our program chair Kristine Deters know and we will get the ball rolling.

I won't be able to join in on the fun this year at the plant auction because I will be traveling in Holland with my wife and 20 of my Dutch relatives. I always enjoy the plant auction and I'll miss not being there. My thanks to Doug Whitney and all his fine helpers on the plant auction committee. Many of them show up to set things up at 7a.m. and others stay late to get things cleaned up.

Have fun and get dirty,
David McKeen

NEW MGCM Website!

Andy Marlow is glad to announce the garden club website has been moved to its own server. The new address is:
www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org



*Dave McKeen's nephew, Alex.
Future Club President?*

A Note from the Editor

by Mary Maynard

Well, spring jumped out and grabbed us this April, didn't it? This week, while I was valiantly trying (and failing) to catch up to my neighbors in the spring cleanup, I thought about how my perspective has changed over the years. For many years, for instance, I steadfastly refused to put any healthy garden waste out on the curb for our yard waste pickup. Even the woody stems from the Russian Sage, and the giant sticks from plume poppies were religiously stacked in the compost pile, even though they took forever to compost. And I have fussed and worried if I didn't
(cont. on page 3)

Getting To Know Our Board

Leroy Cech is Treasurer

After a thirty-year career with Ford Tractor/ Ford New Holland/ New Holland, I decided to have a life and retired. The thirty years included traveling in almost every state of the country and most of Canada. (Selling, marketing and training) All these activities were based out of Minneapolis, Wisconsin and Michigan.

After retirement, I decided to take golf lessons and carving classes. Even though I enjoyed both tremendously, I soon found out that I didn't have time for either. I became a Dakota County Master Gardener, joined the Dakota County Garden Club and in 2002 joined the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Those activities along with time spend at our cabin near Ely plus fulfilling the duties of grandfather to two grandsons barely leave enough time for me to go to the Northwest Athletic club five days a week, with the obligatory coffee meeting after.

My wife Carol retired this year which means we can now make a few more trips to Madison and Chicago to visit our two children and grandchildren and also allowed us to journey to the Czech Republic for a nieces wedding this past December. This spring we also traveled to Charleston, Savannah, and the Biltmore Estates for home and garden tours.

My/our garden is slowly losing grass area and gaining more flowers. The front yard includes a butterfly garden to hide the utility box, Carol's tea roses and my shrub roses. The back yard is mainly a shade garden winding through our trees plus a few vegetables in the sunny area. I recently installed a fence to try to keep



the deer out and now need to re-landscape around the fence. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

By far, my favorite flower is the bearded iris. Unfortunately the iris's life isn't long enough, and I have to include every other flower possible to keep the color going.

Editors Note: Leroy is also an amateur winemaker - he donated a couple of bottles to the Holiday Party last year.

Note from the Editor (cont. from page 2)

have at least 75 bags of leaves to shred up and distribute as mulch every spring. Now, I am finding that giving myself permission to put a bag of garden trash on the curb once in a while is a rather liberating experience. I still compost most of my stuff, and I am definitely a net importer of organic material, but not every single stem and stalk needs to stay on the property. And, after some City workers failed to read my mind and collected 30 bags of leaves that I had intended for the back yard last year, I discovered that I could get along just fine with fewer leaves than before.

And, this year, I am going to give myself permission to leave those bare spots in the garden that I worked so hard to fill last year before the Public Tour. They will revert to bare spots again this summer, and I will still enjoy my garden regardless.

I remember taking a stress management class many years ago, and one slogan from that class, "Don't 'should' on yourself" has stayed with me. Most of the pressures of gardening are self-imposed, and maybe it's OK to let some of our own rules go once in a while so that we can stand back and enjoy the view. I am still learning.

See you at the Sale!



Bearded blue iris - close up



April Program Notes:
Gary Whittenbaugh on Dwarf Conifers
by Mary Maynard

April's speaker was Gary Whittenbaugh from Olwein, Iowa. Gary "got religion" about gardening with conifers about 20 years ago and has never looked back. His 80-slide presentation included many unique conifers, ranging from miniatures that grow less than one inch per year to full-sized landscape trees. Gary has a preference for what he calls "funky" varieties, so his slides included a fair number of weeping varieties. Slides of Gary's own yard were stunning. And slides of specimens included so many fascinating conifers that a beginner almost wouldn't know where to start. Thanks very much to Kristine Deters and Bob Livingston for making arrangements for this excellent speaker.

For those of us interested in more conifer-based excitement, the 2005 Central Region meeting of the Conifer Society will be meeting at the Minnesota Landscape



Pinus strobus 'Pendula'

Our guests from Iowa

Arboretum on June 24-26. For more information, check out the American Conifer Society website at www.conifersociety.org. Membership in the American Conifer Society is \$30. Those who signed up at the meeting on the 12th got a free starter conifer. Very tempting!

Reservations
 Required for Dinner
 at the Auction.
 Permanent
 reservations are not
 in effect.

Send reservations
 and a check to
Carole Ann Brekke
709 Rushmore Drive
Burnsville, MN 55306

Reservations are due Friday, April 28th!!!!

Reservation for Dinner at the Auction
 Please reserve a place for my guest and me
 for the Dinner on May 3rd, 2005

Members Name: _____
 Guest Name(s): _____
 Enclosed is my check for _____ dinners @ \$9.00 each for a total of \$ _____
 I need _____ places on the Bus

Reservation and payment must be received no later than April, 28th.
 Send to Carole Ann Brekke,
 709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville MN 55306-5161

Perennial Garden Committee News

By Kay Wolfe

It's the beginning of the Gardening Season! And the MGCM "Perennial Garden Committee" is busy creating and maintaining gardens in Lyndale Park in Minneapolis. So if you don't have enough gardening to do at home, join this committee. The MGCM park gardens are located in Lyndale Park near Lake Harriet, across the street from the Rose Garden and east of the Peace Garden.

The Perennial Trial Garden is a cooperative project with the University of Minnesota's Department of Floriculture, the Minneapolis Park Board, and MGCM. Companies that grow and sell plants, such as 'Blooms of Bressingham' and 'Proven Winners', donate 20 plants of each variety to be grown in the trial. There are five trial sites: University of Minnesota in St. Paul and Morris, Grand Marais, Lutsen, and Lyndale Park. Four specimens of each variety are grown for three years to evaluate hardiness, flowering potential, and disease and insect resistance. The data is published on the University's Plant Trial website.

Behind the six foot wide Trial Garden is a spacious border which the committee is designing and planting with a mix of perennials, shrubs, and ornamental grasses. This Perennial Mixed Border displays new cultivars of low maintenance hardy plants that homeowners can plant



in their own yards. The committee donates its budgeted funds to buy plants each year. MGCM's first effort to beautify this Minneapolis park was in 1952 when the club planted 200 flowering crab apples. Only a few of these trees remain, but the work of contributing to the parks continues.

Join our committee for Saturday spring work days. Dates and times are yet to be determined and will be published by e-mail. Or phone Kay Wolfe (Mixed Border) or Robert Kean (Trial Garden) for details. A plus to joining this committee is free trial plants when they are dug out. We have great fun and the best donuts, so don't miss the Saturday work days!



**The flowers appear on the
earth; the time of the singing
of the birds is come...**

Song of Solomon 2:1



Toenail Fungus

Do You Go Barefoot in the Garden?



by Phil Smith

Older people often have this problem, whether or not they go barefoot or bare anything in the garden. I have recently learned of an inexpensive and easily available cure for this toenail problem, which is Vicks VapoRub salve. Without knowing much about it, I wonder if going barefoot in the garden increases the risk of toenail infection.

In the Naples, FL area where I spend the winter, our newspaper is Naples News, and one of their popular columnists is Dr. Peter Gott, who I think is from Ohio. I do not recall seeing his column in the Mpls-St. Paul papers, but it has been a while.

Anyway, he endorses the use of Vicks VapoRub salve as a daily treatment for the toenails. Once or twice a day, rubbed into the nail. It takes about a year to get totally rid of the fungus, but everyone who tries it says it works.

The other medical treatment for the problem seems to be a prescription drug by name of Lamisil. The problem with this drug is that it can cause liver and kidney problems.

Soooo, in preparation for the coming gardening season, you may want to wear shoes, along with the bikini or short shorts. Also, lots of bug spray.



MGCM Financial Report

As of 4/13/2005

Income - \$2058 (full year budget is \$19,417)

Expenses - \$3700.97

(full year budget is \$23,909.79)

Club Net Worth

Cash on hand - \$100

Checking account - \$5166.96

CD's - \$10,000

Total - \$15,266.96

Total Membership is 110. 45 attended the January meeting, 51 attended the February meeting, 37 attended the March Meeting and 48 attended the April meeting.



Board Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2005

By Denise Rust

Present: Leroy Cech, Kristine Deters, Ellyn Hosch, David McKeen, Denise Rust, Don Stuewe

Absent: Rudy Allebach, Elizabeth Hamilton, Don Trocke

President's Report

Persons on the Permanent Dinner Reservations list will be charged for their meal if they do not cancel by the designated deadline.

VP's Report

We filled the bus (cap. 50) for the Marshall Field's/Bachman's flower show and so the cost was covered. April and May meetings are set, but looking for a program for June.

Treasurer's Report

2004 taxes are done. Non-profit status is updated for 2005. A \$50 memorial donation was given by Mary Maynard in honor of Mel Anderson. Ideas for what to do with surplus funds: a memorial, increase scholarship amounts, a donation to the Arboretum, do something for the members; nothing decided at this time.

Membership Secretary's Report

No new members. Will do plentiful reminders to renew membership next time rather than calling people.

Notes

Donations for the silent auction at the May meeting will get a 501.3c letter noting their donation.

New Business

An informal Memorial Committee is going to look into spending some of the memorial fund.

There is a possibility of installing a hard path along the edge of the Perennial Trial Garden.

Plan is to get the word out looking for members who need rides to meetings and connecting them with others willing to pick them up. Something will go into the Spray about this.

Next meeting will be April 26 at 7:00 PM at Don Trocke's (note change of location).



To Pinch or Not To Pinch

by Chuck Carlson

To Pinch or not to pinch that is the question. In Italy I heard the ladies get pinched. Just what does a good pinch do? Well for one thing it shows affection and hope for continued growth. This may not always be true for all the ladies but in the garden a pinch as “Martha” would say, “Is a good thing.” A lot of plants thrive on a good pinch. If you grow mums, you probably have done your share of pinching to get more blooms.

Pinching is a numbers game. You can pinch flower buds to get bigger specimens like those dahlia exhibitors are prone to do or the pinching to change the growth habit and get more blooms.

The following, will discuss the process that will make a more filled out plant with more flowers, or delays the growth to get blooms later in the year to extend the flowering time. In this article pruning will be used in the same light as pinching but will use shears rather than your fingers. Pruning on the other hand can be more drastic but it is not the pruning to remove dead or broken branches or to rejuvenate a woody plant or shrub.

In general, pinching is the process where terminal growth is removed with your thumbnail. This can be done with a scissors but takes a bit more time. The growth terminal on some plants is the uppermost growth on each stem but on other plants there may be side growth terminals also. Many think that removing the terminal growth will stop the plant from growing but what really happens is that it promotes growth. Plants usually send their energy to its tips (terminals) and force the first flowers to bloom. But if this terminal is removed, the plant will send the energy to the lateral buds. These are the buds in the leaf axils just waiting to get the go ahead. Now that the process has been explained, it is time to explain the two methods.

Pinching the terminals is done to create a plant that is more full and less spindly. It will also have more flowers and thus more spectacular to the eyes. In other words it will be a big mound of eye candy. This will somewhat delay the flowering time and the flowers may be a bit smaller than if no pinching was used but there will be more flowers and the overall effect will be more aesthetic.

Pruning on the other hand removes more than just the terminal growth and used to delay the plant's growth. This method cuts each of the growing stems in half early in the growing season and before any flower buds have formed. This does two things, it creates a shorter plant so that when heavy flower heads form and the plant doesn't flop over. A good example of a plant that flops is the upright sedum. I have one that flops every year. I always say that I am going to get a screen for it to grow through but by the time I remember to do it, the plant has grown too high. This year I am going to try pruning it.

Another method of pruning is to cut back half of the stems. The main reason for doing this is to extend the flower season. The uncut ones bloom at the normal time but the ones that have been cut bloom after the early ones have bloomed and deadheaded.

Now a caution--- Not all plants can or should be pinched or pruned. Those shrubs and trees that bloom in the spring should not be pruned until after they bloom or all flowers for the year will be lost. Examples are: Lilac, Magnolia and any other plant that flower buds formed on the previous year's growth. There are also those perennials that should not be pruned to change the flowering time. Examples of these are: spring bulbs, siberian iris, peony, astilbe and many others. Before you do this pruning method,

(cont. on page 9)



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
May 3	WLC	Plant Auction
June 14	LHC	Terry Schwartz Tours
July		
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!

Terry Schwartz from Bailey Nursery will talk about roses during our June meeting.

- Kristine Deters



Rare Butterfly Sighting: Denise Rust at the Como Conservatory new building opening

To Pinch or Not to Pinch

(cont. from page 8)

try just one plant or just a few branches or shoots.

Some of the plants that work good for this method are bee balm, dianthus, veronica, balloon flower and many others. Bee balm is prolific enough and tall enough that it is a really good choice and root pruning for thinning may also be a good practice.

Have some fun and try it you may like it. The parts you cut off may also make some good cuttings for propagation.

The reference for this article is the Garden Gate magazine.



MGCM's THIRTEENTH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Get your cameras out and start snapping! This competition is to encourage good horticultural photography. The photos will be exhibited on August 20 & 21, 2005 at the Flower Food & Foto Show held at the Minnesota Arboretum and at our September dinner meeting. All submissions should be mailed to Lloyd Wittstock at 913 19th Ave. S.E., Mpls, MN 55414. The deadline is July 31st, 2005. Anyone, whether they are an MGCM member or not, is eligible to enter. The Photographs (Prints Only) can be submitted in the classes as shown below. The contest judges reserve the right to further break down the classes if there are too many entrants in a class.



↑ **Rue Anemone**
□ by Ann Margaret Phillippi

Rock Roses □
by Bob Livingston ↓



Photo Classes

- Class 1. Annuals and Biennials
- Class 2. Perennials (includes daylilies)
- Class 3. Roses
- Class 4. Bulbous Flowers (lilies, tulips, minor bulbs, cannas etc.)
- Class 5. Container Grown Plants (closeups without container are allowed - example; orchids closeup)
- Class 6. Trees, Shrubs, & Woody Vines
- Class 7. Vegetables, fruits, Herbs (any edible plant)
- Class 8. Club Activities
- Class 9. Scenes of MGCM gardens - use the member's name in the title.
- Class 10. Groups of cultivated plants or flower beds.
- Class 11. Natural Landscapes
- Class 12. Wildflowers (must be in the wild)
- Class 13. Misc. Category (educational, series, trick shots, staged items or anything not fitting into the other classes.)
- Class 14. Digitally Manipulated Images only




May Plant Sale
(cont. from page 1)

purchase, and the Committee removes the remaining 3 to 6 flats and proceeds to the next variety of plant materials.

Last year we auctioned such materials by color. It didn't take any longer that way, so we will continue to do it this way. Regardless of method, the high bidder is entitled to his/her choice (1 flat minimum) of the amount and selection of the variety upon which he/she bid. The second high bidder then gets to choose from the remainder (1 flat minimum). After that, whoever else may be interested in this material may select what remains on the table at the bid price, (no less, 1 flat minimum) subject to someone else getting that color or that flat first.

If members choose to split a flat at this stage, that's fine, but it gets charged to the account of one member who has to collect from those with whom the flat was split. Please don't ask to have partial flats billed to a bid number account. It complicates the job of Lloyd Weber and Mike Nagangast, our data entry expert. It slows the auction and stresses our grace filled (not necessarily graceful) volunteers.

What about the remaining materials that weren't sold during the auction? Anyone with a bid number can

wait around until the live auction has closed to attempt to purchase what is left over in the Country Store after a firm price for these materials has been set. However, 1st dibs on post-auction remainder materials goes to auction workers who were actively engaged in the live auction.

After that, no one gets anything from the live auction for less than retail until event clean up is completed. At that time those who have fully participated in clean-up may get a price break from Ritchie Miller, Dave Johnson, Bob Stepan or myself. Under no circumstance will we go below our cost plus 25 %, we may not go that low, and the pickins can be pretty slim at that point.

The mission of the silent auction, live auction and country store plant sale is to raise money for the annual operating budget of MGCM. We would be engaging in a shameful conflict of interest to do otherwise.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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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
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington
Don Trocke
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First Class Mail

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