



# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
 2005, Volume 63, Number 10



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Oct. 11	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

## October Dinner Meeting October 11, 2005

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

### Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the October 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.

## October Speaker: Rob Bowen - Prairie Restorations

Rob Bowen from Prairie Restorations, Inc. will be the speaker for the October 11th meeting. Their mission at Prairie Restorations, Inc. is simple. For over 25 years, they have designed, restored and managed prairies, wetland, woodland and other native plant communities for homes, businesses, schools and government offices. In business since 1977, they provide knowledge and experience with regards to seeds, plants and landscape services. They have five Minnesota locations where they grow seeds and plants and provide services: Princeton, Moorhead, Northfield, Watertown and Duluth. The site north of Duluth supports native boreal woods and wetland communities. Rob will be speaking about wildflower gardening including prairie plants and woodland flowers.





## A Word from the Prez

Greetings:

I'm often asked if I feel sad watching summer come to an end, and having to see all the annuals fall victim to a killing frost. I say "bring it on". I thoroughly enjoy the end of the growing season and look forward to the coming fall. I love pulling out the exhausted annuals and thinking of what to try next year. I do miss the long days of summer, it's sad to see the sun go down soon after supper.

My favorite garden this summer was a random mixed planting of yellow tuberous begonia, 'Gladiator red' wax begonia, and lavender fanfare impatiens. The color combination turned out great. I have also enjoyed growing elephant ears (*Colocasia esculenta*). They have big beautiful leaves with wonderful veining that seems to glow when the sun hits them just right. Many of the leaves measure 24" across and 36" long. I will always have a spot in the garden for these beauties.

Make sure you take time out of your busy schedule to visit the ornamental grass collection at the Arboretum. It's a beautiful spot and the grasses look fabulous. I suggest going in the evening to see the sun setting on those beautiful miscanthus seed plumes.

Our vice president is currently calling around looking for members willing to serve on the board for 2006. Please be open to her invitation and think about how you will be involved in your club next year. Your input, ideas, and participation are greatly appreciated

Enjoy the fall season,  
David McKeen



Towering castor bean



Flowerbed on tee box



## *A Note from the Editor*

by Jason Rathe

### Editor's Note:

This is my it's-already-been-a-year notes, but really - counting this October issue - I've only worked on ten months worth of issues. I guess the early autumn rhythms spur me to reflect and I am amazed at the quality and variety of the submissions we have been lucky enough to publish in this newsletter.

We've had articles on a Mexico retreat garden, informative overviews of hydrangeas and coleus, the interesting biographies of our board members and their garden experiences and the always lively submissions by the Lazy Gardener. I really enjoyed, too, the submission last month by Bob Olson suggesting the club include "in-progress" gardens on the garden tour, in addition to the classic gardens of long-time members.

I think the club is all about exchanging information and his suggestion seems fun and a way to engage perhaps a greater spectrum of members. In the same way, I encourage everyone to offer their experiences to the newsletter. Even in the last ten months there are examples of many types of articles you could submit. The easiest, especially as we all reflect on the past gardening season, would be to jot down a few plants

### **MGCM Financial Report**

As of September 19, 2005

Income - \$10,709.32 (full year budget is \$20,350)

Expenses - \$10,740.19 (full year budget is \$26,060)

#### Club Net Worth

Cash on hand - \$100

Checking account - \$6,699.74

CD's - \$10,079.32

Total - \$116,879.06

Total Membership is 112. 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 and 47 attended the September meeting.

that you especially liked in your garden this year. We accept everything great or small, just send it to the editors at the following e-mail addresses:

[jason\\_rathe@msn.com](mailto:jason_rathe@msn.com)

[maynard4375@yahoo.com](mailto:maynard4375@yahoo.com)

Looking forward to the next 10 months.

Jason Rathe



## Getting To Know Our Board

*Elizabeth Hamilton is on the MGCM Board of Directors*

I can't go into my garden without thinking of my Mom. She is very much responsible for my love of gardening. Morning glories, sweet peas, peonies, roses and bleeding heart were some of her favorites. I wouldn't be without these plants in my garden (although the Sweet Peas don't always cooperate). My Mom has multiple sclerosis and is in a wheelchair but her and I manage to maintain a small perennial/annual garden at the nursing home where she lives.

I come from a family of 8 children and grew up on a farm in northwestern Minnesota. My Dad worked road construction while I was growing up so the majority of the child rearing fell to my Mom. Being one of the older children (third) chores was something I learned early. We had a large vegetable garden, so canning was an annual event and I can remember many times where we spent the day (begrudgingly) weeding. I have worked for 36 years at Northwestern Bell/ US WEST/Qwest. My plans are to retire sometime in the next 4 years.

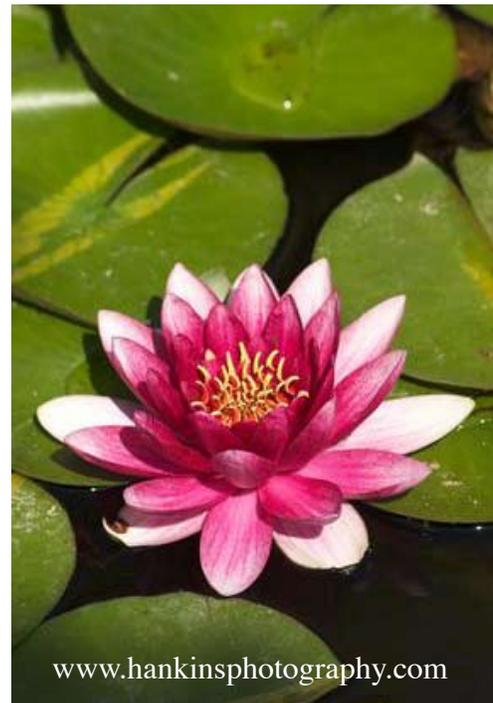
My gardens have been a work in progress since I moved to my house in 1984, but with my two sons (Kevin 22 and Brian 19) needing me less and less, the past 5-6 years have been busy for me in my yard. I finally have had the time to complete some of the projects I had dreamed about. I am blessed with a yard that has full sun to full shade and everything in between. I have packed as many plants as I can in the available space. Shade gardening has really become a favorite of mine. Last year I installed and stocked a koi pond with a five level waterfall. I have had great fun landscaping around it and choosing the plants to go into the pond. I have a beautiful hot pink night blooming water lily that is my favorite (yes, it stays

open during the day). I can think of nothing better than sitting along side my pond feeding my fish, reading a book or just day dreaming. I have just recently joined the Minnesota Water Garden Society and I am looking forward to becoming more involved.

This summer I increased the boulevard garden alongside my driveway. This will be my last big project and the last of the grass removal. My kids keep telling me I won't have any grass left pretty soon, and just shake their heads. From now on I plan to simply maintain and enjoy my existing gardens. But for those of us, like me, who gladly admits to her gardening addiction, there will always be new varieties I will want to find homes for.

I have so enjoyed my membership in the MGCM. I have learned so much from everyone in the club. The wealth of information that is available thru our membership is amazing.

Elizabeth Hamilton



[www.hankinsphotography.com](http://www.hankinsphotography.com)

Pink Waterlily



### 2006 MGCM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip+4

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you are a Master Gardner \_\_\_\_\_

Please list me in the directory as a mentor gardener. My specialties are \_\_\_\_\_

Please include me in the share and/or trade plants list. If interested,  
please include categories of plants \_\_\_\_\_

Categories of plants  
e.g., Don Stuewe - Hostas, shade plants.

I will serve on the following committees (minimum of two) as I am able. Please circle your choices.

- |                           |                        |                     |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Arbor Day              | 9. Membership          | 17. Tours (Club)    |
| 2. Auditing               | 10. Perennial Garden   | 18. Valleyfair      |
| 3. Awards/Trophies        | 11. Photography        | 19. Youth Gardening |
| 4. Flower, Food, and Foto | 12. Plant Auction      |                     |
| 5. Garden Spray           | 13. Publicity          |                     |
| 6. Historian              | 14. Scholarship        |                     |
| 7. Holiday Party          | 15. Sunshine Committee |                     |
| 8. Hospitality            | 16. Telephone/E-mail   |                     |

I am willing to chair the \_\_\_\_\_ committee.

MGCM annual dues are \$10.00. If you would like to join the Minnesota State Horticultural Society through us, the dues are \$45.00 (\$10+35) for a single membership or \$48.00 (\$10+38) for a dual membership. Please make your checks payable to MGCM.

TOTAL RENEWAL DUES ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your check by OCTOBER 30TH to:

Don Stuewe  
3624 Robinwood Terrace  
Minnetonka MN 55305-4330  
952 933.2250

**PLEASE PAY BY CHECK!!!**

WELCOME BACK !!!

## FFF: The Photo Contest Grows On Us

This year, there were 22 photographers who entered prints in the Foto part of the Flower, Food, and Foto show. There were some great exhibits, and a close race to the winner's circle. A photo finish, you might say.

Nine people shared honors for first place ribbons in the 14 categories, with 17 sharing the seconds and thirds. Once again, we were treated to virtual tours of home gardens, public gardens in Minnesota including the arboretum, of course, and scenes of wild and landscaped splendor in Arizona, Hawaii, and elsewhere.

The Best of Show winner (coleus) and the Sweepstakes winner--the most points--was member Jean Doolittle, followed closely by member Leroy Cech, whose unusual subject (fungi) earned him a reserve champion ribbon.

Thanks to all the participants and to the judges, Bob Livingston, Ada Hegion and Elaine Spiegel. We had the photos on display at the September meeting, and Andy plans to scan them into our club Web site. We hope to see *your* photos next year in the 14th annual contest.



### **New Member Spotlight**

Mollie Dean, 4138 Wentworth Ave, Mpls, 55409

H - 612.825.2771

Molliedean@msn.com.

Hobbies: hiking & reading.

How did you hear about us? Met Kay Wolfe at perennial garden. Committees checked: Perennial Garden.

# Is it P or G

By Chuck Carlson

*Should we call them pelargoniums or geraniums?* I have been amazed at the number of times I have been asked, "What is the name of that plant." I tell them it is a geranium and they respond, "It sure doesn't look like a geranium." Geraniums are not always what we are thinking about. It could be the plant we use as annuals in the "North" or it could be the perennial that is hardy here in zone 4. Pelargoniums are zone 9 hardy flowers we grow as annuals and take into our houses in the winter but many (including the garden centers) still call them by the common name "Geranium". To really distinguish what we are talking about we should use Geraniums for the northern hardy varieties and Pelargoniums for the zone 9 plants. Now that the name thing has been revealed, lets just pursue the pelargonium.

## A STEP BACK IN TIME

The first plants--*Pelargonium triste*--were brought from South Africa to England. A Dutch botanist brought back fragrant *Pelargonium cucullatum*, which is an ancestor of the regal geranium. Other explorers collected *P. peltatum*--the ivy geranium--*P. inquinans*, and *P. zonale*; the latter two



*Pelargonium windowbox*



*Pelargonium*

VS.



*Geranium*

played a major role in the formation of the modern geranium, *P. xhortorum*. African pelargoniums quickly became popular conservatory plants, although rare enough that only the "well-to-do" could afford them. By the beginning of the 18th century, they were hybridizing species and propagating the new plants from cuttings. As early as 1732, references were being made to *P. xhortorum*, the garden geranium.

In 1760, seed of pelargoniums arrived in America. Thomas Jefferson brought a number of plants from France by in the '70s and '80s. He called them geraniums but they were pelargoniums. It wasn't until the end of the 18th century that pelargoniums were placed in their own genus. For decades they were listed as species of *Geranium*, the European perennial. Separation finally was based on the shape of the floret, which is really an umbel made up of a cluster of florets, and the seed capsule--both of which are quite different from that of *Geranium*.

Names notwithstanding, the difficulty in hybridizing pelargoniums was in getting plants to produce seeds and then getting the seed to germinate. Many of the best-known hybrids at that time were actually sports (natural mutations) of existing *Pel-*

*(cont. on page 10)*



**Pictures from the September Meeting:**  
*Ardith Beveridge from the Kohler  
and Dramm Institute of Floristry*



*Volumetric Design*



*Vertical Design*



*Table decoration: On the wild side*



*Table decoration: Elegance*



*Members enjoying dinner*

# Confessions of a Lazy Gardener:

## Summer Survivors

by Mary Maynard

Nobody can say we didn't really have summer this year, can they? All those hot, hot days got the annuals going strong and kept my water bill in the stratosphere. And it provided a distinct challenge to the gardens I help maintain in our neighborhood park.

This summer, we had construction in Browndale Park, where a new park building is going up. The building is a dramatic improvement over the old one, and we're thrilled to have it. BUT -- one of our gardens was within the construction fencing, which made it very dif-



*Allium 'Summer Beauty'*

ficult for the park maintenance workers to get water to the garden. And, we had to move our butterfly garden to make way for this new building, and the new site is in full, hot sun. Also, our regular water source in the park was turned off because of the construction. Our park workers did their best, but the gardens really suffered. It was painful to see.

The construction project includes new water spigots near both gardens, so next year we can water to our hearts' delight. In the meantime, we learned some-



thing about plants that can take the hot, dry weather and ask for more. Here are the real standouts:

**Allium 'Summer Beauty'.** This is a vigorous allium that has smaller mauve-pink flowers in mid-summer. We got it from Ambergate. Looks very nice in mass plantings, and seemed to thrive in the hot weather. It has green, upright strappy foliage that looks good all summer and forms large clumps rapidly so that dramatic mass plantings are possible in only a few years.

**Allium 'Ozawa'.** This allium originated in Japan, I think, and is shorter, and it blooms later -- well into the fall. Got this from Ambergate as well, and it has survived very nicely.

**Sedums.** Our gardens have a lot of sedums, and they're going to get more. With the exception of 'Frosty Morn', which seems a little fussy about location, all of the tall sedums looked terrific all season. Our little gardens have 'Autumn Joy', 'Matrona', 'Purple Emperor', 'Moorchen', 'Neon' and 'Mediovariegatum'. They carried the day while the rudbeckias wilted and the nepeta disappeared.

**Salvia asurea 'Nekan'** (Pitcher sage). I got this from Plant Delights last year and didn't think it came back this year. But it's back and looking good in late September.

And, finally, a couple of annuals. While the snapdragons and ageratums hunkered down and waited for cooler weather, we had constant color from *Cosmos bipinnatus* 'So-



*Salvia 'Nekan'*

(cont. on page 10)





ums, only a few of which are widely grown. The pelargoniums we grow most often in our gardens and homes are divided into four basic types:

1. Zonal, or common (*Pelargonium xhortorum*);
2. Ivy-leaved (*P. peltatum*);
3. Regal, or Martha Washington (*P. xdomesticum*); and
4. Scented-leaf (*P. graveolens*, *tomentosum* and others).

Within those types, some can be propagated from seed and some only vegetatively from cuttings.

Seed or Cutting? What do you look at first when you purchase a pelargonium? Color, probably. The look of the flower itself--whether the florets are single, semi-double, or double--may influence you when you consider how you're going to use it--massed in a garden bed or spilling from a hanging container, for instance. Pelargonium flowers are composed of a cluster of florets, and each floret is single, semi-double, or double (only one type to a plant) of one color or bicolor. Chances are you may not be aware if the pelargonium you're buying was grown from seed or a cutting. There are advantages and disadvantages to both.

*Seed-grown.* Pelargoniums from seed are primarily available in single-flowered form only. Their flowers tend to shatter--a drawback for growers but an advantage to gardeners because you don't need to groom the plants, pinching off dead blooms. The colors can be spectacular and include a wide range: bright red, scarlet, scarlet-and-white, orange-salmon, coral, pink-and-white, soft pink, hot pink, pure white, and lavender. Zonal and ivy pelargoniums are the types you can grow successfully from seed but can be



*Pelargonium 'Taj Mahal'*

grown from cuttings also.

*Cutting-grown.* Pelargoniums grown from cuttings--vegetatively propagated--can have single, semi-double or fully double florets. You can tell if the pelargonium you bought was cutting-grown by noting the type of floret it has (semi-double or double) and by observing whether or not the flower umbel shatters. If the umbel does not have a tendency to shatter it probably is a cutting pelargonium. Gardeners usually remove the dead umbel from the plant for cosmetic reasons but it also helps reduce the risk of fungal diseases. In addition to zonal and ivy types, regals (Martha Washingtons) and scented-leaf types are cutting-grown pelargoniums.

Reference: The above article used the National Garden Bureau's "Year of the Geranium" as its basis. Both revisions & direct lifts were used.



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

## Inside

Page 1	October Speaker
Page 2	A Word From the President
Page 3	Editor's Note
Page 4	Know Our Board
Page 5	Member Renewal Form
Page 6	FFF Foto
Page 7, 10, 11	P or G?
Page 8	Sept. Meeting Pics.
Page 9,10	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**  
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212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville  
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### Directors:

**Rudy Allebach**  
3414 The Mall, Minnetonka  
**Elizabeth Hamilton**  
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington  
**Don Trocke**  
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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**

*October*  
*2005*