



# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
 2006, Volume 64, Number 4



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Apr. 11	LHC	Feng Shu
May 9	WLC	Plant Auction

LHC = Lake Harriet Church  
 MF = Marshall Field's Downtown  
 WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

### April Dinner Meeting: April 11th, 2006

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 April 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.

## 風水 Feng Shui : Elaine Anderson

Feng Shui, the four thousand year old art of placement, can be used to create harmony in your garden as well as your home. What if making intentional changes to the placement of objects, color scheme, or the shapes of paths, could change your luck, your health, or simply create a feeling of peace or balance in your garden? It's an enticing prospect and I'm looking forward to Elaine Anderson's April 11 presentation which will be a condensed version of a longer workshop she teaches.

Elaine R. Anderson, BSN, RN began Red Tortoise Feng Shui in 1999. Certified in both western and traditional compass schools of Feng Shui, she also serves on the board of the Feng Shui Institute of the Midwest. She provides consultations, classes and workshops on using Feng Shui in the home, garden, therapeutic landscapes, business, educational and healing settings. As an offspring of her consulting work, she creates Red Tortoise Treasures: Intentional Jewelry and Adorn-

*(cont. on page 9)*

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.



## A Word from the President

*by Kristine Deters*

Wow! What a show. The Marshall Field's & Bachman's Spring Flower Show 2006 did it again. Each year I am amazed at the artistry and creativity that is on display. It is always a much needed pick-me-up after a long winter. It was particularly suitable this year after the snow we had the week of the opening of the show.

This year I was particularly drawn to the floral sculptures. The arbor with the orchids was an amazing display of bright colors and solid structure. The arrangement was so intricate and detailed that I did not notice at first the many vials holding the blooms. The colors were bright and showy yet the overall display did not seem too busy. I could imagine that type of display against a wall in our gardens – with a few plant substitutions of course. I also admired the pier with its wavy ground cover and petite purple blooms. The Kwanzan cherry trees were so showy with full blooms and no leaves – I wish spring was here with our beautiful displays of crab trees.

I spent a little time thinking about past shows and remembering my favorite parts of each of the last few years.

Last year's show, Music in the Garden, displayed an "underwater garden" that was amazing. The display of waves of blue cineraria still pop into my head when I see a lake with rough seas. The succulents that were used to represent sea bottom life were unique and interesting.

2004's Garden of Make Believe had a display with a carpet of white flowers and a few red blooms that laid the foundation for a flying white horse. It was a whimsical touch that the child in me appreciated. The cacti room with succulents and bromeliads was a particular favorite of mine as I had just returned from vacation in Arizona and recognized several plants that I had just seen in the desert. 2003 brought us Flower Fairies. Each fairy brought us a special garden display with matching art theme. The live pony in a stable was a fun touch for kids and horse lovers both. Provence in Bloom was the show for 2002. The French villa in the middle of a downtown auditorium was so impressive. The lavender and sunflowers lit up the "French countryside".

2001 was a special show. "Linnea in Monet's Garden" was a show to remember. The water garden with Japanese bridge still sticks in my mind as one of the most peaceful and beautiful displays I have seen. The wisteria was in bloom and had a fragrance that permeated the auditorium.

Our trip to the show is always a favorite for me and sharing such beautiful displays with other gardeners is an experience I treasure. I hope Bachmans will continue to provide our community with shows for many years to come.

Kristine



## A Note from the Editor

by Jason Rathe

I hope everyone had a great time at the Marshall Field's Flower Show. The club is really lucky to have Dale Bachman personally introduce the show every year. I went back to the show with Sarah last week and dazzled her with my behind-the-scenes knowledge: the birch bark sheets shipped from some place in New York, the 10,000 ten foot green bamboo shoots (they HAVE to be GREEN), the special cherry wood ashes brought all the way from Japan, and that the "birds" flying above the whole display were dried leaves of bird-of-paradise. Dale's stories make the Field's Flower Show experience that much better.

The Plant Auction is coming up. Look on pages 6-8 for all the details. A large portion of the club's budget is funded through the Plant Auction so I hope everyone is able to make it.

I am sure all of you have seen the e-mails flying around talking about the Formosa termites lurking in your Florida mulch. Hopefully, everyone has also seen the follow-up e-mails debunking this false story - if not refer to the short blurb on page 9. It just goes to show that not everything we read on the internet is true -- is NOTHING sacred?

### New Member Spotlight

New member: Judy Berglund (Steve)



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Minnetonka, MN 55345-5523  
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wk: 952-975-1960  
email: [judy@berglund.com](mailto:judy@berglund.com)

### MGCM Bulletin Board

Howie and Deb Klier send thanks (*Howard and Arlis Klier passed away last month*), "Thank you for the beautiful flowers as well as the many members who sent cards and wishes of support. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated."

Past President, Ellyn Hosch, and Lee Biersdorf have gained recognition for their restoration efforts. Their house is included in a new book by Paul Duscherer and Linda Svendsen titled "Beyond the Bungalow: Grand Homes in the Arts and Crafts Tradition." The entire book is beautiful, featuring many lovely houses, but if you want to cut to the chase, Ellyn and Lee's house is shown on pages 26-28.

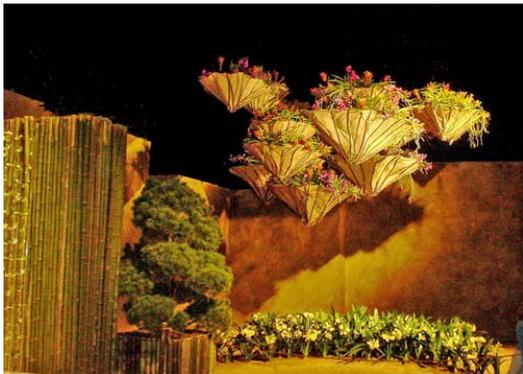
Jackie Overom's garden is featured in the April edition of *Midwest Home* (a supplement to *Minnesota Monthly* magazine). Jackie and her garden are the subject of "Healing Garden: A nostalgia-filled garden offers continuity and comfort", starting on Page 84. How cool is that?



*Dried bird-of-paradise leaves “fly”  
in formation across the ceiling*

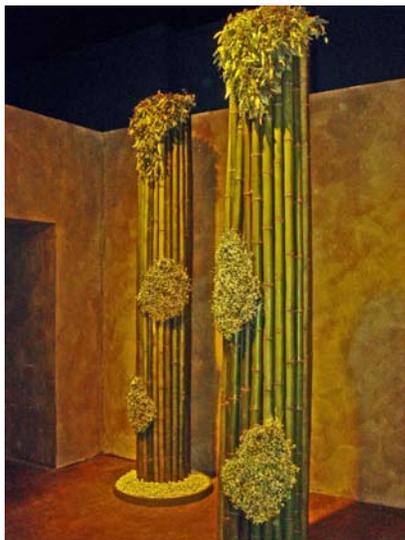
## March Event: Marshall Fields Flower Show

Sooo... it's Minneapolis in March and you are basking in the heavenly scent of flowers and greenery - you must be at the Marshall Field's and Bachman's Spring Flower Show. This year's show featured orient-inspired design of world-renowned floral sculptor Daniel Ost and the meticulous paper dresses created by Belgian designer Isabelle de Borchgrave.



*Upside-down umbrellas  
over-flow with orchids.*

We were dazzled by double-flowering cherries, masses of pink and white tulips, waterfalls of daffodils, a banquet of white flowers and creative displays of orchids and tropical bromeliads.



*Green bamboo columns  
with outgrowths of wax flowers.*



*Everyone went for this improvised  
trellis laced with huge orchids*



*Members discuss whether the tulips or daffodils made the most effective display*



*Orchid close-up*



*One of the paper dresses*





## Plant Sale, May 9th!

On Tuesday, May 9, 2006, MGCM will hold its major annual fundraiser, our Plant Sale, Auction and Country Store. 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

*Please remember : The lion's share of the clubs annual budget, between 60% and 75%, is raised during this event. A successful evening will help keep our annual dues at \$10 per member.*

Like last year, the "Pre-Auction Order Form" is not included in this issue of The Garden Spray. It simply doesn't fit any more because of the dramatically expanded number of varieties, sizes and containers in which the plants are available. The forms have already been emailed or mailed to all members. If you don't have one, call me at 612-724-8171 or email me (dwhitney@visi.com). I will see that you get one immediately. All of the instructions concerning how to use the order form, the prices, ordering information and other details are on the form.

Please return your order to me by April 10. The sooner I can get the complete order to our supplier, the more likely it will be that nothing we order will be sold out.

Over the last two years we have been successful in our effort to streamline the auction format. We have done this to insure that the event is interesting, well paced, ends on time, and continues to be well attended throughout the evening. It affords greater time for fellowship and for revisiting the Country Store.

We hope to build on this success. I encourage every member in the Club to help us in this effort. The one thing that everyone can do to make this year's event even more successful is **CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING FROM YOUR OWN GARDEN TO THE COUNTRY STORE**. If you can't bring it in ahead of time, bring it with you when you come to pick up your order or when you come for the opening of the Country Store at 4:30 PM, or to dinner at 6.

*(cont. on page 7)*



*(cont. from page 6)*

Each year we welcome several new members of MGCM to our annual Plant Sale and Auction. 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 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 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.

*(cont. on page 8)*



(cont. from page 7)

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.

[oregonstate.edu](http://oregonstate.edu)

If there are any annuals you would like to see offered this year that do not appear on the “Pre-Auction Order Form”, send me a note and I’ll attempt to find it (1 flat minimum). I’ll contact you if it works out. Call Dave McKeen or Tim McCauley if you have suggestions about perennials you’d like to buy at the Country Store. For specialty and premium materials you think would be interesting or exciting for the Silent Auction or Live Auction, we’d appreciate your help in locating the particular material you suggest. Call Bob Stepan for assistance and coordination in this.

Don’t hesitate to call me (612) 724-8034 with any other questions or if you need assistance extracting or delivering plant materials from your garden for the Country Store. I’ll put the arm on someone to help you.



## Peppers and Container Collections Featured in 2006 FFF

This year’s featured flower and vegetable for the MGCM Food, Flower and Foto Show includes something old and something a little on the unusual.

First, for something old, our featured vegetable this year will be the *pepper*. Both vegetable specimens and pepper plants grown in a container will be considered.

The featured flower comes from Section E of the FFF Schedule: Potted Plants. This year, the FFF will focus on *Collections of 3 or more plants*, either one pot per plant or all in one container.

Now is the time to start planning for entering the FFF. Get those pepper seeds started, and start thinking about a winning collection of plants in containers!



## TERMITES AND MULCH

Well, we've had some exciting emails in the last couple of weeks, haven't we? Many of us received dire warnings about nasty Formosa termites in wood mulch made from downed trees from Hurricane Katrina. It appears that this email is a hoax. It was purported to be from Louisiana State University, but LSU denies initiating it. While Formosa termites do exist in 12 counties in Louisiana, Jeff Hahn, entomologist with the University of Minnesota Extension Service says -- never mind! (OK, that's not a direct quote, but you get the picture.)

There are several reasons that we need not worry.

1. All wood products for the 12 counties are quarantined and cannot be shipped out of those counties for any reason without permission from the Louisiana Agriculture Department. So using wood from these counties for commercial mulch would be illegal.
2. Even if the Formosa termites did get out of quarantine, the process of shredding the wood and bagging it up would almost certainly kill them.
3. And if the shredding process didn't kill them, the reduced moisture and increased heat within the bag would almost certainly finish them off.
4. Formosa termites are not cold weather resistant, so they'd never survive the first winter in Minnesota -- even the wimpy winters we've had the past few years. In fact, since they don't survive prolonged temperatures below 40 degrees, they might not even survive April.

All that being said, if we think we might have termites in our wood mulch, we can put our bags of mulch in black plastic bags and place them in the sun until they get hot enough to kill insects.

(Information from Minneapolis Star Tribune and [www.extension.umn.edu](http://www.extension.umn.edu) .)



*(cont. from page 1)*

ments for your body and your home. A passionate gardener, Elaine teaches regularly at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and through the Minnesota Horticulture Society speakers' bureau about using Feng Shui in the garden. She also guest lectures at the University of Minnesota, Augsburg, as well as Anoka Ramsey and Normandale Community Colleges. She's the mother of twin college-age sons and lives in Plymouth with her husband, Marc, and Molly, the cat.

Elaine's topic for our April meeting is: A Natural Harmony: Feng Shui in the Garden.

"Gardeners are often "naturals" at Feng Shui, the ancient Chinese art of creating harmony with one's environment. Learning a few simple principles of Feng Shui your garden can be beautiful, as well as full of meaning and support for your life goals. Find out how Feng Shui's premise "Your space reflects your life" can be a powerful tool for you!"

# Confessions of a Lazy Gardener:

by Mary Maynard

I was just cruising through the gardening section of [www.about.com](http://www.about.com) ([www.gardening.about.com](http://www.gardening.about.com)) and came across "Gardening Trends in 2006" by Marie Iannotti. The trends were identified by the Garden Writers Association and the Garden Media Group.

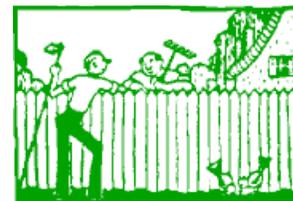
After a quick glance at the list, I'd say the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis -- and especially the Lazy Gardeners -- are ahead of the curve! Here's the list:

1. Easier care, lower maintenance. Less emphasis on the temperamental plants that may not be truly suited to the site, and a trend toward selecting tougher work-horse plants and shrubs that can add a punch to the garden. Much as I like to baby along some marginal plants in my garden, I must admit that there's something to be said for sticking with tried and true favorites like Sedum 'Autumn Joy'.

2. Small Gardens and Gardening in Small Spaces. There is a trend toward more intimate spaces, and less dependence on classical designs. If anyone needs a reminder on how to garden in small spaces, give Ellyn Hosch or Kay Wolfe a call and see how they have each created a wonderful sense of being in the garden on their small lots.

3. Decorating with Containers. This isn't really a new trend, but a continuation of the boom in container gardening. Apparently, grouping multiple pots, each with one type of plant is one of the hot things to do. As a reminder, this year's Flower, Food and Foto Show is featuring container plants.

4. Using Garden Art to Add "Personality". I bet all the other gardeners got this idea from Bob Redmond, whose personality shows through every inch of his



*Garden art is hot - like this  
Riana de Raad concrete sculpture.*

garden. Gardeners are apparently snapping up statues, bird baths, all sorts of art for the garden. I wonder if that goofy turquoise bird I won at the Plant Sale qualifies as "art". My sister would say no.

5. Emphasis on foliage. We are so far ahead of the curve on this one! We learned the basics with hostas, and then moved on to look at other colors and textures in both sun and shade. Coleus are hot, of course, but we all know that foliage = season-long interest.

6. Plants as garden architecture. There is an increased interest in bold, architectural plants serving as anchors in small gardens or garden areas. I'm not that good at this, but I've noticed that some of the cannas can serve as striking focal points in the border. And we can move them around if we don't like where they end up!

*(cont. on page 11)*



*(cont. from page 10)*

7. Houseplants are back. Not at my house, where the survivors limp through winter in order to get outdoors for the summer. According to Ms. Ionnotti, orchids are back, because they are low-maintenance and bloom for a long time. I'll have to keep my eye out for a particularly tough orchid variety.

8. Fountains. Apparently, there's a trend to replace comparatively high-maintenance ponds with smaller-footprint fountains that provide the sound of water without much of the work. Do not tell Soni Forsman about this trend.

9. Vegetable Gardening. This is apparently related to the growing interest in organics. As a reminder, the FFF Show is featuring peppers at the show in August. The selection of peppers has grown dramatically in recent years. We may see seed companies focusing on growing vegetables under non-traditional conditions, such as in containers or other small spaces, or with short growing seasons. Maybe bush watermelons for Minnesota?

10. Organics. There's a trend toward using fewer, less toxic chemicals in the garden, if not going the full organic route. And new products are coming onto the market to make organic garden a little less labor-intensive. Good news for us Lazy Gardeners!

According to Marie Ionnotti, "2006 gardening trends sound like good news to avid gardeners. Most of them have an element of common sense, indicating we're finally starting to work with nature and appreciate the gardening conditions we've been dealt." She sounds like someone who might have some Lazy Gardener traits!

### **Financial Snapshot**

Financial Snapshot as of March 16, 2006

Checking account - \$3,135.76

CD's - \$10,203.69

Cash - \$100.00

Total - \$13,439.45

Meeting attendance (111 Members)

January - 48 members (43%) plus 3 guests

February - 35 members (32%) plus 7 guests

March - 31 members (28%) plus 18 guests



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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### Club Officers:

**President: Kristine Deters**  
1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights  
**Vice President: Margaret Landry**  
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**Recording Secretary: Denise Rust**  
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park  
**Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng**  
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis  
**Treasurer: LeRoy Cech**  
212 Interlachen Rd., Burnsville  
**Past President: David McKeen**  
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park

### Directors:

**Elaine Spiegel**  
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**Elizabeth Hamilton**  
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**Don Trocke**  
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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**

*April*  
*2006*