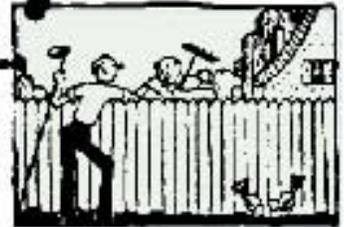




The Garden Spray

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

2007, Volume 65, Number 04



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
April 10th	LHC	Dahlias
May 12th	WLC	Plant Sale

LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

Since Carole Ann Brekke is on vacation, reservations for the April meeting will be taken by Dave McKeen

GROWING AND KNOWING DAHLIAS

Jerry & Karen Zierdt have grown & exhibited dahlias for 30 years and have been members of the Minnesota Dahlia Society and the American Dahlia Society (ADS) since 1980. They are ADS-accredited Senior judges. Together they teach the ADS judging classes for the Society.

Jerry is responsible for the judging of the Society's local shows as well as for the North Central Trial Garden at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum where 3-year seedlings & un-disseminated varieties entered by hybridizers throughout the country are judged & scored for their worthiness to be introduced. Jerry has been President of the Dahlia Society twice, hav-

(cont. on pg. 7)

April Dinner Meeting: April 10th, 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.

Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Dave McKeen (952-915-1764, daviddutchboy31@aol.com) for your reservation or cancellation.



Thoughts from the Prez

by Margaret Landry

Time for pruning, transplanting

There's a season for everything. It's appropriate that this late winter I'm been pruning my possessions and making preparations to transplant myself this spring or early summer. When I tell people I'm getting my house ready to sell, they get a (tear-provoking) sympathetic look on their faces and I imagine they're thinking, "Oh, poor Margaret." Pruning and transplanting come with the seasons, my friends; it's nice to have the freedom to move on to more fertile soil.

The previous owner of my house planted a magnolia and an azalea near the front steps. The magnolia languished until the giant boulevard elm succumbed to Dutch elm disease and was removed; for the last two years the magnolia has grown rapidly and bloomed most gloriously.

The azalea on the other hand, obviously needs to move to shadier quarters.

Magnolia aspects. Has this location been fertile soil for me? In some ways, yes. This is where I discovered my love of gardening and have enjoyed a creative period of decorating and gardening. My cats adore the back yard. It has been a joy to learn new things about home ownership, get to know neighbors, and live in a truly friendly neighborhood.

Azalea aspects. Azaleas don't do well with too much sunlight, for example. When I moved in the yard was mostly shaded. This house has been too much for me in terms of upkeep (I lack some of the skills that could save on repairs), space, expenses, time required

to take care of it. Before I moved in I almost blew the house up (moving the stove, which was not hooked up according to code, to clean under it), and then when I did move in I immediately shattered my ankle. My financial condition also changed after I moved in -- the shading elm of a long-term, good job was chopped down and I've been making a career change.

I'm most grateful for all I've learned while planted at the corner of 33rd St and 40th Avenue, having had the opportunity to make every possible beginner gardening mistake (such as planting daylilies on both sides of a narrow sidewalk)! I started out as a kamikaze gardener, digging up the entire yard without a plan... and have grown more patient, realistic, willing to flow with the seasons, and knowing there's always next year.

I'll miss the yard more than the house; however, there are other gardens -- better-designed gardens -- that I can devote more time to now such as MGCM's perennial and trial gardens at Lyndale Park and UBC's gardens. Another happy thought is that I may have lots of plant materials to give away if the buyer wants me to convert the yard back to sod.

If not this house, then something better. I don't know yet where I'll live; I'm looking for an apartment or living situation where I can keep my cats and enjoy more balance. I'm trying to view this change as an adventure, a good thing, an opportunity to bloom.



A Note from the Editor

Editor's Note:

It's an exciting time in the garden. Lifting sappy leaves off our perennial beds reveals the bright green heads of our favorite plants. It always reminds me of the Dylan Thomas line "The force that through the green fuse drives the flower/ Drives my green age."

The club enters an exciting time this time of year, too. The plant auction is coming up in May - see the schedule in this issue and look for an article in the next *Spray* outlining procedures for the sale. If you would like to pre-order plants for the sale - get your order form in to Doug Whitney by April 12th.

For everyone who went to Larry Larson's house and garden during last year's garden tour - you witnessed his passion for dahlias. Larry has helped bring in Jerry & Karen Zierdt from the Minnesota Dahlia Society as speakers for the April program. Come learn how to add these temperate dazzlers to your garden.





**The Men's Garden Club went to the
Marjorie McNeely Conservatory
at Como Park in March**





... More pics from the Conservatory!





GARDEN SCULPTURE

Phil Smith

In recent years many gardeners have been adding various types of sculptures to their gardens. In particular, I recall several metal sculptures in the garden of Rog and Kak Koopmans, including a large banana tree.

I have some large natural rock sculptures in my Montana garden, and wanted to add something to my Florida garden in Bonita Springs. The street where I live in Bonita has numerous walkers and bikers, and people often stop to look at my flowers and shrubs. So, in one of my front gardens where I have hibiscus bushes, I added the large caterpillar shown in the accompanying photo. It is made of 24 six-inch clay pots.



I painted the flat rims white and added a couple of “feelers” made from a half-inch wood dowel. I drilled holes in the pot so that screws and washers could be screwed into the dowels from inside the pot. I scraped a shallow trench in the mulch so that the pots would stay where I wanted.

I would enjoy seeing photos of sculptures in other members’ gardens.

Dahlias

(cont. from pg. 1)

ing presided over the ADS Midwest Show and more recently as President and Show Chairman for the National Show that was hosted by the Society at Mystic Lake.

Together they have held the job of MDS Show Chairmen for 12 years. Now the baton has been passed to their daughter! They grow some of their 100 plants in cloth houses to protect the blooms from sun and weather. They have had Grand Champion and consistent Court of Honor blooms. Last year they were invited to hold a seminar on Dahlias at the Spring Home & Garden Show.

Jerry and Karen will give us a slide presentation on the many different types, colors and characteristics of Dahlias. They will discuss how, when and where to plant them, what fertilizer to use, how to trim them for best flower results, how to stake them, how to dig them out in the fall, and how to cut the tuber from the stalk with the eye intact for winter storage. How to store them over the winter will also be discussed.



Confessions of a Lazy Gardener:

by Mary Maynard

I took a look at the gardening section on the www.about.com website the other day. This site has proved to be an excellent way to point out my deficiencies. For instance, I ran across a list of the Top 10 Mistakes to Avoid in Home Landscape Design. The compiler of this list, David Beaulieu, is clearly way more into landscaping than I ever will be, and he has some very good points. Here is his list, with a running commentary from your Lazy Gardener:

1. Piecemeal Planting: Failure to Have a Plan. Boy, do I know this one! Even after 20 years on Dart Avenue, I still occasionally succumb to the temptation of a fancy new cultivar that I have no idea where to put. So my borders always look like a jumble.

2. Having a Lawn Just Because “Everyone Else Does It”. OK, I can blame Phil for this one. I could live without the lawn (and associated clover, dandelions, plantains and creeping charlie), but Phil believes that we should have a lawn. So we do. And he mows it.

3. Insufficient Fall Color in Your Home Landscape Design. This is actually one that I don't feel too bad about. Between the late-blooming grasses, Joe-Pye Weed, heleniums, sedums, asters and mums, we do OK.

4. Lack of Winter Interest in your Home Landscape Design. I believe my gardens not only lack winter interest -- winter interest is actually in the negative numbers. Soil mix from my various is piled in the garden or in a wheelbarrow that stands outside all winter. Containers are either stacked on the patio or piled in the porch. Tender roses are surrounded by



bags of leaves that look like bodies buried in the backyard. More bags of leaves are stacked on the patio, and my old resin adirondack chairs - that desperately need a paint job -- dot the landscape. It is depressing. Especially when we don't have consistent snow cover to hide everything.

5. Failure to Irrigate. Mr. Beaulieu advocates installing a sprinkling system. While having a watering system would allow me to be even lazier than I am about watering, I have yet to take the initiative necessary to get one installed.

(cont. on page 8)





Lazy Gardener (cont. from page 7)

6. Planting on a Hillside Prone to Erosion. Being a landscaping kind of guy, Mr. Beaulieu advocates installing retaining walls to manage erosion instead of trying to control it with plant cover. I can plead innocent to this one only because the only hillside we have is planted to grass (see Item #2 above).

7. Failure to Work with What You Have. This is something that we all have to learn the hard way, I think. I'm lucky to have light, well-drained soil. But I am resigned to not being able to keep some of those bog plants alive. And I need to keep find a way to better "go with the flow" in the gardens in our local park, where competition from neighboring trees and the occasional incursions by park visitors can affect plantings.

8. Failure to Incorporate Deer-Resistant Plants in Your Home Landscape Design. I've only had a deer wander through my gardens three times in 20 years, so this isn't a huge problem, at least yet. If we get more deer, they'd have a field day, I'm sure. It's a good thing we have people in the club who know much more about gardening with deer than I do!

9. Not Getting Anything Done in the Yard Because Tools are Never Handy. Mr. Beaulieu included this because he has published a guide for selecting a tool shed. My solution to this problem (and it is a problem at my place) is to leave my tools lying all over the place until the fall.

10. Forgetting Functionality in Home Landscape Design. Aesthetics aren't everything. I discovered

that when I realized that if I planted a shrub in a certain location, I would effectively block the path of the lawnmower and would have to carry the mower from one patch of lawn to another in order to cut the grass. Even though this would have been Phil's problem since he mows the lawn, I decided to be just a little more practical and plant the shrub somewhere else.

I'm glad Mr. Beaulieu stopped at 10 Mistakes! This is depressing!



MGCM Bulletin Board

The 2007 Featured Flower and Vegetable for the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club 2007 Food, Flower and Foto Show are Salvia and Onion.

Corrections for the Club Directory

Stanley Crist: Apt.# is 410

Phone number is 952-540-6235

Carol Schreier: new email: CSCHRE@msn.com

Phil Smith: new email: philsmith07@comcast.net

Howard Berg: email: Howardhberg@msn.com

Jan Johnson: email: janjohnson763@yahoo.com

Club Finances:

Checking 3,697.66

Cash 100.00

CD 5,662.59

Remember to pre-order your plants for the April Plant Auction (list sent separately, needs to be sent to Doug by April 12)



Plant Sale Notice

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007, 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" will be 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 9. 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.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

Inside

Page 1	Dahlias
Page 2	Word from the Prez
Page 3	Editors Note
Page 4-5	Conservatory
Page 6	Garden Sculpture
Page 8-9	Lazy Gardener
Page 10	Bulletin Board
Page 11	May Plant Sale

Club Officers:

President: Margaret Landry
3252 40th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Vice President: Larry Larson
15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka

Recording Secretary: Denise Rust
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park

Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Treasurer: David McKeen

2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park

Past President: Kristine Dieters

1736 Lexington Ave. S., Mendota Heights

Directors:

Elaine Spiegel

4814 West 41st. St., St. Louis Park

Elizabeth Hamilton

8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington

Don Trocke

10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.
Mary J. Maynard, Co-Editor
4375 Dart Avenue
St. Louis Park, MN 55424

First Class Mail

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