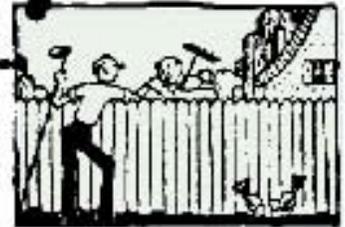




# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
 2009, Volume 67, Number 04



**DREAM IN COLOR  
 MACYS BACHMANS ANNUAL  
 FLOWER SHOW  
 APRIL 7TH**

Seven stunning international gardens designed on the theme "Dream in Color" will be seen in our annual club outing to the Macy's Bachman's flower show. Our April meeting outing on April 7 is one week earlier than normal so that we can enjoy the flowers at their freshest. Vibrant colors will give us all inspiration as we see designs reflecting gardens in Greece, France, South America, Japan, Russia, Italy and Spain. Floral enthusiasts and visitors alike will share a unique opportunity to experience these spectacular floral displays in an indoor setting in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor auditorium.

Our outing would be an excellent opportunity to invite guests to join you. We will get an "inside look" of the show from Bachman's President Dale Bachman at 6 pm after our 5:30 p.m. dinner at the church (one hour earlier than usual). The serving line will be open only to 5:45 p.m. so try if possible to arrive early. Permanent reservations ARE NOT in effect. Reservations for dinner and the bus to take us downtown must be made by Friday April 3. The cost for the dinner and bus is \$ 16 per person whether you are riding the bus or not.

**Dinner Reservations are  
 not in effect.  
 See page 5 for Reservation Form!!!**

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**April Meeting:  
 Tuesday April 7th, 2009**

Dinner -----5:30 pm  
 Dale Bachman -----6:00 p.m.  
 Bus to Bachmans ----- Approx. 6:30 pm  
 Return -----

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# Thoughts from the Prez: Rusty Ramblings

by Denise Rust

Isn't it amazing what a few really warm days can do? The snow of a few days ago was a massive lake yesterday and today is but a few wet spots and bits of snow where the shade protects them. I can see I will have my work cut out for me this spring, and the first thing I will be doing is picking up the dead branches on the lawn when the ground dries a little more. The rabbits showed no mercy to the sumac this winter, but it doesn't appear that they got at too many other things. The snow pile in the front yard (we live in the middle of a cul-de-sac and get it plowed onto the yard) is now less than two feet deep, much smaller than the piles I have seen around a number of parking lots. I can still picture my former neighbor taking apart her front yard snow pile about this time of year, just so it would go away faster. I haven't decided whether or not to do that to mine yet; we'll see what tomorrow brings.

We have collected a few seed packets; flowers for me, vegetables for my husband. I hope to get some of the flowers started early, though the vegetable seeds always seem to do very well here when direct sowed in May. I look forward to seeing some color outside again, and spending long hours in the yard, and seeing what will be next to bloom, and shopping the garden centers. For now I look forward to enjoying the colors of Hawaii soon, which should inspire me to get started on spring cleanup after our return.

I also am looking forward to two of my favorite upcoming MGCM programs of the year: the trip to the downtown Macy's flower show with preview by Dale Bachman on April 7; and the May 5 plant sale and auction, which always sends me home with a

car load of plants to find places for. I most certainly hope to see you at both! Do be sure to invite a friend or family member to join in the fun, and, meanwhile, Happy Gardening and a Blessed Easter!

## TREASURER'S SNAPSHOT

Checking 4300.00  
CD 5662.00

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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May 5th	WLC	Plant Sale & Auction
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LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



## *A Note from the Editor*

By the time you read this, it will officially be spring. Club activities are ramping up as the days get longer. The Bachman's/Macy's show is always an inspiration, and our plant sale is right around the corner. Before we know it, plants will be popping up at the perennial garden. And there will be opportunities to do some gardening work at Valley Fair to raise money for scholarships. If you've never spent a morning at Valley Fair, I urge you to give it a try this year. The folks at Valley Fair are always happy to have us there, because we are "real gardeners" who know what we're doing and don't require a lot of supervision. They plant out huge annuals, because they need instant gardens for their short season. And it's always fun to spend time with other club members.

Speaking of spending time with club members, there's nothing quite like spending a morning with several of one's favorite FFF committee members and 3 gallons of vinegar. Judy Berglund, Nancy Bjerke, Lynda Carlson, Audrey Grote, Maury Lindblom, Dave McKeen, Mary Oelke, Jane Sheedy and I spent a morning at the Arboretum cleaning up the vases and bottles used for the FFF Show. Over the years, hard water deposits had collected inside our containers, and we finally broke down and did something about it. When you're at the FFF Show this August, make a point of noticing how sparkling clean the vases are! By then, I hope the loading dock will no longer smell like pickles. Also, I had the opportunity to partake in the Perennial Garden fundraising tea held at Kay Wolfe's house. We had a great time, and Kay, Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean and Tina Scott were fabulous hostesses. See you at the Bachmans show!

Mary Maynard



The bottle washing crew



Bottle washing hands



# March Program Photos



Becky Rice from Metro Blooms talked about the evils of excess rainwater runoff and the power of Rain Gardens!!!!



Green Thumb award!!!



Ms. Rice after the talk.



Don Untiedt introduces the speaker



This reservation form and payment should be mailed to Carole Ann Brekke before April 1.

Macy's – Bachman's Flower Show

Please reserve a place for my guests and me for the Bus & Dinner for April 7, 2009

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_ dinners @ \$ 16 each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I need \_\_\_\_\_ places on the bus.

Reservations and payment must be received no later than April 3.

Send to Carole Ann Brekke,  
709 Rushmore Drive, Burnsville, MN 55306-5161

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### FFF Flower and Vegetable for 2009: Cosmos and Heirloom Tomatoes

The Flower, Food and Foto Committee has selected the featured flower and vegetable for the 2009 FFF Show. The flower will be Cosmos -- either bipinnatus or sulphureus -- an easy-to-grow annual that's great for butterflies. And the vegetable will be a new subset of our tomato category - heirloom tomatoes. Bob Livingston's great article last month has inspired many members to try a few new tomato varieties!





## Plant Auction Set for May 5th!!!

By Larry Larson

Our annual plant sale and auction will place Tuesday, May 5 at the Westwood Lutheran Church, located at 9001 Cedar Lake Road in St. Louis Park. For all you new members out there, this is the most popular event of the year and not to be missed. This is your chance to buy plants from fellow member's gardens and also to bid and purchase plants at our very popular plant auction. This is also the time we pick up the plants that we ordered ahead of time from our 'pre-auction order form.' There is also a silent auction and a raffle. Following is our schedule of events:

- 4:00 p.m. - You may pick up the plants you ordered.
- 4:15 p.m. - All volunteers who are working at the plant sale and auction may buy plants at the country store.
- 4:30 p.m. - Silent auction begins.
- 4:45 p.m. - Country store opens to everyone.
- 5:45 p.m. - Dinner is served.
- 6:15 p.m. - Silent auction ends.
- 6:30 p.m. - Dinner tables are cleared and put away and chairs are set up for the live auction.
- 6:40 p.m. - Silent auction winners are announced.
- 6:45 p.m. - Live auction begins.

We will need volunteers to work as cashiers during the times the country store is open. We also need a volunteer to serve as cashier to keep track of live auction purchases. This person should be familiar with Excel. If you want to assist in any of these activities, please call Larry Larson at 952-949-9668.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated plants in the past from their garden to be sold in the country store. I want to encourage members to continue donating these plants and also hope some new members will do the same. A large percentage of our yearly budget is raised during this event and plant donations are a large part of this. We want to keep our yearly dues at \$20, so a successful plant sale and auction is a must! Please come early if you are donating a plant or plants to the country store. And please mark your donation so everyone will know what it is. A picture is always helpful if you have one. Mary Maynard will be emailing the plant auction list to everyone who has an email and sending thru the mail a copy to any persons who don't. Please refer to the order form for instructions on how to fill it out. When you have completed filling out the form, mail the form to me by April 7. Do not delay sending me this form; I must call in the order to our plant supplier as soon as possible to ensure our order is completely filled.

Please consider donating an item for the silent auction. Although we love receiving quality flower baskets or unusual perennials, we will accept movie and theater tickets, restaurant certificates, tools, books, etc. Use your imagination!

We will conduct the auction the same way as we have in previous years. Please note that we will not split flats for auction. If bidders want to split a flat, that's

(cont. on page 7)



(cont. from page 6)

fine, but the entire flat must be charged to the winning bidder and then split privately with someone else. The winning bidder has a choice of buying as many of a lot as she or he wants. The second place bidder will have the option of buying the remaining plants at the bid price. Finally, remaining plants will then be offered to the audience at the bid price.

Any materials not sold during the auction will be assigned a firm price and can be purchased after the auction has been completed.

We will make announcements at the end of the live auction as to when and if prices are reduced at the country store. Again, plant auction volunteers and persons helping with the cleanup will get first dibs on the plants at reduced prices.

Please call me at 952-949-9668 if you need assistance digging out or delivering plants from your garden to the country store. Hopefully the ground will be thawed out by then.

Permanent reservations are NOT in effect. Please call or email Carol Ann Brekke with your reservation no later than May 1. (952-435-6029/numsix24@comcast.net).



## Scholarship Committee Meeting

The scholarship committee met at Jan Johnson's home to review the status of the MGCM scholarship program for 2009. The following members were in attendance - Jerry Shannon, Jan Johnson, Dave Johnson golden Valley, Kent Petterson, and Don Trocke.

1- The scholarship dedicated fund has \$650.00 available for scholarships in 2009. The announcement will be worded in a way that will assure at least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded this year.

2- The scholarship committee will support the activities of the Valley Fair fund raising project and accept the offer made by the board to dedicate the funds raised from Valley Fair work days to scholarships. Club members time is reimbursed at \$10 per hour directly for Scholarships. Work days will be scheduled with Valley Fair to maximize income for scholarships.

3- The Public Tour as a fund raiser has been postponed until 2010.

4- Club awareness of this program will be elevated by written contributions to the Spray. Emphasis on the 501c3 tax exempt status should be mentioned.

All club members are urged to copy the information for criteria and the application form and pass it on to students they may know. Please pass the word as soon as possible since the deadline for application is May 15th. Dates fund raising days at Valley Fair will be announced as they are arranged. Please consider helping at Valley Fair (you don't need to be on the committee) or making a direct tax deductible contribution to the scholarship dedicated fund.

Thank you, Kent Petterson  
for the Scholarship Committee

The information sheet and application form  
can easily be seen and downloaded from  
the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club

<http://www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org/html/scholarshipinfo.html>

## PERENNIALS FOR SHADE

© Phil Smith

There are numerous annuals that tolerate or enjoy shade, such as coleus, cineraria, fibrous and tuberous begonias, heliotrope, impatiens, lobelia, nasturtiums, nemesia and nicotiana. However, I have converted my Montana gardens to all perennials, and would like to share some perennials I have used in some shade.

We are all familiar with ferns, hostas, astilbes and dicentra-bleeding heart for shade, and ferns, hostas, primulas and ligularia do well in deep shade. Aquilegia or columbine tolerate some shade, and there are some newer varieties including the colorful red and yellow 'Firecracker' and the brilliant gold 'Yellow Star'. Digitalis or foxglove have normally been biennials, but there are some newer varieties which are perennial.

Asclepias or milkweed now come in some brilliant gold and red colors. Astilbe, digitalis, ligularia and lobelia cardinalis add nice height to the flower border. Astilbes come in many nice shades of white, pink and red; ligularia stenocephala has a tall yellow flower blooming over a long time; and lobelia cardinalis is a bright red. Bergénias come in variations of pink to rose, and there is a new red named 'Redstart'. The campanulas have nice blue colors, and the Canterbury Bells may be white, or shades of blue, pink and purple (see p. 69 of the 2009 Thompson and Morgan catalog). The heucheras or coral bells may now have white, cream, pink or red flowers.

There are several nice dianthus varieties in various colors and they are generally easy to grow from seed. Campanula carpatica is a pretty low blue flower for the front of the border. I much enjoy the perennial geraniums and 'Johnson's Blue' is a favorite. The rudbeckias are beautiful for the mid border and have nice flowers in the yellow, gold to reddish shades. They will also take light shade. Veronicas are another nice plant for the mid border and they generally are



variations of blue.

Most sedums are quite hardy and there are some newer cultivars with dark red flowers and purple foliage. Polygonum is another perennial for shade, as is pulmonaria which is early blooming with bluish flowers. I also enjoy the nepetas which have bluish-purple flowers.



## New perennials for 2009

By Larry Larson

Last year's perennial of the year was the Geranium called Rozanne, which was an outstanding grower in my garden. This year, there's another great blue Geranium called 'Blue Blood.' It produces a mass of blue flowers over a bushy plant. They prefer sun to partial shade and well-drained soil. It is a fine border plant and good groundcover. A twist on this version is that the foliage turns red in the fall, which should blend well with the blue flowers.

'Honeybelle' is a new peach colored honeysuckle variety that will produce some red berries in the fall. It grows best in full sun but will grow in part shade. It is hardy down to Zone 3. It attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. It is a compact, twining vine that will consistently re-bloom well into the fall.

'Autumn Revolution' is a brand new selection of Bittersweet. But unlike the old species, which required both a male and female plant to bear fruit, this one has both genders built into the one plant (don't ask me how they do that). The berries that form are twice the size of the old bittersweet. It grows 15-25 feet high and does best in full sun. It is hardy to zone 3.

'After Midnight' is a new Coneflower that produces a combination of magenta blooms, black stems and reddish-black cones. And, it only grows a foot tall, which means they won't all fall over like the old ones did. The blooms are very fragrant and the blooms are large. They are heavy blooming, long-lasting and butterflies love it. It also claims to be deer-resistant, but we'll see about that!

Twist and Shout is a new type of Endless Summer

Hydrangea that is pink in alkaline soil and blue in acidic soil. They grow 3-5 feet tall and do best in part shade.

Sienna Sunset is a new orange colored Coreopsis that is covered with blooms early in the season and will re-bloom if the old flowers are removed. They grow 14-36 inches high and do best in full sun.



## **Minutes of the MGCM Board**

Meeting date: March 3rd, 2009

Present: Denise Rust, Judy Berglund, Dave McKeen, Sharla Aaseng, Elizabeth Hamilton, and Kay Wolfe.

Absent: Larry Larson, Elaine Spiegel, and Don Untiedt.

The meeting was called to order by President, Denise Rust, and the agenda was passed out.

President's Report: Chair persons have been appointed for all committees. A bus has been secured for the April general meeting and tour of the Macy's Spring Flowers Show.

Recording Secretary's Report: Minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting were approved as printed in the Spray Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Income has exceeded expenses by \$167.75 to date for 2009. The motion was made and seconded to approve the report as presented.

Membership Secretary's Report: The club currently has 87 members. The 2009 Member Directory was handed out to all members attending the February general meeting. The Membership Secretary will be handing out to all committee chairs the "Will Serve on Committee as Needed" member list.

Old Business: No chair person was found for the Botanical Interests, Inc. fundraiser so it has been dropped.

The Board completed review of the Goals & Duties of Committees with only a few minor wording changes. The updated Member Handbook will be posted on the club web site for easy access by all members.

New Business: Kay Wolfe reported on the history of the Memorial Fund and the Lyndale Park Garden. A motion was made, seconded and passed to continue using Memorial Funds for permanent planting in the Lyndale Park Garden.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be June 2nd at Elizabeth Hamilton's home.



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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### Club Officers:

**President: Denise Rust**  
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park  
**Vice President: Don Untiedt**  
12070 48th Ave. N., Plymouth  
**Recording Secretary: Judy Berglund**  
**Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng**  
1025 20th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis  
**Treasurer: David McKeen**  
2834 Vernon Ave. S., St. Louis Park  
**Past President: Larry Larson**  
15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka

### Directors:

**Elaine Spiegel**  
4814 West 41st. St., St. Louis Park  
**Elizabeth Hamilton**  
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington  
**Kay Wolfe**  
2740 Florida Ave. S., St. Louis Park

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*  
*2009*