



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2007, Volume 65, Number 08



**MINNEAPOLIS MENS GARDEN CLUB
AUGUST EXTRAVAGANZA ~
CLUB TOUR AND
FOOD, FLOWER AND FOTO SHOW**

Clear your social calendars, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis has a double-billing in August. On Saturday, August 12 members have the opportunity to visit the gardens of four members (with an additional bonus garden!). And on Saturday and Sunday, August 19th and 20th the annual Food, Flower and Foto Show takes place at the Arboretum.

**2007 MGCM FOOD,
FLOWER AND FOTO
SHOW**

**AUGUST 19TH AND 20TH
MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE
ARBORETUM**

**(MORE DETAILS STARTING
ON PAGE 5)**

AUGUST CLUB TOUR

AUGUST 12TH

**(DETAILS START
ON PAGE 6)**



Thoughts from the Prez

by Margaret Landry

Wow! Another awesome garden tour! This club is amazing – both in the number of events we do and in the content and execution of those events. Kudos to the tour committee for great planning, publicity, etc. and to the most fabulous gardeners!

When I became president, Bob Livingston challenged me to help grow the club. The tour got me thinking... again....about how we grow our club membership, both in quantity and in participation. For membership to grow, we need to make people aware of the club, get them to a meeting or event, and get them involved in some way.

Events like the garden tour create visibility, which helps get some people through the door. But I wonder if some people might be intimidated by the thought that all members of the club must be experts and have spectacular gardens.

How do we talk about the club, what do we tell people who could become interested in the club? And once they come to a meeting or join the club, how do we engage them so that they can begin to claim some ownership in the club?

Personal invitations and introductions are a great way to bring in new members. When was the last time you brought a guest to a meeting or event? Or reached out to a new member in some way to make them feel welcome. Elizabeth Hamilton's phone call to welcome me and remind me about a committee meeting got my garden club roots growing.

I challenge all of you to come up with your own MGCM testimonial or elevator speech*. Prepare

yourself to speak concisely about what you love about the garden club! Who belongs to the club, what's the purpose of the club, what are the benefits... The hard part is keeping it brief since we have so much history, great activities, interesting presentations, wonderful people, efficient committees...! I look forward to hearing your testimonial!

**Wikipedia defines an 'elevator speech' as a "brief overview of an idea for a product, service, or project. The pitch is so called because it can be delivered in the time span of an elevator ride (say, thirty seconds or 100-150 words)."*

MGCM Notes:

The Sept. 4 board meeting is at Larry Larson's house, not Elaine Spiegels.



A Note from the Editor

Editor's Note:

I think August is the only month of the year with two club events: our August Club Tour and the Flower, Food and Foto Show. Thanks in advance to the gardeners who have agreed to have us visit your gardens. If you're anything like me, you could be just mildly tired of weeding by this time in the summer. And why is, exactly, that our weeds seem to thrive in the drought while we break the bank with our water bill trying to keep the desirable plants alive? It takes special courage and fortitude to open your gardens in August, and we appreciate it!

As most of you know, as much as I enjoy our club tours, I have a true soft spot in my heart for our FFF Show. If you have never tried exhibiting, I encourage you to take a deep breath, cut some specimens from your garden, and come on in to the show. I kick myself for waiting as long as I did to start exhibiting, and I'm eternally grateful for Margaret Hibberd for encouraging me to give it a try. Both our FFF and the State Fair Flower Shows are a lot of fun. And this year, we should see a lot of visitors, since we're in the new MacMillan Auditorium along with the Federated show.

I'm looking forward to all of the other events at the Arboretum on the weekend of the 18th and 19th, especially the Federated's Arboretum show, which will also be in the MacMillan Arboretum. The Federated show highlights a lot of our premier flower designers, and I'm going to study their work carefully to see if I'm capable of learning anything!

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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August 12th		Club Tour
August 18th-19th	Arb	FFF Show
Sept. 11th	LHC	Mike Heger
October	LHC	Steven Risen

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

ARB = University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

CLUB FINANCIALS

as of 7-14-07
Checking 7,604.40
CD 5,343.52
Cash 100.00



2007 MGCM Public Tour Wrap-up

As you know, another tour is history. Was it a success? Yes! We made money to give away in the form of horticultural scholarships, we have thus far signed up three new members in the process with the publicity and exposure garnering further interest in our organization, and everyone had a great time! And, as you may recall, the weather on July 14-15 was fabulous.

A couple of comments about the tour I would like to share with you. One comment from a member: "It was a beautiful tour." An e-mail from a non-member reads as follows: "My wife and I just took the bus tour for the Garden Club. We would like to be on your mailing list for the next one. . . Thank you for that and thank you so much for the tour this year. Frankly it was breathtaking."

A special thank you goes out to the Tour Committee; it took many people and many hours to make the tour work. Those helping with various tasks were Gary Geister, Elizabeth Hamilton, Margaret Hibberd, Dave Johnson (Fridley), Larry Larson, Bill Leonard, Kent Petterson, Elaine Spiegel and Jonathan Uecker, with special assistance from Andy Marlow on graphics and printing and David McKeen on extra money handling.

Of course, a tour does not happen without gardens. An extra special thank you for magnificent preparation to welcome visitors goes to our garden owners. They are Leroy and Carol Cech, Dave and Delores Johnson, Jim McKee and Don Untiedt, Bob and Phyllis

Redmond, Janet and Janice Robidoux, Jerry and Lee Shannon and Lloyd and Patti Weber. Your gardens are wonderful!

---Denise Rust



Daylily from the garden of
Lloyd and Patti Weber



**2007 Flower, Food and Foto Show.
August 18 and 19
University of Minnesota
Landscape Arboretum**

Saturday, 7:00 a.m. Doors open for exhibitors
Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Judging begins
Saturday, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Show open to public
Sunday, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Show open to public

This year's Flower, Vegetable and Photography show will be held in the MacMillan Auditorium of the Oswald Visitor Center at the Arboretum. The weekend of the 18th and 19th is billed as "Flower Fest" at the Arboretum, and will include both our show and the Arboretum/Federated Garden Club show, along with other special events and classes by the various plant societies.

This will be another opportunity to showcase our garden club. We encourage everyone to participate. Our judges always say that this is one of the best shows they see each year, and the best way to keep the quality of the show high is to have as many exhibitors as possible. Admission to the Arboretum will be free for exhibitors.

If you have never exhibited before, please think about it for this year. It is a lot of fun. Maury Lindblom and Marilyn Brummer have volunteered to help new exhibitors, and we are all more than happy to help new exhibitors get started. And, of course, we do have a special trophy for the best first-time exhibitor. We'd love to see you there.



Display tables at the 2006 The Sept.



Sweet Chelsea Tomato

FFF Info continued on page 10!

MGCM CLUB TOUR GARDENS



REGISTRATION FORM ON PG. 11

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis August 2007 Club Tour will be Sunday, August 12 with gardens open from noon-4:30 and gathering for a picnic meal about 5 pm at Anoka County Riverfront Park. This park is located on the east side of the Mississippi River just south of 694 and you get there by turning off East River Road at the Riverfront Park sign and the big white house. Take a quick right onto the road heading north in the park and drive to Shelter 1 - the sign is small and on the shelter, but it looks like 6 picnic table under a roof, a parking lot and building with bathrooms across the parking lot. Friends of Gary Geister are catering the meal and the menu looked great!

The gardens will range from Jonathan Uecker's with peacocks in Anoka to Dave Johnson's with train in Fridley, with Denise, the church, and Chuck's in between. Except as noted, the gardeners have written their own descriptions. We have tried to include the best possible map, but you might want to consult other maps.

The gardens on tour are:

Jonathan Uecker, 430 Rice Street, Anoka, 55303, 763-360-9558

Denise (and Jeff) Rust, 7933 Girard Court N., Brooklyn Park, 55444, 763-560-7747

Redeemer Lutheran church of Fridley, 61 NE Mississippi Way, Fridley

Chuck and Marion Carlson, 1001 Hackmann Circle NE, Fridley, 55432, 763-571-0463

Dave and Gerry Johnson, 5291 Matterhorn Drive, Fridley, 55421, 763-571-2713

Dave and Gerry Johnson have lived many years in their house with oak-shaded yard on Matterhorn Drive, but it seems Dave retired and joined the garden club at the right time and learned the plants that would thrive for them. Besides his hard work for the club, Dave is an energetic biker and cross country skier and you can see that a lot of energy has been put into tending this yard. There is a mixed garden in the front and an attractive purple and white planting along the front porch, and then a bed with sun plants on the south side of the house. In the back are a variety of annuals and perennials in raised and other beds, a grape arbor, blueberries, tomatoes and herbs. In the deep shade against the house is a nice collection of hostas, astilbes and ferns. There is a small rock garden and pool with an "O" gauge train running through it. The large patio has colorful container plants. Depending on the position of the sun on the tour afternoon, you may be able to see how they have taken advantage of the sunny spots. (edited by Margaret H)

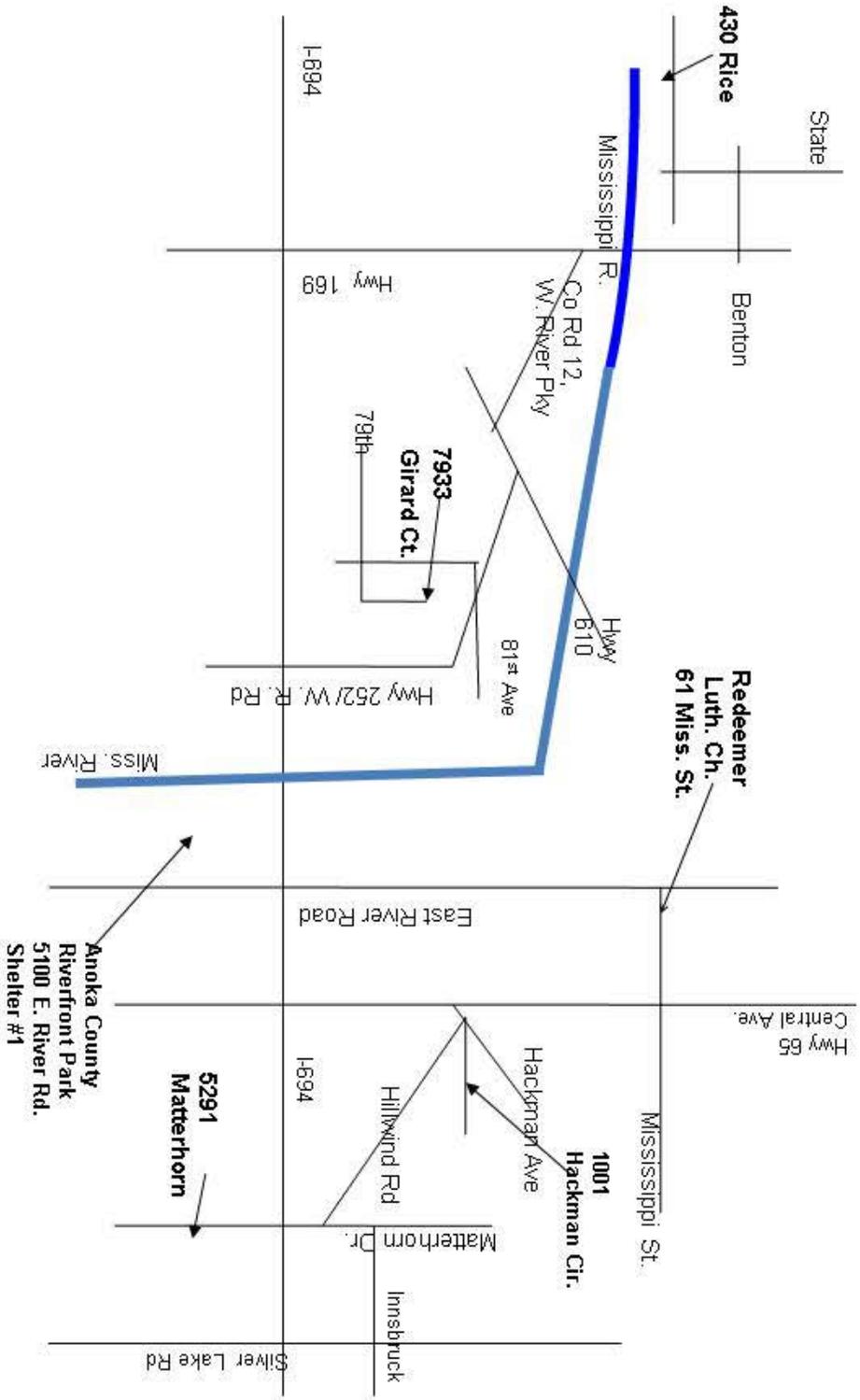
The care of the seven gardens of **Redeemer Lutheran Church of Fridley** is coordinated largely by member Chuck Carlson and his famous emails to alert helpers. When you see

(cont. on page 8)



August Tour Map

This map is NOT TO SCALE.
Use this as a general guide, but consult a city map
to determine exact locations and your best driving route





(cont. from page 6)

the church, turn on the street on the west side and drive around the church complex to see the pairs of gardens that greet visitors by two major entrances to the church, the garden with the dry creek bed and the two other gardens. There is a nice assortment of plant material and it is enjoyed by the many members as they arrive for their church activities throughout the week. It appears Chuck has been successful in keeping folks working on this. (written by Margaret H.)

The garden of **Chuck and Marion Carlson:** Dorothy looked for and found a yellow brick road to the Emerald City. To locate this garden you must find the red brick path. This path leads you from the street through a garden of perennials and annuals to the front of a rock garden. The rock is basically a spring garden containing a few dwarf conifers. The front garden on each side of the brick walk contains perennials and grasses. This is augmented with some annuals for some added color. We believe at least part of the garden should be visible to the people who just pass by. Also in the front, below the picture window, is a conifer garden that includes two chokeberry shrubs. Two other beds in the front contain Asiatic lilies and Dahlias

The east side of the house we have a shade garden part of which contains some early spring plants, a couple conifers and a mix of shade plants including hostas. It also contains two Poulowia tomentosa, or Empress Trees.

The backyard is a mix of everything. It contains a number of beds, a small water garden, a playhouse and a patio adjacent to a screened porch that has an attached covered gazebo housing a grill. To hide a cyclone fence on the back of the lot a Pussy Willow, Snowberry, Golden Curls Willow, variegated Alpine Current,

are planted to make up a backdrop.

Oh yes the backyard also contains a birdhouse tree, a pagoda dogwood, a Kentucky Coffee tree, and a Hawthorn tree. One other tree planted a couple years ago is a Black Gum. We may not see these in their full glory but it is a fun thing to do. Also included are a few troughs made from fish boxes to generate a bit of interest and of course an upside down tomato.

One might say this is an eclectic garden since it is a collection of plants with no basic theme or design. This is a garden for the owner to have fun in, experiment, propagate items and collect plants and smell the roses.

Jonathan Uecker's Garden: My home was built in 1926, by Harlan Thurston who was a well known business man in Anoka. It sits on the north bank of the Mississippi River. The lot is almost 2 acres and contains the original ferry crossing from Champlin to Anoka. The dirt is great, as there is about five feet of river sediment top-soil with only a few pockets of sand. When I moved in 10 years ago the lot was basically Creeping Charlie and a few large trees (primarily bur oak). Through the years numerous trees were added including a variety of uncommon species (katsura, weeping beech, a number of different magnolias, yellow wood, etc...). As well as a number of shrubs including a fair number of large leaf rhododendrons. I also have a collection of conifers.

There are a number of flower beds and woodland plantings in the yard which are a often weedy mess because of my work schedule and being a half time single father of two young boys. Many

(cont. on page 9)

(cont. from page 8)

of the flower beds are laid out in a formal grid to compliment the home which is in the Colonial Revival style and are hedged with Japanese yew which is kept at about 2 feet. I have a number of different peonies and day lilies and roses.

As with many river homes the front faces the river. I still use the original galvanized steel sprinkler system (which required hours of rehab work) and has only one zone. I am very slowly working on completing several projects including gravel and stone pathways, two ponds, and a rock wall or possibly a rock garden along my patio. Don't come if you are afraid of chickens and peacocks as I have been raising them for a number of years.

Denise Rust's Garden: Located on a former horse pasture, this pie shaped lot in a modest neighborhood was bare bones when the Rusts built here in 1983. Only a few trees and shrubs remained in the back when the land was cleared. Landscaping began with a few inexpensive young trees and shrubs around the front and sides, and flowers donated from friends and family.

The front is a colorful bed of annuals, potted plants, and perennials. Around to the side is a deck filled with mixed plantings in pots. The back is a good mix of shade and sun, still containing most of those original trees and a few of the shrubs, but around them has been developed a mix of perennials and woodland plants, with annuals thrown in for extra color. The backdrop to all of this is a row of evergreens planted to function as a noise barrier. The older areas have many large rocks collected on trips and when Hwy. 252 was being constructed. A vegetable garden sits in a sunny spot.



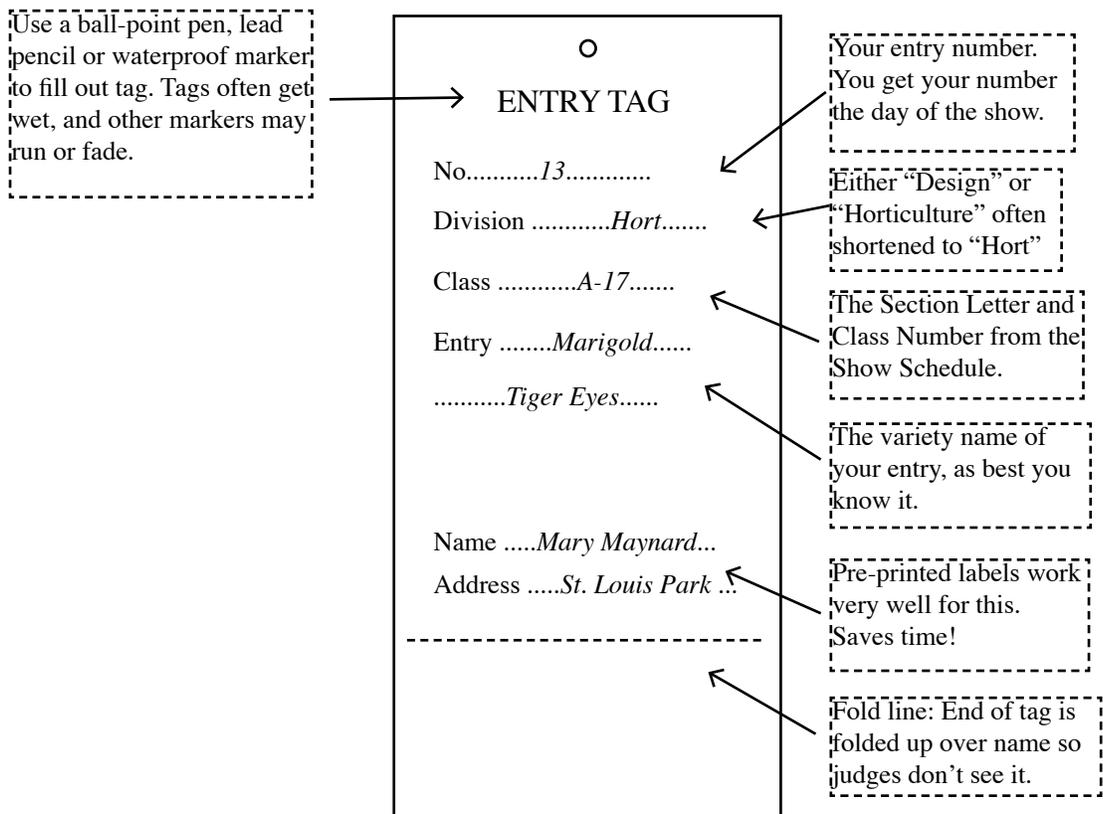
A new shade garden has been developed off the patio the last couple of years, featuring mainly hosta, ferns, astilbe and coleus, with miniature plants along the pathways. Most numerous plants in the garden include about 140 varieties of hosta, and lots of varieties of lilies, daylilies and iris. An eclectic collection of garden ornamentation is scattered throughout, including stepping stones, statuary, antiques and items carefully crafted by Denise's husband Jeff. The yard is home to a cheerful collection of birds, bunnies and squirrels, who add to the character of the garden.



One of the enduring mysteries is the Entry Tag. Here is a guide for filling out the entry tag. To save time the morning of the show, entry tags can be completed ahead of time. If you need tags, please let Mary Maynard know (phone 952-926-7506, e-mail maynard4375@yahoo.com), and she'll get some to you.

Also, our show rules are posted on our website www.minneapolismensgardenclub.org. It's designed to be printed out and made into a booklet, so the pages seem out of order, but it's all there! If you can't find your show schedule, it's online!

The FFF Show Entry Tag Explained





REGISTRATION FORM FOR MGCM AUGUST CLUB TOUR
AUGUST 12TH, 2007
12:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Dinner to follow at Riverfront Regional Park
5100 East River Parkway, Fridley
COST \$12.00

Member name _____

Guest _____

Guest _____

Guest _____

___ @ \$12 = _____

Please send reservation and money by August 3rd to:

Denise Rust

7933 Girard Court North

Brooklyn Park, MN 55444-2070



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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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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