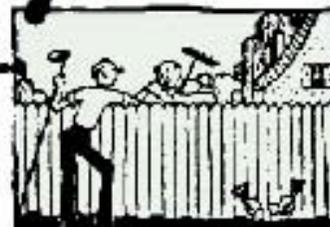




The Garden Spray

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

2008, Volume 66, Number 08



2008 FLOWER, FOOD AND FOTO SHOW

2008 Flower, Food and Foto Show.

August 16 and 17

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 16th and 17th is billed as the second "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 was a great event last year.

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. All of the "old



hands" 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.

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!

Thoughts from the Prez

by *Larry Larson*

Congratulations to Kay Wolfe and her Lyndale Park Garden committee for putting on their fabulous garden party July 22. I think everyone in attendance will agree this was one of the highlight events of the year. The dinner was wonderful, the deserts were fabulous, the speakers were excellent, and the gardens were immaculate. And we could not have asked for a better evening; warm, sunny, with a slight breeze.

And what a wonderful turnout! I'm so happy that so many of our garden club members attended this event. This was a great opportunity for all of us to share in the history of this fine garden and the wonderful job the committee is doing beautifying our city parks. This committee is to be commended for all their hard work and dedication to the success of this garden. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort to this event. Great job!!!

And now, here's part two of the column I started last month:

Holly. Medieval monks called this plant the Holy Tree.

They believed Holly would keep evil spirits away, and protect their home from lightening.

The early Romans decorated their hallways with garlands made from Holly for their mid-winter feast, Saturnalia.

Later its pointed leaves represented the crown of thorns worn by Jesus, and the red berries his drops of blood.

Lily. Lilies have been associated with many ancient myths, and pictures of lilies were discovered in a villa in Crete, dating back to the Minoan Period, about 1580 B.C.

Lilies are mentioned in the Old Testament, and in the New Testament, they symbolize chastity and virtue.



In both the Christian and pagan traditions, the lily is a fertility symbol.

In Greek marriage ceremonies the bride wears a crown of lilies and wheat implying purity and abundance.

Rose. The first cultivated roses appeared in Asian gardens more than 5,000 years ago.

In ancient Mesopotamia, Sargon I, King of the Akkadians (2684-2630 B.C.) brought "vines, figs and rose trees" back from a military expedition beyond the River Tigris.

Confucius wrote that during his life (551-479 B.C.), the Emperor of China owned over 600 books on the culture of Roses.

Roses were introduced to Rome by the Greeks.

During Roman public games all the streets were strewn with rose petals.

Egyptian wall paintings depicting roses have been found in tombs dating from the fifth century B.C. to Cleopatra's time.

Cleopatra had a passion for everything Roman, and she is said to have scattered rose petals before Mark Anthony's feet.

Roses were introduced to Europe during the Roman Empire, where they were mainly used for ornamental purposes.

Charlemagne ordered the cultivation of Roses.

Poinsettia. Dr. Joel Roberts-Poinsett, the US Ambassador to Mexico, brought the first poinsettia to the United States in 1928.

Because Mexican legends say its bracts resemble the flower of Bethlehem, Poinsettias have the honor of decorating churches at Christmas time.

Today, this flower is known worldwide as "the Christmas flower".

This plant was used during the Medieval times as a purgative to rid the body of black bile and melancholy. **Queen Anne's Lace.** Queen Anne's Lace was named

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(cont. from page 2)

for Queen Anne, wife of King James I of England. The Queen’s friends challenged her to create lace as beautiful as the flower.

North African natives chewed it to protect themselves from the sun.

Sun Flower. Sunflowers originated in Central and South America, and were grown for their usefulness, not their beauty.

In 1532 Francisco Pizarro reported seeing the natives of the Inca Empire in Peru worshipping a giant sunflower.

Incan priestesses wore large sunflower disks made of gold on their garments.

Tulip. Over a thousand years ago, Tulips grew wild in Persia, and near Kabul the Great Mogul Baber counted thirty-three different species.

The word ‘Tulip’ is thought to be a corruption of the Turkish word for turbans.

Persian poets sang its praises, and their artists drew and painted it so often, that all of Europe considered the Tulip to be the symbol of the Ottoman Empire.

Wealthy people began to purchase tulip bulbs that were brought back from Turkey by Venetian merchants.

In 1610, fashionable French ladies wore corsages of tulips, and many fabrics were decorated with tulip designs.

In the seventeenth century, a small bed of tulips was valued at 15,000-20,000 francs.

Tulipmania flourished between 1634-1637... just like the California Gold Rush, people abandoned jobs, businesses, wives, homes and lovers to become tulip growers.

The frenzy spread from France, through Europe to the Low Countries.

Violets. When Napoleon married Josephine, she wore Violets, and on each anniversary Josephine received a bouquet of violets.

Following Napoleon’s lead, the French Bonapartists

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Aug. 16-17	Arb	Flower, Food and Foto Show
Sept. 9	LHC	Baileys: New Plants
Oct. 14	LHC	Peter Olin: Years at the Arb.
Nov. 11	LHC	Monrovia: New Plants
Dec. 2nd	LHC	Holiday Party

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

chose the violet as their emblem, and nicknamed Napoleon “Corporal Violet”.

In 1814, Napoleon asked to visit Josephine’s tomb before being exiled to the Island of St. Helena.

When he died, he wore a locket around his neck that contained violets he had picked from Josephine’s grave site.

Editor's Note

Mary Maynard

Wasn't that a wonderful event we had in the Park in July? We couldn't have asked for better weather, and the gardens looked at the very top of their form. Our thanks go to all of the people who made the gardens look so good, and to the committee who put the event together. And, of course, to Kay Wolfe for envisioning the event and bringing all the right people together to make it happen. It was all just perfect!

And now we move into August, with only one event this time -- our annual Flower, Food and Foto Show at the Arboretum. Again this year, we're going to be part of the Arboretum's Flower Fest weekend, which will include our show and the Arboretum/Federated show as well as classes and information about many of the plant societies. It was a great weekend last year, despite pouring rain. This is an opportunity for us to look good and attract new members. Please plan to participate if you can. It really is a great time!

And then, in no time, we're back at the church and fall will be upon us. This summer is flying by! Hope to see you at the show!

Treasurer Report

Checking 5,700.00

CD 5,662.00



A Plant For You To Consider

By Chuck Carlson

Can you guess what plant goes by the names Bog onion, Brown dragon, Indian turnip, Wake robin or Wild turnip? Does the scientific name *Arisaema triphyllum* give you a clue? What if it has a spathe and a spadix? The spathe, is known as "the pulpit and covers the spadix ("Jack"), covered with tiny flowers of both sexes. I am sure if I would have started saying this plant is known as 'Jack in the Pulpit' you all would have known the plant.

This species flowers from April to June. The fruits ripen in late summer and fall, turning a bright red color (see figure 1). If the seeds are freed from the berry they will germinate the next spring, producing a plant with a single rounded leaf. The seedlings will flower in about 3 years.

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Fig 1.0 Arisaema seed pod



Robert's Ten Terrific perennials (from trial garden):

Anthemis sp. Susanna Mitchell (sprawling plant, silvery foliage, daisy like flowers, marginally hardy, but vigorous if it survives)

Centaurea montana Amethyst in Snow' (two tone flowers of purple & white, will rebloom if deadheaded)

Coreopsis sp. Limerock Dream (pink flowers with dark centers, marginally hardy, but only non-yellow coreopsis to survive a winter in our trial so far)

Heuchera x hybrida 'Dolce Key Lime Pie' (lovely bright green foliage)

Heuchera x hybrida Silver Lode (tall plant with dark variegated foliage, stunning!!!)

Hibiscus sp. Several (hardy hibiscus, trial plants from Blooms of Bressingham - Cordials series; and Yoder brothers - named after wines - all showing good hardiness and spectacular blooms)

Lamium maculatum 'Pink Chablis' (ground cover that blooms all summer, reseeds and can be invasive, but great filler for the difficult spot in your garden)

Primula x hybrida 'Snowflakes' (plain white flowers, but seems very tolerant of drought and very hardy for a primrose)

Sedum spectabile 'Garnet Brocade' (dark red sedum with good form and strong stalk)

Dendranthema x hybrida several (U of MN introductions go by different names 'My Favorite' or "Mammoth", large shrub mums that are covered with flowers in the fall; We even have a purple flowering seedling in our bed that I refer to as variety "Kay Wolfe")

Bonus selection:

Verbascum x hybridum 'Southern Charm' (hardy perennial with 2-3 foot spike of pastel flowers, reblooms if dead-headed, this is the plant that first got me really interested in the perennial trial)

GALA IN THE GARDEN



Kay with a great hat

Tuesday July 22 the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club celebrated Fifty Years of Community Gardening programs with a gala soiree at the Lyndale Gardens. An upscale catered dinner was held under a graceful white canopy with live music provided by Dean Johnson, a stringed instrument virtuoso.

The overflow crowd was then treated to a recapitulation of the Men's Garden Club's partnership with the Minneapolis Park Board which began with Arbor Day activities in 1951.

Jerry Shannon recounted three decades of tree planting including the replacement of the crab apple collection, which was destroyed in the 1981

tornado that devastated the Lake Harriet community. For that effort the MGCA was awarded a national recognition plaque by the National Arbor Day committee.

Mary Maynard gave a synopsis of the other activities at Lyndale over the years and in particular recognized the extraordinary contributions of several of our now deceased members including Henry Orfield and .?

In the absence of Professor Neil Anderson who was unable to attend, Robert Kean presented an insightful critique of the Trial Gardens where new cultivars are tested for three years to determine if they can achieve the distinction of being designated Minnesota Tough and Terrific. This is an ongoing and valuable scientific study that is proving of value to gardeners all over the upper Midwest.

Finally, Kay Wolfe-the “glue” that holds the Lyndale Garden Group together-described how from quite humble beginnings the Perennial Display and Trial Gardens have become the crown jewel of the Community Gardening Activities of the Men’s Garden Club. She recognized the numerous worker bees whose quiet labors have powered these activities that have not had the recognition they merit.

After the program the audience toured the trial and display gardens with worker-bee docents present to answer questions. And finally a series of almost decadent desserts were served-a fitting ending to a marvelous evening. Even the weather was perfect.





“Gala in the Garden” Thank You’s

by Kay Wolfe

The July 11 celebration at the Lyndale Park Gardens was wonderful—a magical, beautiful night.

A huge thanks to the Planning Committee: Bob Olson: MC; Mary Maynard & Robert Kean: speakers; and the hard-working committee that organized the food and presentation: Lynda Carlson, Mollie Dean & Carol Schreier: dinner, serving table, and dining tables; Judy Berglund: punch and punch & dessert tables; Sharla Aaseng: programs and the napkin & flatware “bouquets”; Elizabeth Hamilton: flower pot arrangements. Helpers in bringing food were Bob Olson with desserts; Tim Rosener with beer and coolers; Gary Geister with ice tea and water. Thanks to Margaret Landry for her brother-in-law’s tent! And Tim and MT Pulley and Dave Bergstrom for the “tent raising”—with the ladies giving them directions, of course! Thanks to MT for getting his friend Dean Johnson to bring a portable PA system AND play his ukulele while we dined. And thanks to Neil Anderson—who could not make it to speak—but picked the July 22 date—it was perfect weather. And by his not being the main speaker, all of the club members were able to elaborate on their talks—and I thought the program was even better than planned! Thanks to Robert Kean and Ada Hegion for the Tour of MGCM-Planted Trees. And last but not least, a big thanks to Tina Scott, Park Gardener and MGCM member: she got us the permit to use the park (fee waived), the tables and chairs, garbage cans, you name it—brought them all up to our party site with her scooter. She enlisted her old boss Dave Bergstrom to help—and the two of them worked until 10 PM putting stuff away after our event—and they had to be back to work at the park by 6 AM the next morning!

And then the garden—our garden has never looked so beautiful. Thanks so much to my hard-working committee: Robert Kean, Rodg Sefelt, Mollie Dean, Tim

Rosener, Tina Scott, Bob Redmond, Ada Hegion, MT Pulley, Sharla Aaseng, Judy Berglund, Nancy Duncan, Suzanne Holt, Dave (F.) Johnson, Margaret Landry, Carol Schreier, and Lloyd Wittstock. Some of them were working three days a week prior to the July 22 event to get the garden ready.

And a big thanks to all the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Staff that came to help us celebrate: The Superintendent John Gurban, Park Board Commissioner Bob Fine, General Manager Mike Schmidt, Lakes District Manager Paul Hokeness, and Foreman Dave Bergstrom. We were honored by their attention, and they appreciate us volunteers. I hear that Mayor R.T. Rybak was in the Rose Garden during our garden tours—we had invited him too—since he lives just around the corner. He saw Mollie Dean crossing the street headed for the garden with her tools on the previous Saturday—and he stopped his car to thank her for her work—and she invited him to join us on Tuesday!

I especially want to thank the many MGCM members who, back in 2001, were determined to push on and create a garden at this site. We had struggled for a number of years, but 2001 was a very hot dry summer, and no one was watering the garden—even though we were told that was the job of the park staff. Many plants died in the drought. Bob Redmond and I were co-chairing that year—and we were ready to quit the project. We phoned all the committee for a meeting—and 18 people showed up!—all in my tiny old living room. And no one wanted to quit. They all liked going to the park and gardening with their friends. Some are gone now, like Walt Gustafson, but I treasure their vision and determination—to continue to garden—“we can do it”. And now 8 years later, look what we have achieved. Howard Berg stood with me at the edge of the garden on July 22, and characteristically shaking his head, Howard could hardly believe what

(cont.on page 9)

(cont.from page 8)



he was seeing. And then I too remembered what the garden had looked like in the early days when Howard was on the committee with us. We never thought we would see such a garden. And thanks too to the former MGCM members that are no longer with us—Bill Jepson and Henry Orfield—Bill headed the committee that proposed that MGCM move their community gardening project from the old Fragrance Garden site to find a new site—and Henry was instrumental in laying out the current garden. I still have his original computer drawing—and now I photocopy it and keep mapping out the new areas! We were joined on July 22 by Nancy Jepson, Nancy Orfield, and Henry’s daughter Carrie.

It takes much time and patience to create a garden—especially one in such a wild spot—with minimal water available. But together we have done it. The MGCM by-laws read: MGCM is dedicated to “the betterment of life for both the community and its members through gardening”. It certainly has bettered mine, and I believe in the Power of Gardening!

(Arisaema cont.from page 4)

Arisaema (air-uh-SEE-muh) refers to the plant’s resemblance to the Arum family and haima (blood); referring to some species bearing red blotches. Triphyllum (try-FIL-um) refers to the plant having three leaves. Care should also be taken to avoid confusion with poison ivy, which has 3 leaflets somewhat similar in appearance. But one should know that the plant is poisonous. The oxalic acid and asparagines in jack in the pulpit are poisonous if ingested and the root is the most dangerous. Calcium oxalate crystals will cause a powerful burning sensation if eaten raw. The Native Americans used the root as a vegetable after cooking it toughly.

These are very easy to grow if you follow these conditions.

Soil Type - humus rich sandy loam

Soil pH - Neutral

Water - Moist

Light - Full - partial shad

In Minnesota there are three different varieties in the wild; *Arisaema triphyllum* ssp. *Pusillum*, *Arisaema triphyllum* ssp. *Stewardsonii*, *Arisaema triphyllum* ssp. *Triphyllum*.

But there are many varieties available from garden centers and specialty plant suppliers.

Plant a Jack in the Pulpit or two; I think you will be pleased to see them pop up each spring.



Come Join Us at the FFF Show

Once again, I encourage everyone to participate in this year's Flower, Food and Foto Show at the Arboretum. Photos need to be submitted by July 31st, but there is no pre-registration for the flower and vegetable part of the show. (In fact, there isn't a way to pre-register!) This year, our show will be part of the Arboretum's Flower Fest weekend, so there will be a lot of people from the plant societies around, and we're hoping for large attendance from the public as well. So it would be really outstanding if we could have all of our tables filled with flower and vegetable entries. The show is in the main auditorium in the new building.

If you haven't ever participated in the Show, let me tell you that it is a blast! I still kick myself for not having participated sooner. The competition is friendly, and other exhibitors are happy to give advice to first-time exhibitors. Plus, there's a trophy for the best first-time exhibitor. We'd love to award it to someone this year. And remember -- entry to the Arboretum is free to exhibitors!

If you're thinking about entering, here are a few tips:

1. Take a look at the show schedule. You should have gotten one at the last club meeting or in the mail, and I'm going to ask Andy to post it on our website as well. The show schedule tells you what how many of each cut flower or vegetable you need to enter, and what the artistic design categories are this year.
2. Consider entering container plants and hanging baskets. There are categories for these, too, and they make a great display.
3. Make out your entry tags ahead of time, and use either a pencil or a ball-point pen (since there's a lot of water around on the setup tables). If you need entry tags, please let me know -- email me at maynard4375@yahoo.com or call me at 952-926-7506 and I'll get some to you. We will also have entry tags at the show if you need more.

4. For cut flowers, cut them the evening before, if possible, and store them in a cool place overnight. This will give you an idea of how things will hold up at the show. Cut an extra stem or two if you have them, since things can get damaged in transport or during exhibit prep. When selecting specimens, choose those with the least leaf or flower damage, and if you need multiples, try to select the most uniform. Also, look for flowers that are not fully bloomed out. Judges look for flowers with "more to come". And remove dust and dirt. (Hostas, particularly, can be kind of dusty.) Vegetables should be wiped clean but not scrubbed.

5. Specimens can be transported in many different ways. A lot of members bring tall things in 5-gallon buckets. I bring a lot of my entries in quart and pint jars, stuffed into boxes and wedged in place with newspaper. Just do your best to keep cut flowers upright and in water.

6. Get to the setup area (the loading dock at the main building) in time to put your specimens in the vases and bottles (for cut flowers) or paper plates (for vegetables) that are provided by the club and get them to the show floor by 10:30 a.m. when the judging starts. Bring pruning shears or little scissors for that last-minute trimming. I have noticed, for instance, that our judges are more likely to notice a leaf with an insect hole in it than to notice that a leaf is missing (because we trimmed it off).

If you have any questions about how to best display your entries, ask any of the other exhibitors. We are all happy to help!

7. Then take some time to visit the other exhibits our tour the gardens and come back around 12:30 to see what you've won!

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate



to send me an email or give me a call. The more the merrier!

And, if you really aren't ready to show anything this year, please do come out to the show. You might discover that you have things in your garden that would have won!

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.

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The FFF Show Entry Tag Explained

Use a ball-point pen, lead pencil or waterproof marker to fill out tag. Tags often get wet, and other markers may run or fade.

○
ENTRY TAG

No.....13.....

DivisionHort.....

ClassA-17.....

EntryMarigold.....
.....Tiger Eyes.....

NameMary Maynard...

AddressSt. Louis Park ...

Your entry number. You get your number the day of the show.

Either "Design" or "Horticulture" often shortened to "Hort"

The Section Letter and Class Number from the Show Schedule.

The variety name of your entry, as best you know it.

Pre-printed labels work very well for this. Saves time!

Fold line: End of tag is folded up over name so judges don't see it.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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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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Return To:

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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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