



# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
2008, Volume 66, Number 12



## Reminder to RSVP by November 25th for the MGCM Holiday Party and Silent Auction

“Seasons of Our Gardening Years”

**Tuesday December 2, 2008 at 5:30 pm**

**Lake Harriet United Methodist Church**

The annual Holiday Party is fast approaching. This year's festivities include:

- ❖ Social Hour beginning at 5:30pm
- ❖ Silent Auction
- ❖ Invocation by Pastor Tyler Christiansen
- ❖ Dinner
- ❖ Awards Ceremony
- ❖ A musical slide show of MGCM past and present by Chuck Carlson.

We hope you are all thinking about ideas and items for the silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction go toward the cost of the party and to support the club. To donate to the auction please use the party RSVP included in the November and December Spray. Fill in the description; it's size, and a minimum starting bid. Include your contact information in case there are any questions.

There is a list of ideas at the bottom of the form. The day of the party bring the items to the church between 9:30 and 11:30 that morning or 4:45 and 5:30 that evening so we can set up the displays.

If you need a copy of the official request on Club letterhead for a business contact:  
Elaine Spiegel  
4814 West 41st Street  
St. Louis Park, MN  
Phone: 952-927-9539  
E-mail: [elspiegs@comcast.net](mailto:elspiegs@comcast.net)

**Note:** Permanent reservations are not in effect for the Holiday Party. To make a reservation for the Holiday Party, please fill in the reservation form included with the November Spray and send to: Nancy Porte, 3509 LeRoy Street, Minnetonka, MN 55391-3405. *Checks must be received by **Tuesday, November 25, 2008.***

# Thoughts from the Prez

by Larry Larson

Before I get into my last column of the year, I would like to thank two outgoing members of the board, Margaret Landry and Don Trocke. Margaret has admirably served the board for the last three years as vice-president, president and past president. Her calm demeanor, positive influence and preparedness always added a positive element at our board meetings and beyond. We will miss you, Margaret!

Don Trocke has also been a positive member of our board for several years. This past summer, Don stepped in and took over the Valley Fair Committee to ensure our club met its planting obligations, thereby securing several hundred dollars for our club treasury. And this past Spring, Don took my place setting up tables at the plant auction when bad health prevented me from participating. Thank you, Margaret and Don!

So when you see them at next month's club dinner, give them a pat on the back and tell them Well Done! I know they will appreciate it!

We are quickly coming to the end of another year, and with Christmas just around the corner, I think it's appropriate that I write an open letter to our old friend in the red suit, Santa Claus, and ask for a few favors on behalf of everyone in our garden club. So here goes:

Dear Santa:

Let me find a way to get rid of the bugs, Japanese beetles, and/or slugs that have invaded my hostas and eaten holes in them that would make Swiss cheese envious.

Let someone hybridize a true blue dahlia.

We are hoping that our delphiniums and clematis make it through the winter and come back more beautiful



than ever. And incidentally, Santa, helping someone develop a delphinium with a stronger stem so they all won't fall over as soon as they bloom would be good, too.

In 2009 and beyond, we hope that our critter neighbors, specifically the deer and the rabbit, stop treating our flowers like their personal buffet line.

Please talk to your pal old man winter and tell him, gently of course, that we would appreciate a warm, early spring for a change.

Please sprinkle some magic dust on hose inventors everywhere to help them develop a hose that will not kink!

Give us all more time to visit the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and other beautiful gardens around this area.

Tell black spot to take a hike.

Hail is okay as long as it doesn't fall on our gardens.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Balance as of 11-15-08

Checking	1607.00
CD	5662.00



## *A Note from the Editor*

Mary Maynard

Well, the days are certainly getting shorter, aren't they? Fortunately, the garden is buttoned up, and all those bags of leaves everywhere make it look like we have bodies buried in the back yard. So now that we're settled in for winter again, we have time to reflect.

It's close to Thanksgiving as I write this, and I am thinking about all the people in the club that deserve our thanks. I am grateful to Jason Rathe, who pulls the Spray together so beautifully every month. And I am grateful to all the members of the board who have stepped up to devote their time and energy to serve the club for another year. And for all the committees, who do everything from plant trees for Arbor Day to put on a lovely Holiday Party at the end of the year. And for all of our members who take the time to welcome a new face or share their knowledge and experience with the rest of us.

And thanks in advance to the 2009 Board and the new president who gets to wear the turkey suit at the Holiday Party! See you all there!

## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
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Dec. 2nd	LHC	Holiday Party
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LHC = Lake Harriet Church (4901 Chowen Ave. S., Minneapolis)

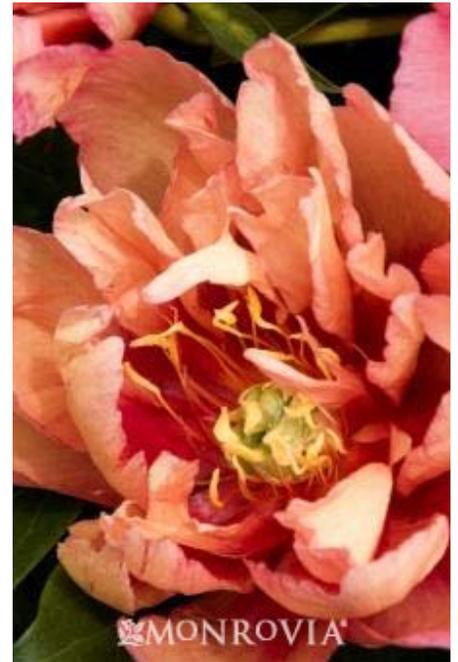
WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church



## **November Meeting: Suzette Nordstrom from Monrovia**

Here are some photos (copied with permission from the Monrovia website) of plants that were presented at the November program. The single thing that most caught my eye were the “Itoh” peonies. They are herbaceous like regular peonies, but have the flower size and bloom abundance of tree peonies. Monrovia figured out how to tissue culture them, so their price is “down” to ~\$150 or so. I guess I can’t quit my day job if I want an Itoh peony! There are also a couple of photos of new barberry and weigela introductions.

- Mary Maynard





**Seasons of our Gardening Years Holiday Party**  
**Tuesday December 2, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Lake Harriet United Methodist Church**



To RSVP please fill out the following reservation form, enclose a check made out to MGCM, and mail to: Nancy Porte, 3509 LeRoy Street, Minnetonka, MN 55391-3405. Phone: 952-473-7858. E-mail: [nporte@comcast.net](mailto:nporte@comcast.net)

**PLEASE SEND RESERVATION FORM TO ARRIVE BY NOVEMBER 25, 2008**

<b>Name:</b>	_____
<b>Number of Guests:</b>	_____
<b>Total check enclosed (\$20 per person):</b>	_____
<b>Item(s) for the Silent Auction:</b>	
<i>Description:</i>	_____
<i>Size (space required for display):</i>	_____
<i>Minimum Bid:</i>	_____
<i>Submitter/contact:</i>	_____
<i>Description:</i>	_____
<i>Size (space required for display):</i>	_____
<i>Minimum Bid:</i>	_____
<i>Submitter/contact:</i>	_____

**Need ideas or suggestions for the silent auction?**

- Tickets (movies, theater, opera, or sporting events)
- Homemade items (crafts, baked goods, note cards)
- Tools, plants, note cards sets or membership in a specialty garden club
- Gift certificates (for hotel, resort, garden center, bookstore, or restaurant)
- Time, talent or services (garden consultation, custom art/craft, teaching a craft or skill, make a meal)





## *Fundraising Afternoon Teas*

What are you going to do in winter? Will you be missing the beauty of your garden? How about joining us for an “over-the-top” afternoon tea? For me beautiful antique porcelain becomes my garden in winter. Combine those lovely old dishes with good food, a warm fire, and garden club friends—and you have an event that you won’t forget. The Lyndale Park Garden “Daytime Weeding Group” is going to offer two afternoon teas this winter. We realize that it has become difficult for the club to raise money for our special funds, the Park Garden and the Scholarships. So we are holding two fund-raising tea parties. Wouldn’t you rather come to tea than organize a public tour?

**TIMES:** The teas will be held on two days, Friday, February 13 (a very lucky day) and Sunday, March 15 (the Ides of March!) Both start at 2:30 PM and run to about 5—however, end time is flexible--we will not chase you out. The site for these events will be Kay Wolfe’s home. Each day we can accommodate 12 people, 6 seated in the Parlor, and 6 in the Library.

**WHAT YOU GET:** We are planning a “Five Course” Tea—starting with a Port & Sherry course, moving through three food courses (something substantial—not all sandwiches), and ending with sweets. Tea tasting—different teas served with each course—and talks about the origins of the teas, and info on the tea estates from where they originate will be included. Antique porcelain and sterling flatware will be used throughout. Stories about the history of afternoon tea, the particular porcelain being used, and dates of the antique sterling will also be included. The Daytime Weeding Group will be your chefs and servers.

And all this for only \$40 per person! The full price of the tea will be donated to the two MGCM Designated

Funds whose monies are running so low—the Scholarship Fund and the Lyndale Park Garden Fund. The Weeding Group will donate all the food and beverages.

**SIGN UP** will be at the Holiday Party Silent Auction, and we will be present then to answer questions. First come, first served. If you cannot make it to the Holiday Party—let me know so I can get your name on one of the lists. Hopefully we won’t have a rush on places—if so, bribes will be taken!

Payment will not be needed until about 3 weeks before the event. We will send out formal invitations to those that have signed up, and at that time you must respond and send a check to reserve your spot.

Please join us for tea! Bring a friend, bring a Valentine! Find an old hat—or shop for a new one! Of course gentlemen are welcome!

Kay Wolfe, hostess (Email: [kaywolfe@q.com](mailto:kaywolfe@q.com);  
Phone: 952.922.0762)

And the rest of the Daytime Weeding Group: Sharla Aaseng, Mollie Dean, Ada Hegion, Carol Schreier



## Volunteer of the Year

Robert Kean has received this year's Volunteer of the Year Award given by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board. Robert has been recognized for his outstanding effort at the Lyndale Park Garden, and was nominated by the staff of gardeners at the park, one of whom is club member Tina Scott.

Since 2002 Robert has coordinated the planting of the Trial Garden. In spring, he organizes getting the trial plants from University Professor Neil Anderson, and then supervises the planting. He and Mollie Dean together gather the data on the plants every two weeks during the growing season, and tabulate and report the results to the University. In addition to the trial garden, Robert has been chair of the Arbor Day Committee since 1999. Most of the trees that have been planted for the Arbor Day events have gone into Lyndale Park. And in addition to all this—Robert is on the “Steering Committee” of the Lyndale Park Garden Committee—and shows up for just about every single Saturday work crew!

Congratulations to Robert—you certainly deserve this award!

By Kay Wolfe



## END OF THE SEASON FOR THE PARK GARDEN

By Kay Wolfe

The “Leaf Cover-Up Day” at the Lyndale Park Garden was held on Saturday Nov. 1. Fourteen club members tossed and moved four truckloads of leaves in order to cover the garden. Adding the leaves in fall helps us get one step ahead in spring—to stifle weed growth and keep in spring rains. The truckloads of leaves are delivered to us from Lakewood Cemetery. One member of the Auxiliary (that is the MEN’S Auxiliary to the MEN’s Garden Club) showed up, but wished to remain anonymous lest he get thrown out of the Auxiliary for participating in a gardening event. In case you are not aware--the Auxiliary is composed of non-gardening spouses of club members--and they never allow the word ‘horticulture’ to pass their lips--let alone be caught holding a rake! (Evidence in photo.)

After the leaves were moved and donut holes and coffee consumed (see photo), Robert Kean and Ada



Judy, Nancy, Don & Dave attack leaf pile.



Site of first MGCM meeting: Marilyn, Tina, Robert, Dave, Ada, Mollie, Don, Judy, Carol, President Larry, and ‘First Dog’

Heigion led us on a tour of the “Arboretum” of Lyndale Park. Back in 1982, one year after a tornado struck this area of Minneapolis, the MGCM did a replanting of trees in the park. Club member and landscape architect Ray Marshall created a landscape plan for the Arboretum. MGCM planted a Mountain Ash Collection, a Nut Collection--buckeye, hickory, butternut--and a Maple Collection. There was a huge old concolor fir that was topped in the tornado, and assuming it would eventually die, the club planted a small circle of young concolor firs around it. To this day the old fir with its top missing still stands in the circle of younger trees--which are now as tall as it is. Check it out in the photo!

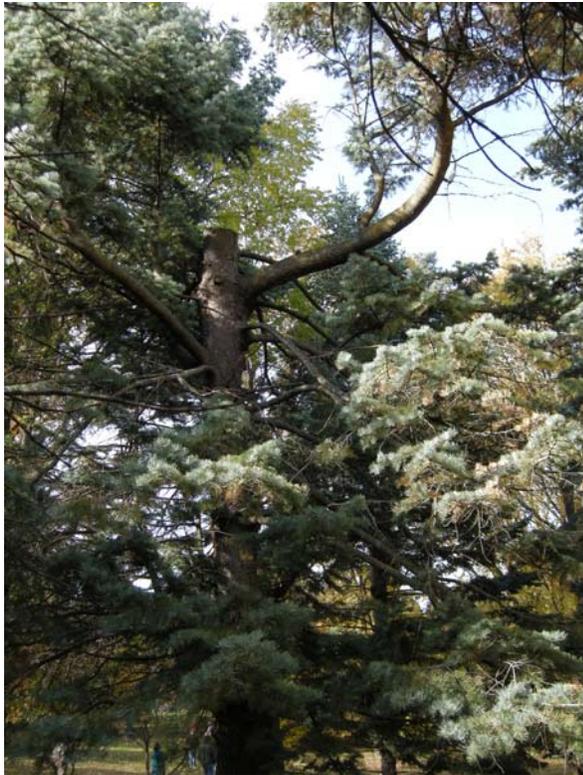
Pageant Hill—which was actually built to accommodate pageants--is directly across the street from our border garden. At the top of the hill stands a large

(Cont. on page 9)

(Cont. from page 8)



old cottonwood tree, believed to be the site of the first meeting of the MGCM back in 1942. Note the photo of our current club members on the park bench under the tree. It was a beautiful fall day--our last group garden effort for the year!



Concolor fir without top



Anonymous Auxiliary member



L-R: Ada Hegion, Mary Maynard, Judy Berglund, Marilyn Moon, Dave (Frid) Johnson, Dave McKeen, Robert Kean, Rodg Sefelt, Don Trocke. Front: Mollie Dean, Kay Wolfe, Carol Schreier, and "The First Dog" (Missing from photo: Nancy Bjerke, Tina Scott, Tim Rosener.)



Nominating committee slate of officers/  
directors for 2009:

President: Denise Rust  
Vice President: Don Unteidt  
Past President: Larry Larson  
Treasurer: David McKeen  
Recording Secretary: Judy Berglund  
Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng  
Director: Elizabeth Hamilton  
Director: Elaine Spiegel  
Director: Kay Wolfe

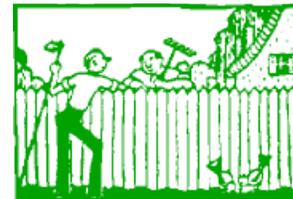
Note: We will vote for 2009 officers during a quick business meeting at the Holiday Party.

### **Membership Renewal Time**

This is just a reminder to those of you who have not yet sent in your dues for 2009. The dues are \$20.00. You can make out the check to: MGCM. Normally, your renewals are due by December 1st. However, since the vote to raise the club dues slightly delayed this process, please get your renewal to me by December 15th. You do not need to send me a form. HOWEVER, I do need you to indicate what committees you will serve on or be willing to chair AND any changes in your directory information. IN ADDITION, if you would like to make a contribution to either the General, Scholarship or Memorial Funds, you can include that on the check but don\_t forget to indicate which fund.

Sharla Aaseng  
1025 20th Ave SE  
Mpls, MN 55414-2511

MGCM Board Meeting Minutes  
November 4, 2008



The November 4, 2008 Board meeting was called to order by President Larry Larson. All board members and directors were present except for Denise Rust. Board nominee Kay Wolfe and scholarship chairman Kent Petterson were invited to attend.

Officer and Board of Director nominees are as follows:

President: Denise Rust	Directors: Elaine Spiegel
Vice President: Don Untiedt	Elizabeth Hamilton
Recording Secretary: Judy Berglund	Kay Wolfe
Treasure: David McKeen	
Membership Secretary: Sharla Aaseng	
Past President: Larry Larson	

The Board agreed that in 2009 the meeting programs shall be set by a Program Committee to include Larry Larson, new vice president Don Untiedt and a third unnamed person. President Larry Larson will ask for committee volunteers at the November club meeting. Larry Larson suggested we lower fees paid to guest speakers. Kay Wolfe suggested setting a budget of \$500 for payment to guest speakers for 2009 and try to draw some speakers from the club membership.

Kent Petterson, chair of the Scholarship Committee was invited to attend the board meeting because of expected short falls in the clubs 2009 budget. He gave the Board a brief history of the Scholarship Committee, set up in 1992 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. He suggested rather than having scholarship funds go into the general fund and then disbursed to scholarships, that a designated scholarship fund be set up so that grant dollars and public tour income go directly into the designated scholarship fund. He believes that we may again this year receive a \$1,000 grant from Northwestern Mutual for scholarships; if the grant is not received the club may have to skip a year to get caught up with funds.

Kay Wolfe suggested that some of the committees might consider fund raising activities to help finance committee work. Her committee was planning to sponsor two formal teas  
To help raise funds for the clubs work at the Lyndale Park Garden.

The Board agreed to increase the number of Board meeting to the first Tuesday of every month except July, August and December.

Rookie Member of the Year was voted upon and will be awarded at the December Holiday Party.

Elaine Spiegel updated the Board on the silent auction and Holiday Party preparations.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be January 6, 2009, location to be determined.



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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### Club Officers:

**President: Larry Larson**  
15225 Wild Wings, Minnetonka  
**Vice President: Denise Rust**  
7933 Girard Court, Brooklyn Park  
**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: Margaret Landry**  
3252 40th Ave. S., Minneapolis

### Directors:

**Elaine Spiegel**  
4814 West 41st. St., St. Louis Park  
**Elizabeth Hamilton**  
8219 Russell Ave. S., Bloomington  
**Don Trocke**  
10625 Bush Lake Rd., Bloomington

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**

*December*  
*2008*