



Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2009, Volume 67, Number 12



**MGCM HOLIDAY PARTY
AND SILENT AUCTION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
LAKE HARRIET METHODIST CHURCH**

We hope you have signed up for the holiday party and are planning on bringing items for the silent auction. The party and silent auction will take place on Tuesday December 8, 2009 at the Lake Harriet Methodist Church. This year's theme is "Songs of the Season".

From 5-6:30 pm there will be a Social Hour with Hors d'ouvres and the Silent Auction set-up. The catered dinner is at 6:40 pm and harpist Raeny Hendrickson will entertain us during the Social Hour and Dinner. Awards will follow.

For ideas of items to donate to the auction please see the party RSVP included in the November and December Spray newsletters. Fill in the description; including the size, and a minimum starting bid. Include your contact information in case there are any questions.

On the day of the party, it is preferred that you bring the items to our room in the church between 9:30 and 11:30 that morning. Last minute donations are welcome too, just be sure to bring them between 5:00 and 5:30 that evening so we have time to set up the displays.

If you need a copy of the official request on Club letterhead for a business contact:

Elaine Spiegel, Holiday Party Chair

4814 West 41st Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
Phone: 952-927-9539
E-mail: 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: Margaret Landry, 412 Wayzata Blvd. East #107 Wayzata MN, 55391. Phone: 612 437 0707 Email: FabFrau@mac.com **Checks can be made payable to MGCM and must be received by Thursday, December 3, 2009.**

Thoughts from the Prez: Rusty Ramblings

by Denise Rust

The garden chores are finished for the season (even the last of the annuals that were hanging on have been removed). It seems odd not to be doing anything in the yard, with the warmer temperatures still with us. I suppose I could rearrange things in the shed now that the snow blower has been moved to the garage, but I guess I prefer to relax a bit before the rush of the holidays. Even that seems partly under control, as I am ahead on my Christmas shopping. I even took the time for a holiday class the weekend before Thanksgiving, making a boxwood “tree” to spruce up the holiday décor. This class was held at the Alexander Ramsey House in St. Paul, taught by Ardith Beveridge, and was sponsored by the Horticulture Society. As you can see by the photos, the Ramsey House was already decorated for the season.

In this busy time of year, I would encourage each of you to do something out of the norm: visit a historical home done up for the holidays; explore your creative side by taking a one session class; make something different to give away or to decorate with; or visit a favorite indoor garden space to see the decorations, such as the Como Conservatory (open even Christmas day, 10-4) or the Arboretum. And by all means, I hope to see you at the club’s Holiday Party December 8!

This being my last President’s Column, I suppose it would be in order to review the past year. Due to careful spending, our treasury is looking quite good; the member handbook has been revised, and the job of the Membership Secretary has been simplified; we had some wonderful programs, including a trip to the Macy’s Flower Show and a great club tour; we even have a cable TV show in production, and a number of new members who are already contributing a lot. A new Board stands ready to take office in January, and I’m sure we’ll see a lot of new things in store; I

am excited by some of the program ideas that have already been developed for 2010. Stay tuned! Oh, and, by the way, the Public Tour Committee, (of which I am chair), has set next year’s tour for July 10-11. Please keep that weekend free if you can to perhaps help out as a garden greeter and to take the tour. I look forward to working alongside all of you in the future.





A Note from the Editor

Mary Maynard

We're closing out another year. This issue includes the last President's column from Denise, who has set a high standard for future presidents. I thank Denise for her year of service as president and for her prompt and informative columns and beautiful photography. I also thank everyone else who provides content to the newsletter. I expect several people dread getting my "reminders" every month. You have all been very good sports!

And, of course, Jason Rathe deserves the lion's share of the credit for the Spray you see every month. I do the harassment of our regular contributors, and Jason puts it all together in an attractive and readable format. I think we have been a good team over the years, and I look forward to working with Jason again next year.

Last month, I reached my 20-year anniversary with the club. In those early days, I was often the only woman member at club meetings, and I still remember how gracious, welcoming and inclusive the members were. Even our old friend Dwight Stone, who told me on the day I joined that "95 percent of the men in the club are opposed to having women join -- and 100% of our wives are!", was always friendly. I will never forget all of the members who we have lost over the last 20 years -- people like Charlie Proctor, Nate Siegel, Howard Klier, Bob Churilla and so many more. At this holiday season, I will think of them fondly.

As I've said before, I will never be able to give back to the club as much as I have received from my 20 years of membership. I look forward to the next 20 years!

I look forward to seeing you at the Holiday Party. Happy Holidays!

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
January 11th	LHC	Tom Tennant - Out Back Nursery
July 10th-11th		Public Garden Tour



November Meeting

Paul Aarested from Lakewood Cemetery provided a fascinating view into what goes into the upkeep of the cemetery grounds, as well as the prestigious horticultural heritage of the cemetery. His slide show included pictures of how the cemetery and the surrounding area looked early in the century as well as many pictures of their massive tulip and canna beds as well as many annual flower combinations.



The New Board of Directors



Speaker Paul Aarested discusses with members after his presentation



Speaker Paul Aarested described passionately the horticultural heritage of Lakewood Cemetery

Arboretum past-president Peter Olin



Can You Help?

Join the 2010 MGCM Program Committee! At the November club meeting, Rog Koopmans came up to me and said—that he has been in this club “forever” (he is right, 51 years according to the directory)—and that we always do the same things. And as Program Vice President for 2010, can’t I find some new ideas?? So, what can we do that is different? I sent out an email to a few members—asking for ideas for “off-site” places we could visit—and they sent back some great ideas. Besides dinner meetings, we could visit Como Conservatory, Len Busch Roses, the Arboretum, Bachman’s, U of M greenhouses, the plantings at the Mall of America. The list is long—and these are just ideas for winter. Do you have new ideas for MGCM? Do you think our programs need refreshing? Do you like to plan events? **JOIN THE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE!** There are 7 dinner meetings per year. All it will take is 7 members, each to plan one meeting! Or better yet, 14 members, each doing half an event! Think what fun we will have! I’ll organize a January 2010 meeting –and we will be off and running. Please let me know if you want to join this committee. But hurry—space is limited! And “tea” of course, is included!

Kay Wolfe MGCMgarden@q.com or 952.922.0762



END OF 2009 FOR THE LYNDALE PARK GARDEN

On November 7 the MGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee with the help of friends finished winter cover-up at the Lyndale Park Garden. It was an absolutely glorious day—temps in the low '60's—we had not had such warm weather since mid-September.

The staff at Lakewood Cemetery (our neighbor to the north) rake up all of their fall leaves—and are excited to have a place to dump them. So we help them out and take a truckful or two and spread them on our garden. The leaves are not

needed for winter protection—in fact, we cannot put them on the Trial Garden bed. We use them for mulch for next spring to help with weed control and moisture retention. This year the truckfuls of leaves that were delivered were wet—due to all the October rains—and well packed from the “mold” of the dump truck. It was grueling work to dig through the leaf loaves and spread those leaves out, but our team persevered, and the job was soon done.

(cont. on page 11)



The Committee eating donut holes.

L to R: Mollie Dean, Kay Wolfe, Don Trocke, MT Pulley, Carol Schreier, Doug Whitney, Robert Kean, Tina Scott, Dave Fridley Johnson, Tim Rosener, Nancy Bjerke, Rodg Sefelt, Sharla Aaseng. In the leaves: Ava and Josie, nieces of Tina Scott.



Thinking ahead to next year's Flower, Food and Foto Show (FFF): Gift Ideas

Is anyone wondering what to get you for Christmas? Maybe you could suggest the Exhibiting and Judging Handbook, published by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. It has a lot of information about displaying flowers and vegetables, and is the guide that our judges use. Or, how about a book on floral design? Here's one that I have my eye on: Ikebana: The Art of Arranging Flowers by Shozu Sato and Kasen Yoshimura. The reviews are excellent, and it's supposed to be understandable even by beginners. Or, of course, you could suggest a new camera to prepare for entering the photo contest. Phil just got one, and I'm working hard to keep my hands off it!

TREASURER REPORT

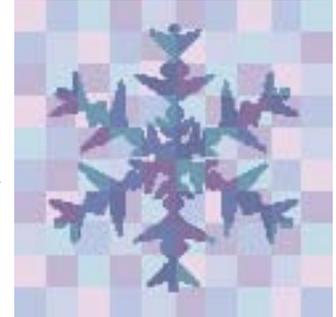
CD	5,000.00
Checking	5,668.00
Designated funds	
Memorial (Park garden)	1,106.00
Scholarship fund	100



MGCM TRADITIONS AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY

By Kay Wolfe

There are many traditions that are part of the MGCM Holiday Party. First and foremost, there is the famous “Parade of Turkeys”. When I joined MGCM back in 1993, the party diners sat at tables for 12. Every table had a designated “carver”. At the appointed moment, all the carvers went the kitchen. They removed their dinner jackets and donned chef’s hats and long white aprons. They each picked up a whole roasted turkey on a huge platter, and in a long line they marched into the dining room. To the tunes of Henry Halvorson playing the piano, they marched around the room, with the audience clapping to the rhythm. The line of turkeys wove around, and finally the individual carvers found their way to their tables, and the dinner began! I thought maybe the tradition harkened back to the Middle Ages, when they “paraded the Boar’s Head” in front of all the diners. MT Pulley says that to be a carver, you even had to attend to a class to learn the art of turkey carving.



Then along about 2000, when Ritchie Miller was President, whole cooked turkeys became rather expensive. The price for roasted turkey parts was more agreeable to the MGCM budget, so the whole turkey carved at the table fell out of favor. However, President Ritchie had an idea for the “Parade of Turkeys”, and it morphed into the tradition that we have today. Along the way a few “props” have been added. I won’t explain any further—to witness this Parade, you must attend the Holiday Party and experience it for yourself!

Another great MGCM tradition is the Awards and Trophies. Most of the traveling trophies are named after individuals. They were given to MGCM by the families of former members in memory of their loved one. In addition to being an honor, it is great fun to win one of the trophies. Names of all the previous winners will be engraved on the trophy—and sometimes brass plates have been added to the backs and sides so we can keep adding new names every year. And the engraving font gets smaller as time marches forward. No wonder they are so large! Both the Lehman Trophy (best garden on the summer tours) and the Blackburn Trophy (winner of the flower competition at the FFF) have names dating back to 1962—that is 47years of club history. It is fun being part of an organization with so much history and tradition. Attend the Holiday Party and the MGCM Awards Ceremony—and applaud the winners of the trophies for 2009! You just may be one of them—and making history!



MGCM Holiday Party

"Songs of the Season"

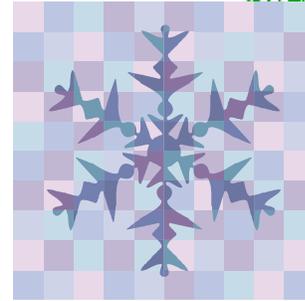
Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 5:30 pm

Lake Harriet United Methodist Church

To RSVP and to donate items for the silent auction, please fill out this reservation form and enclose a check made out to MGCM,

Mail to: Margaret Landry
412 Wayzata Blvd. East, #104
Wayzata MN, 55391.

Phone: 612-437-0707.
Email: FabFrau@mac.com.



PLEASE SEND RESERVATION FORM TO ARRIVE BY Thursday, December 3, 2009.

Member & Guest	
Names: _____	
Total check enclosed (\$20 per person): _____	
Item(s) for the Silent Auction:	
<i>Description:</i> _____	
Size (space required for display): _____	Minimum Bid: _____
Submitter/contact: _____	
Description: _____	
Size (space required for display): _____	Minimum Bid: _____
Submitter/contact: _____	
Description: _____	
Size (space required for display): _____	Minimum Bid: _____
Submitter/contact: _____	

Need ideas or suggestions for the silent auction?

- Tickets (movies, theater, opera, or sporting events)
- Homemade or hand crafted items (crafts, baked goods, note cards, embroidery)
- Tools, plants, note cards, statues, books, bird feeders, bird baths
- Gift certificates (for hotel, resort, garden center, bookstore, restaurant, or membership in a specialty garden club)
- Time, talent or services (garden consultation, custom art/craft, teaching a craft or skill, make a meal, host a theme party)



MY FAVORITE TOOL

by Bob Olson

I have always had problems with trowels. They do just fine in perfect garden soil, but if the ground is hard and there are pesky weeds to be upended, sooner or later they bend on me no matter what the claims of the maker. Years ago I read about a super trowel in the Smith and Hawkin catalog. The catalog said the shaft was forged steel and they had never had one fail. And they were correct—my blade bent in the middle, the shaft was fine.

And so it went. In despair I bought new trowels like annual plants. It was just the way it was. But a year-and-a-half ago I got a tool that seems to be the answer. It arrived serendipity. Our garden was to be on a garden tour to raise money for autistic children. The organizers sent me a note saying they knew I had a lot of hostas and they had arranged for an expert to give a talk to my visitors. I was a little hurt that they didn't think I was an expert, but I wasn't going to volunteer to give a talk in addition to showing my garden to visitors. The expert speaker turned out to be Tom Carlson, who spoke to the Men's Garden Club a couple of years ago. He did a fine job. And he arrived bearing gifts—a hosta (which is a bit like "coals to Newcastle") and a special trowel-like tool, which he said, was the best thing he'd run across.



Previous trowels would always break when confronted with less than ideal garden soil

Tom was right. The trowel-like tool is terrific. It is very sturdy and despite its long handle has never come close to "failing". It's good for digging out small plants to transfer in addition to being a match for the toughest weeds-in-hard-soil. I think the secret may be the crease down the blade. An engineer once told me it greatly increases the strength of a blade to have a crease (I hope the structural engineers in our group will come to the fore here and affirm or debunk this assertion). This gem is made of stainless steel and doesn't rust. Rust wasn't much of a problem with my "disposable" trowels—they never lasted long enough for that to be much of a problem, but this something I'd like to keep. It also has a red handle so I can spot it easily when I misplace it in the garden.

What's your favorite tool?



My favorite super trowel





(Lyndale Park Garden, cont.
from page 6)

Other fall chores—we wrapped conifers in burlap that had been planted during the summer drought, and sprayed the ones planted in previous seasons with Wilt Stop. Hopefully this will deter any winter burn on the conifers. And we added wire fences around some new shrubs to protect them from rabbits that just might dine on them in winter. How they eat barberries we will never know! Tune in next spring and we will let you know the results of these horticultural experiments.

Thanks to all who helped! Those not pictured, but who also came to help were: Lloyd Wittstock (the photographer), Judy Berglund, and Jean Strande.

Kay Wolfe
Lyndale Park Garden Committee Chair
(aka Garden Goddess, Princess Kay, Kady-Did, or Stray Wolfe. (Never before chairing this committee have I gotten so many nicknames.)



Rodg trying to determine who is missing



The big pile of leaves moved at the clean-up



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

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

First Class Mail

December
2009