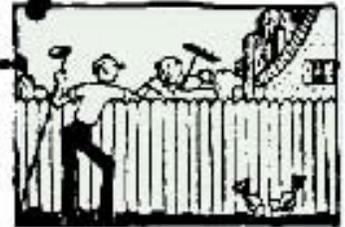




The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc
2007, Volume 65, Number 02



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Feb. 13th	LHC	Ikebana

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

MF = Marshall Field's Downtown

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

February Speaker: Sue Bagge on Ikebana

Sue Bagge has studied ikebana for 24 years and has traveled to Japan several times. She is receiving her third teaching certificate in the Sogetsu School of ikebana, a contemporary school of Japanese flower arranging. She exhibits yearly at Art in Bloom, the State Fair and other venues and chaired the Home & Garden Floral Sculpture Show last year.

On Ikebana

Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging, began in Japan in the 6th century when Buddhist monks returned from China and used flowers in offerings to the Buddha. It has evolved over the last 600 years being influenced by successive changes in architecture, culture and the society of Japan to often a very modern art form.

Ikebana means living flowers. It is a disciplined art form using natural materials. The Japanese people have a love of nature and by studying ikebana it brings them closer to it. The link between indoors and outdoors is stressed by bringing nature in the form of ikebana into the home. Seasonal themes are often stressed

(cont. pg. 5)

February Dinner Meeting: Tuesday, February 13th

Gathering and Conversation	-----	6:00 pm
Dinner	-----	6:30 pm
Business Meeting	-----	Approx. 7:00 pm
Program	-----	Approx. 7:30 pm

Dinner Reservations

Permanent reservations for the dinner meeting are in effect. Permanent reservations are shown by the "p" on the mailing label or by the email message for those receiving the newsletter by email.

Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Anne Brekke (952-435-6029, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation.



Thoughts from the Prez

by Margaret Landry

Surprise! Gardening has given me a greater appreciation of the poetry of Stefan George. Recently the poem below popped into my head. I remember reading it for the first time (ouch! more than 30 years ago) and having to look up the mostly unfamiliar German flower, shrub, tree and landscape vocabulary.

Even after that effort, I still found the poem to be a rather 2-dimensional image with an allusion to death. 'Aster' was only a flower name to me then--hardly a concept--much less a shape, texture, color palette, scent... Now when I read George's poetry it is much richer. I crawl (with my President's trowel in hand, of course) into the multi-dimensional space of the words, sounds, scents, earth, breeze, fall light, and enjoy a profound experience.

Poem by Stefan George in German

*Komm in den totgesagten park und schau:
Der schimmer ferner lächelnder gestade,
Der reinen wolken unverhofftes blau
Erhellte die weiher und die bunten pfade.
Dort nimm das tiefe gelb, das weiche grau
Von birken und von buchs, der wind ist lau,
Die späten rosen welkten noch nicht ganz,
Erlese küsse sie und flicht den kranz,
Vergiss auch diese letzten astern nicht,
Den purpur um die ranken wilder reben
Und auch was übrig blieb von grünem leben
Verwinde leicht im herbstlichen gesicht.*

English translation by Carol North Valhope and Ernst Morwitz

*Come to the park they say is dead, and view
The shimmer of the smiling shores beyond,
The stainless clouds with unexpected blue
Diffuse a light on motley path and pond.
The tender grey, the burning yellow seize
Of birch and boxwood, mellow is the breeze.
Not wholly do the tardy roses wane,
So kiss and gather them and wreath the chain.
The purple on the twists of wilding vine,
The last of asters you shall not forget,
And what of living verdure lingers yet,
Around the autumn vision lightly twine.*

(note on translation: translators attempted to maintain the rhyme, meter, etc., so it's a bit contorted in English)

Challenge to Members

I'm a gardener, always hopeful, waiting for your thoughts to germinate and produce vigorous growth for an MGCM newsletter soon! Yes, I'm awaiting your opinion, treasure, inspiration! What has gardening and/or being a member of MGCM done for you that we may or may not associate with gardening? What are you excited about? What are you going to do differently this year? Please share your stories with us. If you don't want to write it yourself, I'd be happy to interview you and write up your story. As I wrote in the January newsletter, it's not about me... it's about all of us and gardening.



A Note from the Editor

by Jason Rathe

Well... the northern plant breeders should be happy. Our “uncharacteristically” warm winters have made it difficult for northern plant breeders to confidently vouch for the hardiness of their introductions. Hopefully, this batch of frigid temps will give them a few data points (every cloud DOES have a silver lining).

We’ve been hit with a lot of bad news lately. Garden members John Moon, Henry Halvorson, and Henry Orfield have all recently passed away. Thanks to Kay Wolfe for her heart-felt tributes to Henry Halvorson and Henry Orfield and Mary Maynard’s reflections on John Moon. John, Henry and Henry, we will miss you - thanks for your friendship and commraderie.

The January presentation by Karol Emmerich from Springwood Gardens was really good. She offered a fascinating behind the scenes view into the techniques of plant breeding. Her daylilies exhibit painterly palletes, frilly edges and bountiful bud counts. Bravo!

Thanks to the outgoing officers from 2006 - your efforts are much appreciated!

See everybody at the February meeting.

Garden Club Needs...

The club could use a data projector. If anyone know’s of a person or organization that is upgrading equipment and has the ability to donate their old one, let us know.



Sad News

We lost another good friend in January, with the passing of John Moon. John joined MGCM in 1987, and has been a quiet, steady member until the very end. Physical difficulties that might have kept many of us at home did not keep John from meetings. In fact, we got a new member, because Marilyn joined the club when John was not able to drive. We will miss John, and we extend our condolences to Marilyn and to the rest of the family.

Here is the fine summary of a life well-lived from the Star Tribune:

Moon, John Ferguson Beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend, died peacefully January 9, 2007.

He was born May 13, 1931 in San Diego, CA, graduated from San Diego State University, earned his Master's Degree in Geography at Northwestern University and did post graduate work in Far Eastern Studies at the University of Washington.

John worked as research assistant to the Director of the South Dakota Department of Natural Resources. As Manager of the Economic Research Department of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce he was actively involved in bringing the Twins baseball team to the Metro Area. He was also a member and past president of ACCRA (American Chamber of Commerce Research Association).

John was a devoted member of Mayflower

Financial Snapshot

Financial Snapshot as of January 20, 2007

Checking - \$3,936.67

CD - \$5,662.59

Cash - \$100.00

Balance - \$9,699.26

Church, belonged to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and Woodchuck's of Eden Prairie. He was a great sports enthusiast, avid reader, very knowledgeable of many things especially history, sports, movies and music.

Preceded in death by brother, Thomas R. Moon. Survived by wife of 54 years, Marilyn; son, John "Mac" (Ruth) Moon of Kansas City, Kansas; daughter, Nancy (Rick) Killmer of Hopkins; brother, Robert S. (Kay) Moon of Jacksonville, FL; sister-in-law, Margo Koryda of Leesburg, VA; grandchildren, Sarah and John "Ben" Moon and Katrina Killmer; three nieces and a nephew.



Ikebana (cont.)

(cont. from pg. 1)

like using pine, bamboo and plum for the New Year or cherry blossoms and yellow flowers for girl's day.

Ikebana differs from other styles of arranging in its asymmetrical form and the use of empty space as an essential feature of the composition often producing a tension between the materials. Still a sense of harmony is created between the materials, the containers and their setting. The containers can be a very important part of the arrangement. To me, ikebana has an aliveness to it as the essence of the materials is often caught.

I became interested in ikebana and Japanese aesthetics in the early 1980's when in a photography class I had the assignment to photograph the Japanese garden at Normandale. I began to study the gardens and flower arranging when visiting Japan in 1983 with a cultural exchange between Minneapolis and its sister city, Ibaraki. I have returned several times and have attended four of the last Ikebana International Conferences held every five years. I am receiving my third teaching certificate from the Sogetsu school. The Sogetsu School is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year.

I study ikebana to learn the many types of mechanics used to create a flower arrangement. It can be the greatest challenge to create a stable arrangement from the original idea. Through the many lessons in the four text books, I have a greater understanding of how to use each material both in the flower arrangement and in my landscape designs.

Plus it has been a growing experience to see arrangers from all over the world and the different ways they use flowers. I will show slides of basic ikebana and



Ikebana
arrangements



its techniques plus images from the 9th International World Convention in Tokyo in 2006. Also will include some slides on Japan and its many cultures.

Included are slides of two arrangements.

(cont. on page 10)



Henry, Hats & Tea

by Kay Wolfe

On November 28, 2006, MGCM lost one of its oldest longstanding members, Henry Halvorson. Henry had joined MGCM in 1968, 38 years ago, and was 94 years old. He had been elected an honorary life member. When I joined the club in 1993, Henry had already been a member for 25 years. Henry's active days of serving on committees were long past, but he rarely missed a meeting—and was usually accompanied by his long time friend and fellow member, Len Brenny. Henry had been a music teacher, and played piano for many club events. Len had met Henry in 1971—when Len was a student teacher under Henry's guidance.

Frequently I'd see Henry at summer garden club tours—he would always wear his Greek fisherman's hat—and I would wear a flowery hat—and photos of the two of us laughing in our hats would appear in the Spray—sometimes the photos would be sent to me. In 1998 Len and his wife Janet had their garden on the summer tour—and while we toured Henry played the piano from the porch. The piano music in Len's beautiful garden made for a very special event. In 2001 I was considering having my garden on the summer tour—and the committee and I were also trying to think of a way to have afternoon tea for everyone after touring. Henry was so excited at that idea—"Len, listen, they are thinking about having TEA!" How delightful, I thought—most men aren't



excited about TEA! Well, we did have a tea. But that summer Henry was having problems with infections in his artificial knee—and could not come to the tour. Len said he was so disappointed.

The following September Len was at the club meeting without Henry—in order to cure his knee infections they had had to remove his artificial knee—he had been at a nursing home for about a month. The following day Henry had permission to go home for a day—it was his 90th birthday—before he was to have yet another knee replacement. Len suggested some of us stop by--so I went over to Henry's home. I took a birthday card—and one of the photos of Henry and I wearing hats on a summer tour. His house was filled with neighbors and relatives—but he was very excited that I had stopped by—I

(cont. on page 8)



January Club Meeting Recap

The holidays have past and we're on to a new year. The January meeting got gardening juices going with a presentation by daylily breeder Karol Emmerich. She recounted her journey from corporate America to plants-person while showing dazzling slides of her experiments and introductions of beautiful daylilies for her nursery, Springwood Gardens.



Green Thumb Award winners Denise Rust, Carol Ann Brekke and Bob Livingston



Karol Emmerich preparing for talk



"Isle of Patmos" - 2007 Introduction from Springwood Gardens



(cont. on page 8)

represented the garden club. December came and the holiday party—Henry was able to be there and played piano as usual. All of a sudden one of the wait-staff brought me a bag with a gift—she said the giver was anonymous. But my husband Gary had seen Henry with a bag—so I found him and thanked him for the gift. He was so bummed that I had figured it out—he had wanted it to be a surprise. I opened the gift later--it was a teacup and saucer--I hope from his own collection. I was so very touched by his thoughtfulness. And he said had not forgotten my visit on his birthday.

I didn't learn about gardening from Henry--I never even saw his garden except on that September day of his 90th birthday. From Henry I learned to have a passion for

living. To celebrate all things—tours, tea, music, theatre. And giving to people—little things, thoughtfulness. In recent years Henry was not able to attend club events regularly. Last July Len and Janet brought him to the club's tour and dinner at Rog and Kak Koopman's garden. He was so excited to see everyone. And Len said that Henry really wanted to attend this year's holiday party—it was like he knew the end of his life on earth was near. But he died just a week before the party. Henry had such a spirit. He loved life and living—and always had a positive thing to say. If only the world had more like Henry. I have been so honored to have known him.



Henry, Community Gardens, & Vision by Kay Wolfe

On December 28, 2006, MGCM lost a former outstanding leader, Henry Orfield. Henry was an MGCM member from 1990 until 2001, when he moved from Minnesota to Arizona. Henry had two beautiful gardens in his years with MGCM. He was a superb rose grower and an accomplished photographer. He took home many trophies—just look at the list in the MGCM Directory. At his first garden in Edina he focused primarily on roses and perennials—in his second home in Plymouth he had more space—and grew even more perennials and every species of ornamental grass known!

In 1995 Henry and I were both asked to serve on the MGCM Board of Directors. In 1996 MGCM was looking for a new community service project. The club had decided to give the Fragrance Garden project, a garden which they had tended since the 70's located near the then Society for the Blind, to another club. Henry and other club leaders picked a new garden project in Lyndale Park of Minneapolis. MGCM joined with the Minneapolis Park Board and the University of Minnesota to start a Trial Garden testing hardy perennials. I joined this committee a year into the planning. There were many discussions about what kinds of perennials could be grown in the garden behind the trial space—and Henry was the first to say; "Kay should be in charge of that part!" It wasn't until years later—in 2002—that I actually became chair of the Lyndale Park Garden Committee. Henry knew that the Lyndale Park sight would be a great space for a garden. He said it would be a special opportunity for MGCM—not only as a gift to the parks and the city—but as a sight that would show the gardening talents of MGCM. Now, 10 years later, his vision has been realized—and we have created a beautiful garden at Lyndale Park. And I am still using the computer drawing of the garden landscape plan that Henry made!

In spring of 2006 I sent an email to Henry—thanking him for this vision, and telling him how successful the garden project was. He wrote back that he visited the park garden just the previous fall and how great it looked. He had moved to Cedarburg, Wisconsin in 2005 when he found he had a serious cancer. His son and wife and four grandsons lived near—and he chose a doctor in the area. He said that he had not tolerated chemo well and had decided not to go ahead with treatments—and he had made the right decision—at that time he had outlived all predictions. He said he still had a garden every year. Henry was 67 years old. I learned tons about gardening from Henry—about English rose cultivars and ornamental grass varieties. But I also learned from him that through our efforts here on earth—in gardening and building—that we live on, leaving behind not only our names on trophies, but knowledge and beauty and gardens for all to enjoy. I have been so honored to have known him.





2006 Lehman Trophy



Jim McKee and Don Untiedt
with the Lehman Trophy

The Club Tour Committee met in September to evaluate the summer's tours and to select our Lehman Trophy winner. The committee was quite pleased with the number of new gardens on tour this year, and would like to extend our great appreciation to all gardeners who welcomed visitors to see their efforts. Special thanks go to our gracious meal hosts, the Koopmans and the Larsons, for allowing us to dine in their beautiful surroundings.

The committee was almost evenly divided on our choice for best garden on the club tours, but the Lehman Trophy will go to Jim McKee and Don Untiedt of Plymouth, who, for being relatively new gardeners, showed an outstanding yard with promise of even greater things to come. Their garden was featured as part of the August tour. Thanks and congratulations to Don and Jim!

(cont. from page 5)

Sue Bagge has studied ikebana for 24 years and has traveled to Japan several times. She is receiving her third teaching certificate in the Sogetsu School of ikebana, a contemporary school of Japanese flower arranging. She exhibits yearly at Art in Bloom, the State Fair and other venues and chaired the Home & Garden Floral Sculpture Show last year.

She gives seasonal demonstrations and workshops at the MN Landscape Arboretum. Having attended the Ninth International Convention of Ikebana in Tokyo last fall, slides will be shown of fall arrangements done by a number of different schools from simple to

very grand. The history and arrangements from other times and places will be included with information on some of the techniques.

Some pictures might include cosmos flowers easily 4 feet in height, dahlias and many specimen blooms Bagge witnessed at the 2006 convention. The culture and beauty of Japan from previous trips will be shown. It is a perfect time of year to enjoy the color and beauty of the flowers of Japan.



Board Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: November 28, 2006

Present: Leroy Cech, Margaret Landry, David McKeen, Denise Rust, Elaine Spiegel and Don Trocke.

Absent: Sharla Aaseng, Kris Deters and Elizabeth Hamilton.

TREASURER'S REPORT The raise in price for dinners at meetings has not been an issue. Meeting attendance remains at about 40% of membership. When the club does a public tour, we need to request a liability rider which will cost the same or less than an umbrella policy. We need to set up a clearcut policy for meal billing for those who have a reservation, don't show, and we can't sell the meal to someone else.

The Board took a look at the 2007 budget. The following items were dropped: HRC Donation (this is part of the Arboretum and we already donate to that); Website (we prepaid for a 3-year stretch); the other items have seen no activity for several years so will disappear: Historian, Honorary Member Dues, Photography and Youth Gardening. The budget was approved and is a little smaller than the 2006 budget.

NEW BUSINESS The club currently rents a digital data projector when needed for programs, and at some future point we may want to look at purchasing one.

The FFF Show is secure at the Arboretum for 2007. The Arboretum has promised us our own room, publicity, and securing other gardening groups for the same weekend to make it more of a draw. We will want to evaluate how the show goes and decide if we want to continue holding the event there.

The Board tried having only four meetings in 2006 and we agreed to increase the number to five in 2007. We will also change the meeting night to the first Tuesday of the month rather than the fourth so we can make the Spray deadline. Next year's Board meetings are currently set for February 6, April 3, June 5, September 4 and November 6.

NEXT MEETING of the MGCM Board will be Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 7:00 PM at Don Trocke's.



Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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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.

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