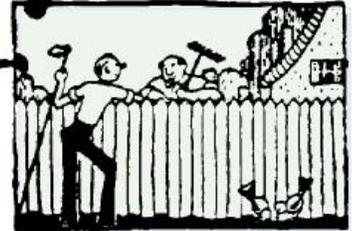




The Garden Spray

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

2009 Volume 67 Number 2



Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
Feb 10	LHC	Bill Swanson Botanical Gdns
Mar 10	LHC	Rain Gardens
Apr ?		Bachmans/ Macy's
May 5	WLC	Plant Auction and Sale

*LHC = Lake Harriet Church, 4901
Chowen Ave S., Mpls.
WLC = Westwood Lutheran
Church*

February Program:

Giving Character and Life to One's Garden with Plants and Techniques

Our February program will feature Bill Swanson of Botanical Gardens in New Germany. Bill will provide his perspective based on 25 years in the landscaping business.



Bill earned his BS Degree in Nursery Management and Landscape Design from the University of Minnesota. For 5 years he worked at the MN Arboretum with Dr. Harold Pellett, specializing in Northern Lights Azaleas and other woody plant material. In 1988 Bill started his custom landscape business The Botanical Gardens at Chanhassen. (Continued on p 3.)

Note: Permanent reservations are in effect. Reservations or cancellations are required by the Friday before the meeting. Call or e-mail Carole Ann Brekke (952-435-6019, numsix24@comcast.net) for your reservation or cancellation. For last minute cancellations, call David McKeen at 952-915-1764. If he can sell it, you won't be billed.



Rusty Ramblings

-- Denise Rust

I don't know about you, but about now I am ready to see some color outside and to be able to take a long walk without risking a fall or freezing an essential body part. I want to walk through rows of bedding plants at a garden center and make some selections for the new planting season. I want to dig in the dirt. Okay, truth be told, I'd settle for a winter getaway to a warmer climate. We've never taken one, so I'm guessing that's not going to happen.

I know some of you like to sit back with your seed catalogs and plan; I don't have a good space to start seeds so that sort of thing doesn't occupy me for long. I do still take my regular excursions over to Como Park and hope this year to make it to all five different flower shows in the sunken garden and to document them with pictures. I have quite a collection of pictures saved on my computer and they are a big help when I need to see some color.

Recently I was looking through some of my pictures and they took me back to my mid-October trip to the Chicago Botanic Gardens. My husband and I spent three hours there on my birthday just perusing the garden collections—it was fabulous! I am not sure how many of you might have ever been there; I visit the Chicago area somewhat regularly now since my daughter lives in the area. The gardens are located in Glencoe, north of the city on 385 acres of both indoor and outdoor spaces. The gardens turned 36 last year but certainly present a world class facility for both enjoyment and learning. I would highly recommend including an outing there during the upcoming growing season if you are able; here is their website so you can see what is happening and how to get

there: www.chicagobotanic.org. Meanwhile I have included some photos from my visit for your enjoyment.

Stay warm, and I hope to see you soon at a meeting. Remember, you can always see great pictures as part of our programs!



Japanese Garden at Chicago Botanical Gardens



More photos on page 7



Editor's Note

-- Mary Maynard

Well, it looks like we won't be seeing a January thaw this year. I guess we should be glad for the snow cover – even though it has meant more shoveling than we've been used to recently.

January and February are dangerous months for gardeners in Minnesota. Many things seem possible when we can't actually go do them. I need to do some serious pruning, for instance. It's the same serious pruning that I needed to do last year and never got done because I was out of time and energy once it was warm enough to actually do it. And I am perennially late pruning the grapevines. They really should be pruned in February or March when the vines are still dormant. But I'm usually pruning in April and May, which results in the vines "weeping" at every cut, which doesn't seem to bother the vine but bothers me!

I am flying solo again this month, as Jason is spending some time in Florida. So, if you find any mistakes or omissions, we cannot blame Jason.

Our February speaker sounds terrific. I look forward to seeing everyone at the club meeting.

Financial Snapshot

As of January 17, 2009

Checking 3,630.00

CD 5,662.00

Nominating Committee

We, your board, are looking for 5 members willing to serve as our Nominating Committee to nominate candidates to be our leaders in 2010. Our club goes forward because our successful gardeners are willing to step forth and share their time and interests with the MMGC. You may have thoughts as to whom you would like to see in club leadership positions in 2010.

If you are interested in being on this committee please contact any club officer or director before noon on Feb. 3. I will coordinate this process. You may reach me at (763)-553-9192 or at ShannonOaks@aol.com
Don Untiedt, Vice President

February Speaker: Bill Swanson

(continued. from Page 1)

Two years ago Bill moved the nursery to a larger acreage at New Germany.

Bill is recognized by many for his creation of what has come to be the outstanding display at the Minneapolis Auditorium Spring Home and Garden Show. His displays have been awarded the Premier Landscaper Status for 12 years.

For more information about Bill and The Botanical Gardens go to –

www.thebotanicalgardensinc.com





The MGCM Memorial Fund

by Kay Wolfe

In 2004 an “MGCM Memorial Fund Committee” was created whose purpose was to find a suitable project for the MGCM memorial funds. Donations are often given to MGCM in memory of past members, and that money is kept in a separate fund. In the late 1990’s, when an MGCM member passed away, MGCM gave money to the Minnesota Horticultural Society. MSHS was building a new facility, and bricks could be purchased and donated with the name of those to be remembered for the patio. Since that project was completed, the memorial funds had been collecting in the MGCM treasury.

The Memorial Fund Committee, consisting of Mary Maynard, Ellyn Hosch, Ada Hegion, and myself, looked for meaningful projects. Some ideas considered were benches in Lyndale Park or other parks; a bench around a labyrinth to be installed in Lyndale Park; and then a brick walkway near the Trial Garden project in Lyndale Park. We met with Minneapolis Park Board staff and representatives from the Lake Harriet-Farmstead neighborhood. One of the community members asked us what our club did best—did we really want to fund a brick path? Obviously what our club does best is to garden! So we decided to use the funds for “permanent plantings” as a backdrop to the Lyndale Park garden project that MGCM had already begun. A proposal was submitted to the MGCM Board in 2005, and approved in April of 2006. Here are excerpts from that proposal:

Purpose

The MGCM Memorial Committee requests approval of the MGCM Board of Directors to donate the \$2000.00 budgeted Memorial Fund money to the Lyndale Park Mixed Perennial Border that the MGCM Lyndale Park Garden Committee creates, plants and maintains.

Our Intent

The MGCM Memorial Committee plans to use the MGCM Memorial Fund money to buy permanent plant material that will finish this Perennial Mixed Border garden. The funds will be used to purchase conifers and long lived shrubs or ornamental trees. The border garden is 300 feet in length. In addition, the Memorial Committee will request permission from the Minneapolis Park Board to install a permanent bronze plaque on a rock to be placed in the garden, honoring past and future gardeners and designating that the garden is from MGCM. *(Continued on Page 5)*



Memorial Fund *(Cont. from Page 4)*

In September of 2007 the Minneapolis Park board did install a bronze plaque on a stone, which reads: "Perennial Trial & Border Garden; Donated, Designed & Maintained by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis; Supporting Lyndale Park since 1952. In celebration of gardeners past, present and future."

Since 2006, the Lyndale Park Garden committee has been using the \$2000 donation to buy and plant shrubs and trees in the border garden. About \$500 has been spent each season. There is around \$500 left for the 2009 season, and then the funds will be gone. These plantings are to honor any MGCM members who have passed on. Sometimes a specific tree is purchased to remember a specific person, but mostly the goal is to create a year round beautiful garden. Currently donations are being taken to add to the Memorial Fund, and these donations will continue to be used for "permanent plantings" until the garden's design is complete. The Park Garden Committee also has an annual committee budget, and this money is used for perennials, annuals, and maintenance. MGCM has a 57 year history of donating time and plants to the Lyndale Park Gardens, and the MGCM Memorial Committee thought this a very fitting project for our club to continue to support. MGCM has created a beautiful garden in the park, a fitting memorial for MGCM and its members.



Kay and Ada Hegion on fall mulching day at the Garden in 2007



Minutes of the MGCM Board

Meeting date: January 6, 2009

Present: Denise Rust, Don Untiedt, Dave McKeen, Sharla Aaseng, Larry Larson, Elizabeth Hamilton, Elaine Spiegel, Kay Wolfe. **Absent:** Judy Berglund.

President's Report: 2009 Board meetings will meet the first Tuesday of the months of Jan., Feb, March, April (possible change due to Macy's Flower Show), June, Sept., Oct, and Nov. Meeting locations were determined and will appear in the Directory. Green Thumb Awards need to be given out at the Jan. meeting. Dave McKeen will look for attendance records.

Vice-President's Report: February program will be Bill Swanson of The Botanical Gardens, Inc. March speaker will be Becky Rice, Executive Director of Metro Blooms, speaking on rain gardens. April is the Macy's Flower Show. May is Plant Auction. June is possibly Lou Gerten and his brother. It was decided to move the date of the 2009 Holiday Party to the second Tuesday in December since the first Tuesday is Dec. 1. Don, with help from Denise, will get a contract/letter to both the church and the caterers with the meeting dates for the year. Program info (as soon as available) needs to go to Andy Marlow for the web site. Programs are being planned this year by the Program Committee including Don as chair, Larry, Denise, and Nancy Bjerke.

Treasurer's Report: The final "Category Detail Report" for 2008 was reviewed and approved with a motion by Larry and second by Sharla. The Holiday Party Silent Auction netted \$966. Holiday Party income was \$1180; expenses \$1213. Donations made with dues added \$270 to the general fund; \$285 for the designated funds. The proposed 2009 Budget was reviewed. One small change was made: there will be no bank fees expense, so the \$40 for that item was added to the Sunshine Committee budget. The proposed 2009 budget was approved with a motion by Sharla, second by Elizabeth. The budget must be approved at the Jan. club meeting. Kay will bring 25 copies of the corrected budget for members to review. Dave will bring a few copies of the final 2008 "Category Detail Report".

Membership Secretary's Report: 77 members have renewed. 25 renewal reminders have been mailed out; the majority is expected to rejoin. At the end of 2008 we had 104 members. The Directory will be ready by the Feb. club meeting. Final dates of the programs need to be given to Sharla for the Directory, as well as info on chairpersons still needed for committees.

Committee Reports:

Auditing: The By-Laws say this committee needs two or more members. Joe Stenger volunteered to chair. Kay will ask Dave Fridley Johnson to serve also. The books of the Treasurer need to be audited and the findings reported to the Board.

Nominating: The By-Laws say this committee is to be appointed by Don, the President-Elect. Don will ask for volunteers at the Jan. meeting. Kay offered to be on the committee.

Committees needing chairs are: Sunshine, Tours (Club and possibly Public), and Valley Fair. The possibility of a public fund-raising tour in 2009 appeared in the Spray, but no board member has any further information. Denise will phone Kent Petterson, chair of the Scholarship Committee, to see if they announced this. It was suggested that the Scholarship Committee coordinate the Valley Fair fundraiser and use the funds for scholarships, and wait until 2010 for a public tour. Denise will communicate this idea to Kent also. Youth Gardening Committee is no longer active.

(Continued on Page 7)



January Board Meeting Minutes *(continued from Page 6)*

New Business:

Park Garden Committee fundraising teas still have space for the Friday, Feb. 13 date, however sign-up deadline is Jan. 13. The Sunday March 15 date is full.

Margaret Landry submitted a fundraising idea. Seeds purchased from Botanical Interests, Inc. an on-line seller will give a percentage of proceeds to non-profits. This idea will be researched by all Board members, and addressed at the Feb. meeting.

The MGCM Handbook will be reviewed and updated at the Feb. meeting.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sharla, second by Denise. The next Board meeting will be February 3, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Wolfe (for Judy Berglund, Recording Secretary)

NOTE: The above minutes were approved by the Board via email on January 9, 2009.



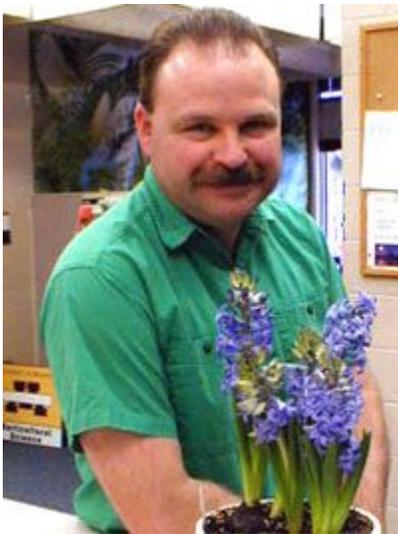
More photos from Denise's trip to the Chicago Botanic Gardens



January Speaker:
Neil Anderson warms the crowd

-- Mary Maynard

“Friends Don’t Let Friends Grow Annuals”, according to Neil Anderson, Associate Professor of Floriculture and friend of MGCM. Despite bitterly cold weather (outside and in – where temperatures did not rise above 60 degrees and we all huddled around the projector in our coats), Neil gave a great talk about his work at the University with herbaceous perennials.



My notes are lost to history, but here are a few points from Neil’s presentation that I can remember.

Recent winters have not been ideal for hardiness testing (although this winter should be pretty good). A more reliable test is a controlled freeze of plant roots. Even though air temperatures get much colder, soil temperatures in the root zone rarely go below 12-14 degrees in Zone 4. So some hardiness testing gets done in the lab – much more expensive.

Neil recently traveled to China to attend a chrysanthemum breeding conference. Neil is the only chrysanthemum breeder in the United States. China has over 1,000.

In China, it is common to graft many chrysanthemums onto one stem. Neil had a photo of one plant that had over 500 different varieties grafted onto one stem – and all of them were blooming at the same time.

The U is also working on developing a hardy variety of *Gaura lindheimeri*. They are working on crossing it with *Gaura coccinea*, which is hardy to Zone 3, but is not much to look at. Breeding is a little complicated, since *Gaura coccinea* is a tetraploid and *Guara lindheimeri* is a diploid. Neil and his team apparently have had to engage in trickery and duplicity to get hybrids. The U has released a new variety of *Gaura lindheimeri*, but it is marketed as an annual here in Zone 4.

The University is also working on hardy gladiolas and long-blooming lilies, among other projects. I can’t wait to see what happens next!



Getting to Know Our Board Members: Kay Wolfe

Back in about the spring of 1993 I took a “Shrub and Tree” class at one of the Minneapolis Community Schools. Lee Gilligan (former MGCM member) was the instructor. I asked him questions after class—and he said “you should join my garden club!” When I found out it was a MEN’S garden club—I thought twice. I’d always been in women’s clubs! That summer I saw an ad for a flower show at the Arboretum—given by the very same men’s garden club! So I went out—and met Duane Johnson that day. He said that joining this club was one of the “best things he had ever done”. Two years earlier I had moved to my future husband’s house —and had been gardening there for two seasons. I found myself spending more and more time in my gardens—and I had lots of questions. So in the beginning of September I phoned the number on the MGCM brochure that I had picked up at the Arboretum show—and got Kent Petterson. When I told him how much time I had been gardening—he said calmly, “Oh, yah, you’ve got the bug.” At last, people that understood! I came to my first MGCM dinner meeting in September and joined.

In the summer of 1994 MGCM did a public garden tour—and I helped on the committee. Someone had gotten ill—and they needed help with the bus tours. I jumped in. That fall I was asked if I would serve as a Director on the Board for the next year—a job I kept through 2000. The 1994 president Bob Voigt asked me to chair the club tours—and I did. I chaired club tours from 1995 to 1997, and helped with the public tours in 1996, 1998, and 2000. I joined the Perennial Garden Committee in 1998—MGCM had found a new community gardening project at Lyndale Park—and helping design this new garden sounded intriguing. In 1999 I offered to co-chair the Perennial Garden Committee with Bob Redmond—and we co-chaired through 2001. In August of 2000 all club members living in St. Louis Park had their gardens on the club tour—and I got the idea of having afternoon tea in my garden as the meal for the event. I only have a 50 foot wide lot—so I asked my neighbors to use their back yard for seating also. We served 55 people afternoon tea—all seated at tables with antique dishes and linens. No one ever forgot that event! I received the Lehman Trophy that year for the best garden on the summer tour.

I went from having one or two little flower beds—to having gardens all around my property. I never would have accomplished that without the assistance of my fellow club members. Almost all my gardening knowledge I’ve learned through MGCM—in my years at Board meetings, dinner meetings, working on tours—I just kept asking questions—watched what the more experienced gardeners did. And soon I was pretty knowledgeable myself! In 2002 I took over chairing the Perennial Garden/Lyndale Park Garden Committee, and still chair this committee today. At the Holiday Party of 2003 I received both the President’s Cup and the Outstanding Service Medal. I was deeply honored. Not only has MGCM provided me with gardening knowledge—the club is a big part of my social circle.

What do I do besides garden? I have a college degree in Medical Technology—I worked in hospital clinical laboratories, research at the University, then research and product development in industry. In the late ‘80’s, after losing jobs at small biotech companies—I started doing freelance work painting murals and ragging walls—art that had been a hobby. I also started taking realist art classes then—and continue taking classes today. I don’t paint walls anymore—just canvases. And in summer, gardens are my canvas. My family is one husband, Gary Opperman—a non-gardener!—but a great support. *(cont on next page)*



Getting to Know Board Member: Kay Wolfe *(continued)*

I'm happy to serve on the Board again. MGCM is changing—we have fewer active members—and less income than in the past. MGCM's purpose is, as stated in our by-laws: "The MGCM has dedicated itself to the betterment of life for both the community and its individual members through gardening and activities related to horticulture." Let the Board members know how you want to fulfill this purpose. How is the quality of the club? What projects do you think are important, how should we spend our money? This is club is for ALL members—give me your ideas! Thank you!

Kay Wolfe Email: kaywolfe@g.com

Those Pesky Japanese Beetles!

-- Mary Maynard

Last year, it seemed like Japanese beetles achieved critical mass – at least in my garden. They've been around for a while – and really annoying and disgusting – but in 2008 they were *everywhere*. They infested my roses – especially the pink ones. And they swarmed all over the grapevine, skeletonizing leaves. They were even on daylilies and dahlias. And, my lawn isn't looking all that great either (not that it ever does), which might be a sign of grub damage.



It is not too soon to start thinking about Japanese beetle control. Our most famous rosarian Jerry Olson sent me some articles about Japanese beetle control. And I consulted a few Extension websites and garden forums on the internet. Here's what I've learned:

Grub Control. Japanese beetles lay their eggs in turf in full sun. Grubs start feeding in August, go deeper into the ground over the winter, then come back up and munch on turf roots until June or so, when they prepare for their above-ground onslaught. A lot of the common insecticides like Sevin do work on grubs, but they're pretty toxic for insects, birds, etc. I prefer using a product that contains halofenozide, which interrupts the grub growth cycle and prevents them from maturing and are much less toxic to other insects or birds. The most common products are Scott's Grub-Ex and Bayer Season-Long Grub Control.

Other gardeners have had good luck with milky spore (*Bacillus popillae*-Dutky) which is applied to the lawn. Over the course of several years, the milky spore builds up in the soil and infects grubs. My cousin in Knoxville, TN reports success using milky spore.

Neither halofenozide nor milky spore can be considered "rescue" solutions to a severe infestation, but annual application of halofenozide can reduce the population over time.

(continued on next page)



Japanese Beetles – *Continued from Page 10*

Adult Control. Most of us don't even think about Japanese beetles until they start eating the roses. At this point, it is possible to use a non-specific insecticide like Sevin, even though it is toxic to other insects. Other approaches include

Pick them off. Japanese beetles are slow, and it's possible to catch them and drop them into a container of soapy water. I have heard that it's not a good idea to squish them since that might actually attract more beetles. One garden forum also suggested that a container of drowned beetles might repel beetles in the vicinity.

If disturbed, Japanese beetles have a tendency to drop to the ground, so it's a good idea to hold the container of soapy water under the beetles when trying to pick them off.

Neem Oil. The oil of the Neem tree contains a chemical called azadirachtin, which affects the overall life cycle. Adults eat leaves with Neem on them, then lay eggs which contain azadirachtin. Larvae that hatch from eggs will not be able to eat and will die. Neem oil also seems to repel adults. Neem oil needs to be sprayed on plants, preferably at a time when bees are not active, and spraying needs to be repeated after rain. It is not toxic to birds or mammals, but it should be kept away from fish.

Traps. The general consensus is that gardeners should not use traps. Apparently, traps attract more beetles than they actually trap, so, unless you have a location far away from your garden for a trap, nobody seems to recommend them anymore.

Japanese beetles are not a major pest in Japan, since there are natural predators that keep the population in check. There have been some attempts to introduce some parasitic insects from Japan to North America with mixed success. For now, we'll need to keep plugging away. Think Spring!



Hibiscus in Florida. Jason probably sees these everywhere while he's there.



MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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The Spray

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Return To:

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

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First Class Mail

*February
2009*