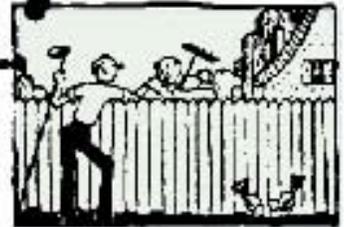




# The Garden Spray

Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc  
2008, Volume 66, Number 01



## Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Event
January 8th	LHC	Carrie Larson
February 12th	LHC	TBD

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

WLC = Westwood Lutheran Church

## January Dinner Meeting: Tuesday January 8th, 2007

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. Reservations or cancellations are required by

### \*JANUARY SPEAKER\* CARRIE LARSON

The speaker for the January meeting will be Carrie Larson, an account representative for McHutchison Company, a plant broker serving more than 500 different suppliers for annuals, perennials, bulbs, grasses, native plants, water plants, shrubs and trees.

Carrie will be speaking on the topic 'New flowers and plants to be introduced in 2008.' Carrie had the opportunity to trial a majority of these plants this past summer to see how they reacted to the difficult weather conditions we experienced in 2007. "The lack of rain this past summer brought out some interesting problems that are unique to watering with city water and some plants did better than others," Larson said.

The format of the presentation will follow the Euro American Proven Winners Flower book, since it features many of the varieties. MGCM members will be able to purchase the book from Carrie after the presentation.

Note: Carrie speaks very fast and covers a lot of ground, so come prepared with a pen and paper to take notes. There will be a lot of information dispensed in a short time, so be prepared for a very fun and informative presentation.

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 Larry Larson

Welcome to the 2008 season of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis! I am happy, proud and excited to be named president of this great garden club. This is a very humbling experience for me. When I think back to 1942, when this garden club was formed by the Bachman brothers, it gives me a sense of honor and dedication that I am involved with this club. The traditions formed by this club are certainly safe with me, but if anyone in the club has ideas for the new year, please feel free to email me or call me. I want to involve as many people as possible in this club.

That is because a club functions better when everyone is involved. So I want to encourage all of you to participate in one or two of the many committees that make up the core of this club. Joining a committee can be fun and very informative, you meet new people, make new friends, and have a say in how this club is operated.

I also want to encourage some of the new members to volunteer their garden to be on tour. Every year the tour committee meets to discuss available gardens for tour. Believe me, this is a difficult task, since most of us haven't seen the new member's gardens and don't know if they would welcome a tour. Your garden doesn't have to look like the arboretum in Chanhassen. All of us like new gardens, new ideas, even 'gardens in progress.' New members should know how much help they could receive from fellow gardeners who would volunteer ideas and information on their gardens. If you think you want to have your garden on tour, please contact Denise Rust of the tour committee.

I would also like to encourage everyone to become involved in the biggest event of the year, the annual May auction & sale at the Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park. We are always looking for silent auction items, so please consider going to your neighborhood garden center and ask them for a plant or garden related item for donation. Let's make this the best silent auction ever by having lots of great items to bid on! If you have an item to donate for the silent auction, please contact myself or Doug Whitney.

We do have two special events planned for this year. On April 12, we will be traveling to Gertens Garden Center to receive a special tour of his greenhouses to see a spectacular array of colorful annuals. The public never sees this area, so this will be a special treat. The tour will be led by Lou Gerten, who is extremely knowledgeable and personable. After the tour, we will enjoy a box lunch at Gertens and you can ask Lou questions about new annuals coming out in 2008.

In June, there will be a special picnic and tour of the Lyndale gardens, planted and maintained by our garden club. Kay Wolfe is already hard at work planning this event. Of course, we will have our monthly get-togethers at Lake Harriet Church. If you have any ideas for a presentation speaker, please contact Denise Rust, the new vice-president.

So we're off and running for 2008. Happy gardening everyone!



## *A Note from the Editor*

This issue of the Spray features descriptions of the Holiday Party with all the yearly awards and change of leadership. As a relative new-comer to the club I always appreciate hearing the presentation of the Outstanding Service Award - the leadership and support shown by member's like Stan Crist is truly inspiring. Obviously, the Club couldn't run without you.

Unfortunately, I couldn't make the December Garden Club Meeting -- I was in JAPAN!!! I am attaching a few pictures from the trip. We visited the spa town of Hakone and the historic old capital of Kyoto and were lucky to catch the temple and imperial gardens near the peak of autumn colors. The yellows and reds of Japanese maples against the water and sky was eye-popping.

Enjoy a brilliant start to 2008.  
Jason Rathe



Sign in Hakone garden



Famous dry garden at Zuiho-in temple, Kyoto



“Boat island” in waterfall stroll garden at Taizo-in temple, Kyoto



## **Presenting the Outstanding Service Award to... Stan Crist**

*Note: This is the text of the award presentation delivered by Bob Voigt.*

Each year the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis presents the Outstanding Service Medal to a person who has given outstanding service to the club over a period of time -- this includes participation in club activities, dedication to gardening and inspiration to others.

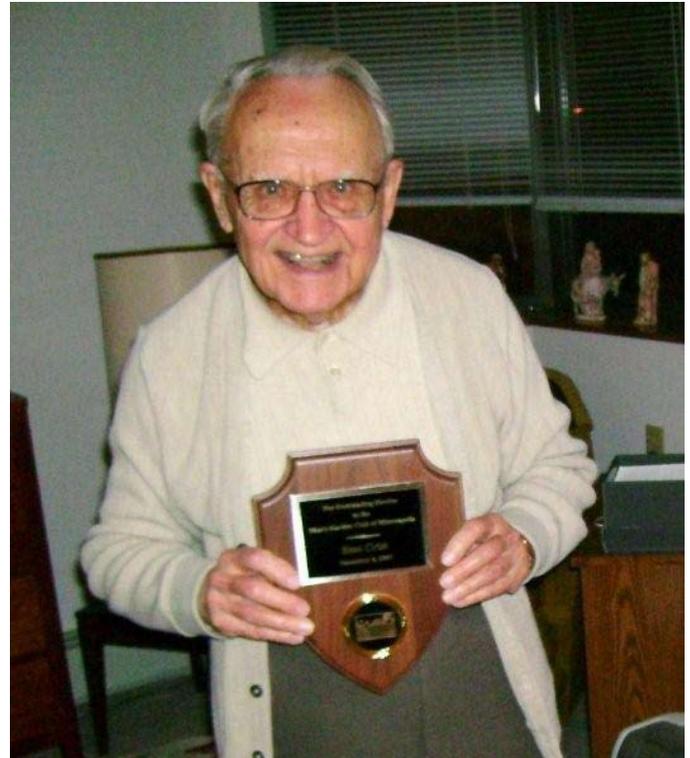
The Outstanding Service Medal was initially known as the Bronze Medal Award. It was first given in 1948. This year's recipient will be the 60th person to receive this recognition. Our recipient this year has been a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis for 30 years.

This year's recipient has contributed articles regularly to the Garden Spray on many topics, including nicotiana, fuchsias, verbena, petunias, fibrous begonias, zinnias, seed catalogs, county extension agents, gardening in Louisiana and plant hardiness in California -- and solving problems with raccoons eating everything in his garden. He is also a vegetable growing. At one time he had his own greenhouse and raised more than 3,000 annuals each year. He still contributes plants every May to the Club's Country Store and Plant Auction.

There is more to tell -- but first, let's all recognize this year's honoree: Stan Crist.

Here are a few more things about Stan:

1. Stan is a Master Gardener -- one of only eleven in our Club. He is always available to answer questions



anyone has on plants and gardening. Stan has been an MGCM member for 30 years, and is a very loyal attendee at monthly meetings and many of our special events. He has served on many committees. Stan also attended the Club's tour to Gerten's in November.

2. Stan was a regular turkey carver when we formerly had the Parade of Turkeys as part of our Holiday Party.
3. Stan has been regularly involved in the Club's summer garden tours, often as a bus captain, and his garden has been on tour several times.
4. Stan was the recipient of the Lehman Trophy in 1985 for the best garden on tour that summer.
5. Stan has maintained a huge garden at the Ridge Point complex where he lives. Our club toured his garden in 1997 and all stayed for supper in the building's atrium. Stan was also a member of the Min-

(cont. on page 5)



(cont. from page 4)

netonka Men's Garden Club.

6. Stan has been the principal volunteer gardener at the Westwood Lutheran Church for more than 25 years. This started as a retirement project for Stan and his wife Esther. This is where our Club's Annual Plant Sale and Auction is held.

7. Stan has been a tram driver and volunteer guide at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since 1987.

8. Stan was one of the members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis who worked on the herb/rock garden at Lake Harriet. This evolved into, and is adjacent to, the Lyndale Park Garden program at Lake Harriet.

9. Stan worked with both Minneapolis and Minnetonka Men's Garden Club members on the National Convention of the Men's Garden Club of America that was held in 1988. He was in charge of the information desk and message center.

10. The list goes on about Stan's participation in club activities and dedication to gardening over the past 30 years. Stan is truly an inspiration to all of us. Please join me in congratulating Stan.

### **CLUB FINANCIALS**

Balance as of 12/20/07

Checking 3130.35

Cash 100.00

CD 5662.59



## Holiday Party

By Elaine Spiegel

Holiday Committee

Happy New Year to everyone! Thanks for making our MGCM Holiday Party 2007 a great success. It is such a joy to see our meeting room transformed with colors of holiday reds, greens and ivory. The transition of lighting and color made it a haven and the poinsettia were divine. In spite of the storm, we did have a good attendance.

A huge thanks to our Decorations Committee: Sharla Aaseng, who so willingly coordinated again this year. Sharla's program designs and ideas always have pizzazz!

Decoration and Set-up Committee: Holly Gustafson, Delores Johnson, Janice Johnson, Marjorie Maki, Marilyn Moon, Carol Schreier and Tina Scott always help us. Also, with the extra people offering at the last minute to help set-up, we were done well before noon. Special thanks to David McKeen, Don & Geri Trocke and Larry & Randi Larson. You are all great!

Silent Auction Committee: Holly Gustafson and



*Jan Johnson serving punch*

Melba Gustafson help the final tabulating go quickly. Sharla, thanks for jumping in.

For this Holiday Party we made a change: Elaine was Chair and coordinated the Silent Auction. Sharla was



*Dan Newton - the holiday entertainment*

(in fact) Co-Chair with responsibility for designing the programs and color decisions. Sharla is always superb at coordinating decorations and room set-up.

The auction was a great success. As usual, items are different every year. We made around \$556.50 this year, which was lower than past years. I think the weather and the smaller group made a difference. Also, bidding was not as vigorous.

The lovely hand-made items from our members always go over extremely well. Two of Denise Rust's runners sold –sight-unseen, as did one of her photo-notecards sets. Both of Leroy Cech's wines sold, too. Thanks to all who contributed items to the silent

(cont. on page 7)

(cont. from page 6)



auction and to those who bid on them.

Guitarist, Bob Ekstrand, and accordionist, Dan Newton, offered many different types of music and some singing in their very enjoyable program (each has his own website).

To those who chanced the weather, thank you for being with us. Your presence and camaraderie were enjoyed. We were glad everyone was safe.

As Sharla has said, “The Holiday Party is a celebration at the end of another year of fun and successful gardening.” We had put so much energy into Public Tours 2007, that we deserved our Holiday Event. Now, we can relax with seed catalogs, planning and starting seedlings before we jump into next seasons projects.

See you all in January, Elaine Spiegel.



## Getting to Know the New President

By Larry Larson

When I was a young boy, my father was digging out a basement for our house. By hand. He had already built the house, only the second one ever built in Crystal. But now he wanted a basement. Then he gave me the bad news: I would have to take care of the garden! I was ten years old.

Dad carefully planned and built a compost heap, which meant layering the leaves in between the potato peelings and other waste from the house, followed by a twice weekly watering. I thought it smelled and looked awful; dad said we were making black gold, that it was great for the soil. He tilled it all into the ground in the Spring. I was starting to get the idea he knew what he was doing.

Then the plantings started. First, we planted the peas and radishes, first, he said, because they were cold weather crops. Then the potatoes, which had to be planted in raised beds, otherwise they would grow out of the ground. Next came the corn, three to a hill, six inches apart. Then the fence went up for the string beans, followed by the pumpkins, squash, parsnips, peanuts (yes, peanuts) and popcorn (yes, popcorn). The flowers were next.

There were no flats of annuals at garden centers back then, only seeds in plain brown wrappers from a place called Northrop King. The name of the seed was printed across the top of the wrapper. Every day, dad would grab a handful of soil, sift it through his fingers, then declare that, nope, the ground was too cold to plant. They were just seeds, I thought. They needed a warm and cozy environment to grow?

Then one day, dad started cutting open the seed packages, from the bottom, he said, so you wouldn't

cut off the name of the seed in each package. We wouldn't plant them all at once, of course, in case the weather turned cold and we had to replant. We had to know what seed was in which wrapper. That made sense to me.

It was exciting to me to see the vegetables and flowers coming out of the ground. Long, straight, neat rows of all kinds of plants including some perennials, planted in the back of the flower garden, because, dad said, they were taller and the sun, from the south, would shade the annuals if they were planted in front of the them. The annuals needed the sun, dad said, to grow strong stems to produce bright, colorful flowers. Then came the weeding.

How could I tell the weeds from the flowers?  
Or from the vegetables? The weeds always grew

(cont. on page 9)



*Boulevard garden - early on*



(cont. from page 8)

faster, he said, laughing. He was sure right about that. It wasn't long before I could tell the difference between a weed and a true plant, although I probably pulled my share of flowers and veges by accident. He explained how and why we thinned out the carrots, so they would have room to grow.

In the back of the garden, he showed me the Iris, which he had planted the year before. They were already coming up, and soon would produce bright, aromatic blue and purple flowers. They were my favorite. That is until early July, when the Dahlias he had planted began to flower. The plants were six feet tall, and the flowers were immense. Bigger than the Peonies that had bloomed earlier in the year. I liked the peonies a lot but I loved the Dahlias. They kept right on blooming for three months or more. Mom would cut some of them and put them in a vase on the dinner table, where we would be eating fresh corn, peas, tomatoes, and potatoes from the garden, a garden I helped grow.

Today, long after my mom and dad have passed on, I grow a garden. Mostly flowers now, but years ago, I also grew vegetables. In the Spring, Randi and I enjoy the Iris that wave majestically in the Spring breeze. I look at them proudly because these are the very same Iris that my dad grew in his garden. Not just the same kind, but the same plant! I saved it from his garden when they sold their house.

I also saved the pink peonies, the beautiful red Canna Lilies, and several other perennials that we enjoy each year. Yes, there's a lot of my dad in my garden, from his plants to his wisdom. And oh, yes, I also grow Dahlias. Dad would be amazed at all the sizes and shapes that now exist. I hope he's proud of me for following in his footsteps, for becoming a gardener, for making the world a more lovely place, for showing the next generation the importance of memories and gardens. We all grow them, each and every one of us. Make them your own.



# THREE ALL AMERICA WINNERS FOR 2008



Eggplant 'Hansel'



Viola 'SkippyXL Plum Gold'



Osteospermum 'Asti White'



**FFF Awards Given  
at the Holiday Party**

**FFF Vegetable Sweepstakes:**  
Judy Berglund

**FFF Flower Sweepstakes:**  
Mary Maynard

**President's Cup:** Mary Maynard



# Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

## Inside

<b>Page 1</b>	<b>January Meeting</b>
<b>Page 2</b>	<b>From the Prez</b>
<b>Page 3</b>	<b>Editors Notes</b>
<b>Page 4</b>	<b>Outstanding Service Award</b>
<b>Page 6-7</b>	<b>Holiday Party</b>
<b>Page 8-9</b>	<b>The President</b>

### 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**

*January*  
*2008*